

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
REQUEST FOR DECISION**

PRESENTED BY: Carolyn Augusta, Chair, Academic Programs Committee

DATE OF MEETING: September 26, 2024

SUBJECT: **Termination of Post-Degree Certificate in Career and Guidance Studies**

MOTION: *It is recommended by the Academic Programs Committee that Council approve the termination of the Post-Degree Certificate in Career and Guidance Studies effective May 2025.*

PURPOSE:

University Council has the authority to terminate degree-level program, including certificate programs.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:

The Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education in the College of Education is proposing the termination of the Post-Degree Certificate in Career and Guidance Studies. The college has determined that this program is not viable and has never generated enough interested students to fill courses when they were offered, as well as covering the expense of running the program. The program does not focus on an area of study in which there is a demand for teachers in kindergarten to grade 12 schools and post-secondary institutions to be trained. Specifically:

1. Most of the K-12 school systems and post-secondary institutions have eliminated career counselling departments and positions due to the readily available online information and exploratory materials that can be made available regarding career assistance.
2. Completing this program does not prepare or qualify a teacher to support students beyond career and basic guidance issues.

It should be noted that none of the courses in this program will be deleted, for the reasons outlined in the supporting documentation. There are no students currently enrolled in this program.

CONSULTATION:

The Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education reviewed and unanimously approved the following motion at their March 11, 2024 meeting:

The Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education recommends the Post-Degree Certificate program in Career and Guidance Studies be terminated as of March 31, 2024 (Moved by: Dr. Laureen McIntyre; Seconded by: Dr. Amin Mousavi).

The Undergraduate Programs Committee (UPC) in the College of Education reviewed the proposal and approved the following motion on April 18, 2024:

To terminate the Post-Degree Certificate in Career and Guidance Studies (Moved by: Sheila Pocha; Seconded by: Dr. Amin Mousavi).

Members of the College of Education Faculty Council approved the following motion on May 10, 2024:

To terminate the Post-Degree Certificate in Career and Guidance Studies (Moved by: Sheila Pocha; Seconded by: Dr. Amin Mousavi).

ATTACHMENTS:

- a. Program Termination Form
- b. Consultation with the Registrar (CWR) cover sheet

Consultation with the Registrar (CWR) – Proposal Highlights

Title of Proposal: Termination of Post-Degree Certificate in Career and Guidance Studies

General Description: Final student pursuing the program will graduate according to existing requirements; no further admission will occur.

Degree College: College of Education

Effective Term: May 2025

The College of Education Faculty Council approved this motion at the May 10, 2024 meeting.

Course implications

- No course deletions or changes

Registration and classes

- N/A

Convocation


- There is only one student pursuing the program. This student will graduate in Spring 2024 Convocation.

Financial and Budget

- N/A

Student Mobility

- N/A

 UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN	Report Form for Program Termination
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Program(s) to be deleted: Post-Degree Certificate in Career and Guidance Studies (P.D.C.)

Effective date of termination: March 31, 2024

1. List reasons for termination and describe the background leading to this decision.

The Post-Degree Certificate in Career and Guidance program is not a viable program. First, this program does not focus on an area of study in which there is a demand for teachers in kindergarten to grade 12 schools and post-secondary institutions to be trained. Specifically:

- (1) This program focused on recruiting current practicing teachers working in kindergarten to grade 12 school systems and post-secondary institutions. However, most of these sites have eliminated career counselling departments and positions as there is now an abundance of readily available online information and exploratory materials that can be accessed related to career assistance.
- (2) Completing this program does not prepare or qualify a teacher to support students beyond career and basic guidance issues. Registered psychologists and counsellors are the qualified professionals who can respond to the increasing demand to support the psychoeducational and mental health needs in health, education, and community environments, and the Department of Educational Psychology & Special Education is already responding to this need by training future counselling psychologists through our recently revised Master of Education program in School and Counselling Psychology.

Second, this program has never generated enough interested students to fill courses when they were offered and cover the expense of running this program (i.e., paying sessional instructors, covering the expense of a faculty teaching offload, covering the expense of a clerical support person). The enrollments in these courses have always had to be supplemented by other EPSE post-graduate and graduate programs.

This is not a program the Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education wishes to continue to offer as it only depletes our already limited faculty and financial resources.

2. Technical information.

2.1 Courses offered in the program and faculty resources required for these courses.

The Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education's (EPSE) Post-Degree Certificate program in Career and Guidance is a 30 credit unit program designed to meet the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board's requirements for an Additional Qualification Certificate (AQC) in Career and Guidance Studies (see <https://programs.usask.ca/education/post-degree-certificate-in-career-and-guidance-studies/index.php>) which includes the following required courses:

EFDT 528.3 Anti-Opressive Education for Helping Professionals

EPSE 416.3 Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling

EPSE 417.3 Introduction to Counselling Psychology

EPSE 441.3 Introductory Statistics in Education

EPSE 525.3 Career Development and Decision-Making

EPSE 526.3 Ethics in School and Educational Contexts

EPSE 527.3 Skills for Effective Interpersonal Communication

EPSE 529.3 Individual Project in Career and Guidance Studies

EPSE 540.3 Collaboration Processes and Contexts

An approved three (3) credit unit upper-level undergraduate (i.e., 300, 400, or 500 level) elective course.

These courses were taught as in person courses only switching to online versions during the Coronavirus of 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic. Previously, one EPSE faculty member with expertise in counselling psychology was acting as the academic advisor for this program and receiving a one-3 credit course teaching offload and occasionally teaching one course in this program in an academic year (i.e., EPSE 526.3; courses in program were predominantly taught by sessional lecturers). This faculty member is currently on a long-term indefinite leave (i.e., long term disability).

2.2 Other resources (staff, technology, physical resources, etc.) used for this program.

A part-time clerical support person who provided support to both the Departments of Curriculum Studies (ECUR) and Educational Psychology & Special Education (EPSE) post-degree certificate programs was paid to assist with processing applications and supporting enrolled students in this program. However, the EPSE department stopped accepting applications to this program in 2021-2022 academic year when enrollment numbers were too low to continue offering courses in this program. The person in this position then left for another job on campus and this position was vacated and not re-advertised.

2.3 Courses to be deleted, if any.

None of the courses in this program will be deleted, since:

- (1) three of these courses are EPSE undergraduate courses that are regularly offered and taken by students in College of Education’s undergraduate programs and are also used as prerequisite courses to the EPSE department’s graduate programs (i.e., EPSE 416.3 Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling, EPSE 417.3 Introduction to Counselling Psychology, and EPSE 441.3 Introductory Statistics in Education);
- (2) one of the courses is a required course in our department’s other Post-Degree Certificate program in Special Education (i.e., EPSE 540.3 Collaboration Processes and Contexts); and
- (3) the remaining five courses created for this program will be kept on the books and used as elective courses on a rotating basis for students in our department’s post-graduate and graduate programs (i.e., EFDT 528.3 Anti-Oppressive Education for Helping Professionals; EPSE 525.3 Career Development and Decision-Making; EPSE 526.3 Ethics in School and Educational Contexts; EPSE 527.3 Skills for Effective Interpersonal Communication; EPSE 529.3 Individual Project in Career and Guidance Studies).

2.4 Number of students presently enrolled.

As of January 2024, there are no students currently enrolled in this program.

2.5 Number of students enrolled and graduated over the last five years.

Academic Terms/Year	# Students Enrolled	#Students Graduated
May - September 2019	19	-
January - September 2020	21	6
January-September 2021	16	5
January-September 2022	18	8
January-September 2023	7	7
September-December 2023	1	1 Pending (Spring 2024)

3. Impact of the termination.

Internal

3.1 What if any impact will this termination have on undergraduate and graduate students? How will they be advised to complete their programs?

There will be no internal impact on undergraduate or graduate students. All students that were currently enrolled in this program (16 students) were contacted in November 2022. Three students were inactive and had not registered in at least one course over the last three consecutive academic terms. Any students who had completed four or less courses in the program (i.e., 4 students had 6 or more courses left to complete) were given the opportunity to apply to the department's Post-Degree Certificate in Special Education or one of our Master of Education programs. Nine students had one to two- 3 credit unit courses left to complete in their program. These needed courses were offered one last time in the 2022-2023 academic year to allow these students to complete their program. This resulted in 7 students completing their course requirements and applying for convocation.

Dr. McIntyre, the EPSE Graduate Chair, taught the final project course in this program (i.e., EPSE 529) one additional time in the fall term of 2023-2024 to allow two remaining current students who had not taken EPSE 529 the last time it was offered in spring/summer 2022 one last opportunity to complete this program. One of the students opted to enroll in the course and complete their program, while the second student declined to enroll to complete their program due to financial reasons.

3.2 What impact will this termination have on faculty and teaching assignments?

There will be no impact on faculty and teaching assignments as the courses that were required as part of this program are not being eliminated (see response to question 2.2). Any specific 500 level courses created for this program will potentially be offered as elective courses for EPSE post-graduate and graduate students on a rotating basis in upcoming academic terms.

3.3 Will this termination affect other programs, departments or colleges?

No, terminating this program will not affect other departments or colleges.

3.4 If courses are also to be deleted, will these deletions affect any other programs?

Not applicable. Courses are not being deleted.

3.5 Is it likely, or appropriate, that another department or college will develop a program to replace this one?

No, it is not likely/appropriate that another department or college will develop a program to replace this one as career and guidance counselling in kindergarten to grade 12 school environments and post-secondary institutions is not a field of interest for other departments/colleges.

3.6 Is it likely, or appropriate, that another department or college will develop courses to replace the ones deleted?

Not applicable. Courses are not being deleted.

3.7 Describe any impact on research projects.

Not applicable. This program does not support students to engage in research.

3.8 Will this deletion affect resource areas such as library resources, physical facilities, and information technology?

No, the deletion of this program will not affect resource areas.

3.9 Describe the budgetary implications of this deletion.

Terminating this program will eliminate the expense of:

- (1) paying sessional instructors to teach the majority of its courses;
- (2) hiring or reallocating the administrative duties for this program to a new part-time clerical person; and
- (3) needing to cover the expense of a faculty teaching offload for an academic advisor.

External

3.10 Describe any external impact (e.g. university reputation, accreditation, other institutions, high schools, community organizations, professional bodies).

Terminating the Post-Degree Certificate program in Career and Guidance will not have a negative external impact. Kindergarten to grade 12 school systems and post-secondary institutions have largely eliminated career counselling departments and positions as there is now an abundance of readily available online information and exploratory materials that can be accessed related to career assistance.

Teachers completing this program would only be qualified to meet the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board's requirements for an Additional Qualification Certificate (AQC) in Career and Guidance Studies. That is, completing this program does not prepare or qualify a teacher to support students beyond career and basic guidance issues. Registered psychologists and counsellors are the qualified professionals who can respond to the increasing demand for psychoeducational and mental health support in health, education, and community environments, and the Department of Educational Psychology & Special Education are already responding to this need by training future counselling psychologists through our recently revised Master of Education program in School and Counselling Psychology.

3.11 Is it likely or appropriate that another educational institution will offer this program if it is deleted at the University of Saskatchewan?

No (see response to question 3.10).

Other

3.12 Are there any other relevant impacts or considerations?

No/Not Applicable.

3.13 Please provide any statements or opinions received about this termination.

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(Optional)

4. Additional information. *Programs which have not undergone recent formal reviews should provide additional relevant information about quality, demand, efficiency, unique features, and relevance to the province.*