

Teacher Candidate Code of Professional Conduct Created by the Education Students' Council, 2020/21

All Teacher Candidates of the Faculty of Education at Western University are to comply with the Teacher Candidate Code of Professional Conduct and the Western Code of Student Conduct. The purpose of this Code is to promote the development of responsible educators and future members of the Ontario College of Teachers by adhering to the highest standards of academic integrity and professionalism.

At all times Teacher Candidates are expected to maintain a comportment of professionalism that is consistent with the Ontario College of Teachers Standards of Ethical Practice:

Care

Respect

Trust

Integrity

The expectation that Teacher Candidates heed these standards remains in effect throughout *all* aspects of the B.Ed. program (coursework, practicum, AFE and student leadership). Being that promoting trust and confidence in the teaching profession is a constant expectation of certified members, and that this standard of conduct applies to teachers within and aside from their role as educators, this expectation is extended to Teacher Candidates at the University of Western Ontario Faculty of Education. Constant comportment and behaviour consistent with these standards may at no time be compromised.

Equity & Inclusion

Social justice is a cornerstone of the teaching profession, and must be understood as paramount to professional teaching. The University of Western Ontario Faculty of Education expects that Teacher Candidates at all times maintain and contribute to the Faculty's environment of equity and inclusion. This includes:

- 1) Fostering positive, inclusive and safer learning communities for all individuals as outlined in the Ontario Human Rights Code.
- 2) Observing the anti-discrimination expectations outlined in Western's Non-Discrimination/Anti-Harrasement Policy.
- 3) Actively seeking ways to improve one's own understanding of equity, inclusion and social justice specific to their practise as a fledgling professional educator.
- 4) Complying with rules and procedures outlined by the Undergraduate Student Council.
- 5) Complying with rules and procedures outlined by the Education Student Council.
- 6) Recognizing the history of damage and abuse committed by the education system in Canada, as well as the present-day injustices being committed to First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities across Canada, and detangle education from Canada's ongoing colonialism of Indigenous peoples.

The University of Western Ontario acknowledges that our Faculty is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Attawandaron peoples. We are grateful for their stewardship of these lands and contributions to our society, and we commit to careful stewardship of these lands and societies together, today and in the future.

Additionally, Teacher Candidates may complete non-coursework components of their teacher certification (practica, alternative field experiences) away from the City of London, and therefore on the traditional lands of various Indigenous peoples across Ontario. Teacher Candidates are encouraged to recognize the different treaties and experiences concerning the land on which they complete components of the B.Ed. program away from Western's main campus.

Teacher candidates are encouraged to remain vigilant in proactively recognizing instances of practises or policies that contravene the Faculty's commitment to social justice, inclusion, equity and respect, and advocate for improvement in a manner that is positive, responsible and also consistent with this commitment.

Electronic Communication

Students are responsible for upholding the standards outlined in Western's Student Code of Professional Conduct, the OCT's Professional Advisory, and any applicable codes, regulations or by-laws enacted by off-campus locations, including public school boards. This extends to all social networking and digital media websites.

The Faculty of Education and OCT may investigate alleged breaches. It may impact the student's eligibility to receive their OCT certification. Moreover, additional sanctions may be imposed in accordance with other university and OCT policies. These sanctions range from a warning to expulsion to criminal proceedings.

Policies include:

- The OCT Professional Advisories:
<https://www.oct.ca/en/resources/categories/professional-advisories>
- Western Education Policies: <https://www.edu.uwo.ca/CSW/my-program/BEd/policies.html>
- Faculty of Education Progression Requirements:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/profpr og_education.pdf
- The Code of Behaviour for Use of Computer Resources and Corporate Data:
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/mapp/section1/mapp113.pdf>
- The Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy:
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/mapp/section1/mapp135.pdf>
- The Scholastic Discipline Policy:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergr ad.pdf

- The Western Code of Student Conduct:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/code_of_conduct.pdf
- Education Students' Council Constitution, Bylaws, and Policies:
<https://theteachercandidate.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/updated-esc-constitution-feb2020.pdf>

Physical Safety & Mental Health

Students are expected to promote the 1) physical and the 2) psychological safety of all members within the Faculty of Education community, and to respect the health of this community by following all required health guidelines.

- 1) It is expected that all students of the Faculty of Education at Western University adhere to and respect the protocols put in place by institutions of authority such as the municipal, provincial, and federal governments, as well as the guidelines laid out by Western University itself. Students are asked to follow these rules while on campus, during their practica and Alternative Field Experiences, and in their respective communities if learning remotely in order to continuously uphold the Faculty of Education's standards of integrity and respect.
- 2) Students are asked to be conscious of the impacts that mental health and illness may have within the school community. Students are expected to be professional, courteous, and empathetic towards one another at all times in order to foster an environment that is supportive and understanding towards the unique and diverse needs of the student body.

Students who need support at any time during enrolment in the program are encouraged to reach out to Western Wellness <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> or the Teacher Education office as early as possible.