

# REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE

## Report #W2012–5; June, 2012

In this report the Academic Standards Committee (ASC) brings to Senate its evaluation and recommendation on:

- The concurrent *Bachelor of Arts (Early Childhood Studies, Ryerson University) – Bachelor of Education (Primary/Junior, York University) degree program.*

### **A. PROPOSAL FOR A CONCURRENT DEGREE PROGRAM LEADING TO THE BA (EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES, RYERSON UNIVERSITY) AND THE BEd (PRIMARY/JUNIOR, YORK UNIVERSITY)**

**1. Introduction, Societal Need and Career Opportunities:** The School of Early Childhood Studies (ECS) at Ryerson University and the Faculty of Education at York University have the expertise and capacity to produce a new kind of teacher for an educational system that will be transformed within five years. A Ryerson University/York University concurrent BA/BEd program will qualify graduates to teach at the kindergarten, primary and junior levels. Graduates will also have the option to enter the job market and the new collaborative teaching team in full day kindergarten programs as a registered early childhood educator or a certified teacher. Graduates from a BA-ECS/BEd will have in depth understanding of differentiated instruction and thus will be leaders prepared to make a real difference in the lives of children and their families from diverse backgrounds. Both the Ryerson and York programs have explicit statements that express a commitment to the values of equity, diversity and inclusion in their curriculum.

The School of Early Childhood Studies at Ryerson University offers a four-year undergraduate degree (BA) in Early Childhood Studies. It has earned a reputation for graduating outstanding early childhood educators who are experts in the theory and application of child development, play-based curriculum instructional methods, special education and assessment in teaching young children in a variety of settings.

The Faculty of Education at York University already offers an accredited consecutive program that is articulated specifically for degree graduates with an early childhood education component, including those from the Ryerson BA in ECS. The proposed new programming will see this consecutive 45-student cohort move to a concurrent model of delivery. This will allow the overall allocation of spaces to remain the same, while also providing the opportunity for a more cohesive, collaborative program. It is proposed that the program will be housed on the Ryerson campus, with faculty from York teaching BEd courses on-site. Students will be required to complete all the courses and practicum requirements outlined by the Faculty of Education at York University, under the auspices of its Ontario College of

Teachers accreditation in Initial Teacher Education. Graduates of the concurrent program will receive a Ryerson University BA in ECS and a York University BEd.

The proposed programming requires no new courses or new faculty hires. The proposal is requesting one part-time administrative staff position dedicated to the concurrent program. The first 45-student cohort will enter the curriculum in the 2014/2015 academic year.

**2. Admission Requirements, Eligibility to Continue:** The entry and eligibility to continue/graduate requirements for the BEd (Primary/Junior) are consistent with the existing Consecutive Bachelor of Education academic rules and regulations at York University. The two adjustments to current requirements are as follows:

*Admission Requirements:* A total of 152 students are accepted into the Ryerson BA in Early Childhood Studies program. Admission requirements include O.S.S.D. with six Grade 12 U/M courses including Grade 12 U English and one Grade 11 U/M or Grade 12 U/M Mathematics or Science course. ENG4U/EAE4U is the preferred English. The grade(s) required in the subject prerequisites (normally in the 70-75% range) will be determined subject to competition.

School of Early Childhood Studies, Ryerson University students can apply to the York University BEd (Primary/Junior) program with an application deadline of March of their Year 1 and prior to the start of the concurrent program curriculum in their September, Year 2. The admissions process will be the same as that for the existing consecutive program. Applicants must have completed at least 8 Ryerson courses (8.00 credits) by the end of the Winter semester in the Ryerson program and have earned a minimum B overall grade point average in the degree program of study. Acceptance will be based on grades from the Fall and Winter semesters in Year 1 of the Ryerson School of Early Childhood Studies, an experience profile, a personal statement, two references and an interview. Students will be informed that meeting the minimum GPA does not guarantee acceptance into the program.

*Concurrency and Continuance Rules and Convocation:* Students in the Concurrent BEd (Primary/Junior) will complete their BA degree in years one to five at Ryerson University; and their BEd York University credits in years two to five (for four years of concurrency). Students in the concurrent BEd (P/J) BA (ECE) program must maintain a 2.0 Ryerson GPA in each semester in the program as well as must maintain grades at a C+ or above level in any of their York BEd courses to be qualified to continue. Concurrent Ryerson/York students must complete both degrees within four years of concurrency and both degrees must be conferred at the same term.

**3. Curriculum:** This section provides an outline of the curriculum. A detailed curriculum chart is provided below. There are no new courses being proposed for either the BA or BEd programs. The proposed mode of delivery for the BA-BEd program is face-to-face with an instructor/professor and replicates the mode of delivery that exists in the current BA and consecutive BEd programs. All BEd courses including field supervision will be taught by York University faculty at Ryerson University.

*The course requirements of the BA in Early Childhood Studies* within the concurrent model will remain the same as the regular program which currently exists at Ryerson. The School's curriculum follows

Ryerson's University's tripartite curriculum model with core professional courses, professionally-related electives and liberal studies electives. Student achievement of degree level expectations is supported by six thematic clusters of program learning outcomes: human development, early childhood curriculum, special needs, working with families, interpersonal skills and social policy. Field education experiences constitute one quarter of a student's timetable each year.

*The course requirements of the BEd (Primary/Junior)* mirror those of the existing consecutive BEd program. The courses are of three kinds: 1) practicum seminar courses that focus directly on teaching and learning and are integrated with supervised practicum experiences in schools, 2) foundations courses that provide teacher candidates with background understandings related to education, and 3) elective courses. The York BEd learning outcomes are clustered in the following categories: ethical stance, curriculum, pedagogy, autonomy, worldliness. Both the School of ECS and York University have explicit statements about their program's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion. These points are articulated more completely in the full proposal document.

Foundation and practicum seminar courses currently offered in the existing BEd program will be required for the BEd (Primary/Junior) degree. The academic requirements of the original consecutive Bachelor of Education at the Primary/Junior division will remain intact. There will be one change from the existing B.Ed structure. Students will not be required to take the course ED/CMYR 2500 3.00 - Human Development. This is due to the extensive coverage of material related to human development, with particular emphasis on the early years, within the concurrent BA degree. In place of this course students will choose one further elective course. The mandatory York courses (18.00 York credits) taken by students will be:

ED/INLE 2200 3.00 Inquiries into Learning; ED/INSC 2300 3.00 Inquiries into Schooling ; ED/CMYR 2100 0.00 Practicum Seminar 1: Education in Communities and Their Schools ; ED/PRJL 3031 3.00 - Teaching Language in the P/J Divisions; ED/PRJM 3031 3.00 - Teaching Mathematics in the P/J Divisions; ED/PRIJ 3031 1.50 - Science and Technology in the P/J Divisions; ED/PRIJ 3032 1.50 - Health and Physical Education in the P/J Divisions; ED/PRIJ 3033 3.00 - Teaching the Arts and Social Studies in the P/J Divisions; ED/PRAC 4000 0.00 Practicum Seminar ED2 and ED3 ; ED/PRAC 4000 0.00 Practicum Seminar ED2 and ED3

Students will take an additional York 12.00 credits of Education electives for the Primary/Junior certification level. These are chosen from a list of appropriate courses.

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Year of Program	Ryerson Courses	York Courses	Notes
Year 1: Semester 1	CLD 101 Human Development I CLD 102 Observation/ELC CLD 111 Curriculum 1: Environments PSY 102 Intro to Psychology I Liberal Studies: 1 from Table A		Students will apply in their first year to York's concurrent program. The admissions process will be handled as usual through York.
Year 1: Semester 2	CLD 103 Human Development II CLD 212 Curriculum II CLD 161 Field Education I SOC 104 Understanding Society Liberal Studies: 1 from Table A		
Year 2: Semester 3	CLD 231 Families in a Cdn Context I CLD 241 Children with Special Needs *CLD 262 (not 363) Field Education: Community Focus CLD 121 Competent Learner	ED/INLE 2200 3.00 Inquiries into Learning *ED/CMYR 2100 0.00 Practicum Seminar 1: Education in Communities and Their Schools	*Both programs have a community placement requirement. Ryerson's is approximately 130 hours; York's is 50. Ryerson has a 12 hour seminar; York has a 24 hour seminar. Ryerson's course has credit; York's does not.

Year of Program	Ryerson Courses	York Courses	Notes
	Professional Elective : 1 course		
Year 2: Semester 4	<p>CLD 213 History and Philosophy of ECE</p> <p>CLD 215 Creative Arts I</p> <p>CLD 251 Interpersonal Communication</p> <p>Liberal Studies: 1 Course from Table A</p>	<p>ED/INSC 2300 3.00 Inquiries into Schooling</p> <p>ED/CMYR 2100 0.00 Community Placement continues</p>	
Year 3: Semester 5	<p>CLD 314 Literacy in the Early Years</p> <p>CLD 332 Research I: Methods</p> <p>CLD 332 Families in a Cdn Context II</p> <p>POL 220 Cdn Politics &amp; Social Policy</p>	<p>ED/PRIJ 3033 3.00 - Teaching the Arts and Social Studies in the P/J Divisions</p> <p>ED/PRAC 4000 0.00 Practicum Seminar ED2 and ED3</p>	
Year 3: Semester 6	<p>CLD 323 Research II: Applications</p> <p>CLD 342 Assessment for Programming</p> <p>CLD 363: Field Education: Special Needs</p>	<p>** ED/PRJL 3031 3.00 - Teaching Language in the P/J Divisions</p> <p>ED/PRAC 4000 0.00 Practicum Seminar ED2 and ED3 continues</p>	** Language and Literacy is in this semester so it can follow Ryerson's Literacy in the Early Years course, which will provide a foundation.

Year of Program	Ryerson Courses	York Courses	Notes
Year 4: Semester 7	CLD 315 Creative Arts II CLD 317 Concept Developments in Math CLD 464 Senior Internship (2 day a week placement or an international placement in spring/summer prior to 7 <sup>th</sup> semester) Liberal Studies: 1 course from Table B	*ED/XXXX 3.00 Education Elective Or Ryerson Elective (under review)	
Year 4: Semester 8	CLD 307 Cognitive Development CLD 445 Inclusion and Consultation Professional Elective : 1 from list Professionally related: 1 from Table 1	*ED/PRJM 3031 3.00 - Teaching Mathematics in the P/J Divisions	*Mathematics in the P/J division was put in this semester to follow Ryerson's Concept Developments in Mathematics in Semester 7.
Year 5: Semester 9	Liberal Studies: 1 course from Table B Professional Elective: 1 from the list Professional related course: 1 from Table	ED/PRIJ 3031 1.50 - Science and Technology in the P/J Divisions ED/PRIJ 3032 1.50 - Health and Physical Education in the P/J Divisions	

Year of Program	Ryerson Courses	York Courses	Notes
		*ED/XXXX 3.00 EDUC Elective  Or  Ryerson Elective  PRAC 4000 0.00 Practicum Seminar ED2 and ED3	
Year 5: Semester 10	Liberal Studies: 1 course from Table B  Professional Elective : 2 from the list  Professional related course: 1 from Table	*ED/XXXX 3.00 and ED/XXXX 3.00 (2 Education Electives)  Or  Ryerson Elective(s) (under review)  ED/PRAC 4000 0.00 Practicum Seminar ED2 and ED3 continues	

Year of Program	Ryerson Courses	York Courses	Notes
Course Totals	<p>40 courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 27 required</li> <li>• 6 Liberal Studies</li> <li>• 4 Professional</li> <li>• 3 Professional related</li> </ul> <p>4 Field Placements (included in courses above)</p>	<p>10 courses (30 credits)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 (18 credits) required</li> <li>• 4 (12 credits) electives</li> </ul> <p>1 Community Placement</p> <p>2 School Placements</p>	



**4. Resources:** The proposed program is not resource intensive. No additional faculty hires are required. A Ryerson part-time program coordinator (i.e., equivalent of one day per week) will be required to advise, support and guide concurrent program students in accordance with policies and procedures. Library holdings at Ryerson adequately support the ECS curriculum and those at York support the BEd curriculum. The full proposal contains a York University Library report endorsing the suitability of its collection.

**5. ASC Analysis:** The ASC is very supportive of this program proposal. It offers benefits to both institutions and an exciting option for Ryerson students. During the implementation phase **the ASC recommends that the School of Early Childhood Studies engage in a dialogue with the Ryerson Library to explore ways to enhance its BEd-relevant collection.** Students in this concurrent program will be both Ryerson students and York students. Each institution has its own variations on academic governance processes such as appeals, drop dates etc. **The ASC strongly recommends that the School of Early Childhood Studies, in partnership with York, develop a program-specific student handbook which presents these details to facilitate student awareness of deadlines, GPA thresholds etc.**

## Recommendation

Having satisfied itself of the merit of this proposal, ASC recommends: *That Senate approve the proposed concurrent Bachelor of Arts (Early Childhood Studies, Ryerson University) – Bachelor of Education (Primary/Junior, York University) degree program.*

Respectfully Submitted,



Chris Evans, Chair for the Committee

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### ASC Members:

Keith Alnwick, Registrar

Ian Baitz, Faculty of Communication and Design, Graphic Communications Management

Jennifer Cartwright, Ted Rogers School of Management, Business Management, Student ASC Member

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