

**Strategic Plan
Department of Curriculum & Instruction
Faculty of Education
University of Victoria**

Mission:

Curriculum and Instruction, is committed to creative and scholarly inquiry, the study of curriculum and pedagogical practice, and professional involvement across various subject areas in the field of education. In collaboration with provincial, national, and international communities, we foster learning in schools and in various other educational contexts through exemplary teaching, research and service.

Strategic Initiatives:

The Strategic Initiatives for the Department of Curriculum and Instruction are sorted into four different categories: Undergraduate, Graduate, Research, or Across the Department. The top three priority initiatives for each category are listed below. The connections to the Faculty of Education (2009) and the UVIC (2012) strategic plans are in brackets after each priority.

Undergraduate Initiatives

1. **Develop entry level courses for prospective students across campus** e.g. general education, role of education, connecting with educational partners, etc. (EDUC 17a, 17f; UVIC 12d, 13d).
The department will develop a first year course to introduce students to the broader concept of education and its role in community beyond the formal school situation. This course will be a core requirement for a minor in education and provide a pathway to recruitment for the teacher education program. It may also become a required course for the 4-year BEd Elementary program for direct entry students.
2. **Develop a Bachelor of Arts in Education** (EDUC 17a; UVIC 13a;).
The department will develop a minor in education and then move towards a diploma in informal education. This building process will lead to the development of a B.A. in education that would be a non-certified education degree.

3. **a. Create more general electives** (EDUC 17a, 17f; UVIC 13a).
(This priority was tied with the priority to provide opportunities and support for instructors to work more collaboratively (EDUC 15d; UVIC 17a).)
The department recognizes the importance of diversifying course offerings beyond the requirements of the teacher education program and will develop new undergraduate courses that may be taken by students both within Education and as general electives for students in other faculties. The faculty and staff expertise in both content and pedagogy should be shared with the wider university community and not restricted to just the teacher education program. This initiative could assist the university in improving the first year experience by providing a wide variety of options for students in various areas. It will also allow the Department to be responsive to trends and identified needs in BC schools (e.g. French language instruction, English Language Learners, Early Childhood, Personalized Learning, problem/project-based Learning). The department will seek additional faculty positions with expertise in one or more of these areas.
- b. Provide opportunities and support for instructors to work more collaboratively** (EDUC 15d; UVIC 17a).
(This priority was tied with the priority to create more general electives (EDUC 17a, 17f; UVIC 13a).)
The K-12 school system is moving towards more collaborative instructional practices. Our teacher education programs need to prepare students to effectively work in that type of environment. We need to model and reflect these practices in our own instruction. Some opportunities for collaboration already exist through the Summer Institutes in Education. The Department will identify other appropriate courses and options to provide opportunities for instructors to work more collaboratively.

Graduate Initiatives

1. **Explore the viability of a course-based masters degree** (EDUC 18b; UVIC 14).
The department is reducing the required course work in the M.A. and Ph.D and increasing the unit value of the thesis and dissertation. These programs will be offered primarily for on-campus students. The growth in our M.Ed. cohorts indicates an interest in project based graduate degrees. The department will offer M.Ed. programs via cohorts. Some of these will be site-based (i.e. offered in the local community) while others will be topic-based (e.g. Art Education, Language and Literacy, English as a Foreign Language, Early Childhood Education, Educational Technology, etc.) The department will also seek additional faculty positions to support offering cohorts in the areas of English Language Learners and Early

Childhood Education, as the department currently lacks faculty members with those specialities.

2. **Explore the viability of graduate certificates and diplomas** (EDUC 17g, 18b; UVIC 24b).
With the reduction of the undergraduate teacher education degree to a 4 year degree, teachers are now looking for a path to increase their salary levels. Students must complete an additional 15 units of course work at the university to satisfy the Teacher Regulation Branch requirement for level 5. Of this 15 units, at least 10.5 units must be an “integrated program” of courses. The department will identify potential student interests and develop certificates (10.5 units) or diplomas (15 units) that students could take to complete their level 5 requirements.
3. **Ladder certificates/diplomas to graduate degree programs** (EDUC 17g; UVIC 24d).
Students who complete a graduate certificate or diploma may be interested in the option of continuing their studies and completing a master’s degree. The department will work with the Faculty of Graduate Studies to investigate and implement viable options to ladder certificates/diplomas to a masters degree.

Research Initiatives

1. **Foster collaboration and mentoring for research proposals and grants** (EDUC 25b; UVIC 11b, 21b).
The Faculty Research coordinator provides regular updates on grant opportunities and workshops and mentoring for research proposals and grants. The department will foster collaboration by helping faculty share their research with department members as a means to identify possible collaborators within the department. It will also identify possible mentors who would be willing to review proposals or share their proposals as exemplars for faculty.
2. **Seek alternative funding sources to support research/projects** (EDUC 25b; UVIC 21c).
The Faculty Research coordinator department provides regular updates on grant opportunities. The department will communicate information on additional funding opportunities that become available.
3. **Provide opportunities to share our research and develop collaborations** (EDUC 27a, 27b; UVIC 23).
The department will provide information to department members on successful research grants and significant publications (e.g. books) or events (e.g. Art shows). It will provide information on the departmental website on research initiatives involving department members.

Department Initiatives

- 1. Enhance the image and expertise of our department** across campus, in all areas of work and accomplishments; promote courses and programs; promote faculty expertise; promote student accomplishments; promote research and awards (EDUC 17, 27; UVIC 21d, 23e)
The Department will redo its website using the new university template and use this website to enhance and promote the image and expertise of our department. The department will also explore other options, such as social media, to promote the work of the department.
- 2. Revision our department as a unified unit, rather than a collective of diverse groups** (EDUC 28; UVIC 1b, 17a)
The department is developing a minor in education that is a unified undergraduate program drawing on courses throughout the Faculty of Education, but housed in Curriculum and Instruction. In addition at the graduate level the department has revised the MA and PhD programs to reflect a common core and program structure. Also, the department is now offering site-based cohorts that offer courses across subject areas in addition to our traditional subject-based cohorts.
- 3. Provide more opportunities for social engagement, including staff, faculty, sessional instructors, and students** (EDUC 15d; UVIC1b, 17).