



Academic Programs Committee of Council

University Course Challenge, July 2018

Contents:

Changes in administration for Project-based Master of Education (M.Ed.) Degree Programs:
Change from operational credit units to academic credit units for 992 courses

Approval: Date of circulation: June 29, 2018
 Date of effective approval if no challenge received: July 13, 2018

Next scheduled posting:

The next posting will be August 16, 2018, with a submission deadline of **August 14, 2018**.
Urgent items can be posted on request.

Please direct challenges to both of the following: seanine.warrington@usask.ca in Registrarial Services and amanda.storey@usask.ca in the Office of the University Secretary.

College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, University Course Challenge

The following changes have been approved by the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and are now being submitted to University Course Challenge for approval.

For Approval:

Changes in administration for Project-based (992) Master of Education (M.Ed.) Degree Programs: Change from operational credit units to academic credit units

The majority of project courses currently carry 15 operational credit units for administrative purposes; however, they are deemed to carry the equivalent of 6 academic credit units upon completion. This approach to project courses was introduced in June, 2009 (University Course Challenge) in order to align 992 project courses with 994.0 and 996.0 research-based thesis courses. The practice of setting up research-based courses with operational credit units had been found to be the most optimal for students in terms of tax benefits and health coverage. There are some exceptions that have been made to this model (the MBA, MPAC, MPH and MSEM programs are the exceptions). Those exceptions have been due to those programs having different 992 course outcomes or different tuition models from the standard, flat-rate graduate tuition.

The following changes will now re-introduce the use of academic credit units to ECUR 992, EFDT 992, and ETAD 992. This is a response to challenges and risks associated with industry professional bodies. Specifically, there are provincial bodies (and international counterparts) which oversee the assessment of teachers' credentials for the purposes of hiring and pay scale increases. Graduates from the project-based M.Ed. programs have found themselves at risk of being denied the pay scale increase they have earned, due to confusion/different interpretations of the 992 course and how it should be credited. While this risk has been long-standing, historically it has been mitigated by the University (CGPS) issuing a letter explaining the equivalency. At least two cases have arisen, currently ongoing, in which graduates of the project-based M.Ed. have been denied their pay scale increases, on the basis of their transcripts reflecting 24 credit units, and not the required 30. The professional body in question will not accept a letter of equivalency, nor any other form of proof other than a transcript reflecting the appropriate credit units. This change will eliminate the need for explanatory letters to be issued from the College for these project-based M.Ed. graduates, and it will ensure that our graduates are appropriately credited for their work when their transcripts are being assessed by third parties for pay scale raises and beyond.

The completion of the 992 project courses at the UofS has always been understood to be the equivalent of 6 academic credit units; the following changes do not constitute academic changes to the programs and courses, but rather signify a more transparent approach to student records.

Program Revisions:

Curriculum Studies:

Master of Education (M.Ed.) - Project-based

Admission Requirements

Degree Requirements

- [GPS 960.0](#)
- [GPS 961.0](#) if research involves human subjects

- [GPS 962.0](#) if research involves animal subjects
- Minimum **24 30** credit units, including:
 - [ECUR 811.3](#)
 - [ECUR 812.3](#)
 - [ERES 800.3](#)
 - [ECUR 990.0](#)
 - ~~ECUR 992.0~~ [ECUR 992.6](#) (students must maintain continuous registration in this course)
 - 15 credit units of electives

Educational Foundations:

Master of Education (M.Ed.) - Project-based

Students must maintain continuous registration in the 992 course.

Admission Requirements

Degree Requirements

- [GPS 960.0](#)
 - [GPS 961.0](#) if research involves human subjects
 - [GPS 962.0](#) if research involves animals subject
- a minimum **24 30** credit units, including:
- [EFDT 990.0](#) (for two terms)
 - [EFDT 870.3](#)
 - one research course ([EFDT 845.3](#), [ERES 800.3](#), [ERES 810.3](#)), or another research course approved by the advisory committee
 - ~~EFDT 992.0~~ [EFDT 992.6](#)

Educational Technology and Design:

Master of Education (M.Ed.) - Project-Based

Admission Requirements

Degree Requirements

Students must maintain continuous registration in the 992 course.

- [GPS 960.0](#)
- [GPS 961.0](#) if research involves human subjects
- [GPS 962.0](#) if research involves animal subjects

A minimum **24 30** credit units, including:

- [ECUR 990.0](#)
- [ERES 800.3](#)
- [ETAD 802.6](#)
- [ETAD 873.3](#)
- ~~ETAD 992.0~~ [ETAD 992.6](#)
- A minimum of 12 credit units of approved electives; 6 credit units must be from ETAD or ECUR in the Department of Curriculum Studies.

Course Revisions:

~~ECUR 992.0~~ ECUR 992.6

Project

A student in the project route must register in this course each term every year until the project or minor thesis is completed. A project is either a minor thesis requiring research, or a project, both with intensive reading under the supervision of a faculty supervisor.

~~EFDT 992.0~~ EFDT 992.6

Project

A compulsory course for those registered for the project Master's route. The project must be evaluated by a committee of the department.

~~ETAD 992.0~~ ETAD 992.6

Project

The research or developmental project, required on the project option for the M.Ed., where the nature of the research or developmental project is inter-disciplinary or multi-departmental. The project must be accepted by a committee consisting of members from the sponsoring and co-operating departments and evaluated by this committee plus an external member.

Formerly: ECMM 992

Note: Students with credit for ECMM 992 will not receive credit for this course.