Explorations Course Instructions

NOTE: YOU ONLY SEND YOUR PACKAGE TO THE GRADUATE COORDINATOR WHEN IT IS COMPLETE I.E ALL 120 HOURS ARE ACCOUNTED FOR

The Explorations course (EDUC 5143) is an opportunity to apply for credit for *verifiable* professional development in your content area. If you are in doubt as to whether your PD program is considered a viable choice, send an email to the graduate coordinator (graded@acadiau.ca) with a clear description of your proposed plan of study. The total number of credit hours required is at least 120 with the bulk of these being instructional contact hours while a smaller number may be considered under the category of preparation or study hours.

The following principles guide credit for **Educational Explorations (EDUC 5143):**

- **PD must be related to the work you do as a professional** and not simply be personal growth choices. You must adequately justify how each PD opportunity used for this credit is related to the work you do.

- **The PD must be voluntary**. Students cannot use PD hours that are required of them as part of their job or that are done on mandatory PD days

- **The PD must total at least 120 hours and can originate from a range of accumulated experiences.** The hours documented may be a combination of contact hours and out-of-class time (such as would be required for assignments and outside reading.) *However*, these types of asynchronous hours must be backed up by instructor estimates (in a letter) and cannot simply be your personal estimate. Use of conference hours must also be justified in letter.

- **The 120 hours of PD would normally be completed while students are registered in the MEd graduate program at Acadia** *however PD completed up to three years prior to starting the MEd may also be considered.*

- **Some examples of viable PD claims** are listed below however you are encouraged to contact the graduate coordinator for confirmation of approval of other possibilities. (preferably before you undertake the PD for the purposes of fulfilling the course requirement).

- **The PD must be documented and verified**. Documentation can include certificates provided for workshops (showing hours), or other experiences, the invested hours of which have been verified by a letter from the instructor.

- **After the application and documentation has been approved by the graduate coordinator, students will receive notice to formally register in EDUC 5143** at which point they will receive credit.

Examples of Professional Development That May be Used for Credit

(*provided it happened no more than three years prior to beginning of the current MEd program at Acadia*)

- Modules offered by the Educational Leadership Consortium of Nova Scotia (ELCNS).
- ELCNS - Aspiring Leaders Program (ALP)
- Nova Scotia Instructional Leadership Academy (NSILA) training
- Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) - Leadership Development Program
- South Shore Regional Centre for Education (SSRCE) - Program for Aspiring and New Program Support (PAN PST)
- Registered Reading Recovery programs
- Annapolis Valley Regional Centre for Education (AVRCE)-Resource Teacher training programs.
- South Shore Regional Centre for Education (SSRCE) - PAN RT or PAN LST: Program for Aspiring and New Learning Support Teachers
- TEACCH: Treatment and Education of Autistic and Related Communication Handicapped Children
- Department of Education & Early Childhood Development (EECD) supported online course - APSEA Autism in Education (AIE) Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)-ASD and Behavioural Interventions: An Introduction for School Personnel
- South Shore Regional Centre for Education (SSRCE) – Behavioural Support Teacher (BST) course: Understanding & Promoting Positive Behaviours

SEE EXPLORATIONS CREDITING PROCESS BELOW

The preferred approach for submitting Explorations documentation, is that students in an ongoing process for themselves, would fill out a **singular** Explorations form (see accompanying link) and scan supporting evidence. *Include in the package a brief overview of how the PD supports your professional growth.* There are three preferred ways of submitting your final and complete application and supporting documentation:

1) Email attachment to graded@acadiau.ca with Explorations application on the subject line (if the number of documents is small)
2) Use WeTransfer (https://wetransfer.com/) for free transfer of up to 3GBs of files

With the level of feedback the graduate coordinator receives daily, it is not possible to accept file transfers using dropbox or google docs. Please use the methods 1 or 2 above

Upon approval, the student will be contacted by the School of Education to proceed with course registration **and payment** which simply involves calling Open Acadia at: 1-800-565-6568.