

PROGRAM AND PRACTICUM INFORMATION

FOR TRENT B.ED. APPLICANTS

Congratulations on your offer of admission to the Trent B.Ed. program! The following document outlines some important details about the program. Please take care to read it over carefully; acceptance of the offer of admission constitutes an agreement that you have read and fully understand the program information as outlined below.

1. Our shared commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion

At the Trent School of Education we endeavour to provide quality teacher education, which includes a deep commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion. We expect our candidates to share this commitment, and be committed to social justice values while at the School of Education and throughout their careers as educators. We hope those candidates who join us will become changemakers in the field.

2. Location of practicums and placements

All Teacher Candidates need to complete four classroom practicums (Blocks A, B, C and D) and two field placements: the Supporting Literacy Placement (SLP) and the Alternative Settings Placement (ASP).

The School of Education is proud of the outstanding partnerships that we have built with local school boards in the east-central region of Ontario. These partnerships directly benefit Teacher Candidates who have the opportunity to work with schools and teachers who know our program well and understand the needs of our Teacher Candidates. One key aspect of this relationship is that all classroom practicums and the Supporting Literacy Placement (SLP) will be arranged by direct communication between School of Education and the school or board partner in question.

Teacher Candidates do not arrange their own classroom practicums (or SLP), and regrettably, we cannot take requests on specific locations due to the volume of demand and competing needs/preferences of many Teacher Candidates. If a Teacher Candidate (or someone acting on their behalf) makes an arrangement, it will be considered a conflict of interest and the Teacher Candidate will be assigned elsewhere.

Prior to you commencing the B.Ed. program, the Practicum Office will ask you your location of residence during placements and practicum, for the purpose of limiting your travel time wherever possible. But please be aware that your practicum could potentially be anywhere within any of our partner school boards (see below), and some of your practicums will be further away from your home location than others.

It will be your responsibility to arrange your transportation to each of your practicums. We recognize that travel to practicums can sometimes be expensive and time-consuming, and we spend great effort to limit this as much as possible. However, applicants to the Trent B.Ed. program should be aware that our partner school boards are geographically spread out (and some schools are not served by public transit).

There are many factors weighing on the location-arranging process; we endeavour to approach this process as fairly as possible, but those entering the program need to be aware that some Teacher Candidates may need to travel further to some Practicum locations than others. Once you are informed of a Practicum that has been arranged for you, we are not able to entertain any requests for changes.

OUR PARTNER SCHOOL BOARDS

PUBLIC STREAM	CATHOLIC STREAM
Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB	Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic DSB
Durham DSB	Durham Catholic DSB
Trillium Lakelands DSB <i>(mainly the southern and eastern part of the board)</i>	

Practicum and Placement Dates

Supporting Literacy Placement 10-day equivalent	Year 1: September 2022 – February 2023 (2 mornings per week during this time*) * P/J will be every Wed. & Fri. morning & I/S will be every Tues. and Thurs. morning. Exact dates TBD
Block A Classroom Practicum Year 1: 4 weeks	Year 1: November - December, 2022 Exact dates TBD
Block B Classroom Practicum Year 1: 5 weeks	Year 1: February - April, 2023 Exact dates TBD
Alternative Settings Placement* 15 days (school setting) OR 75 hours (non-school setting)	Normally this placement would be completed at some point between April, 2022 and the end of August, 2023, but some Teacher Candidates may elect to complete this during the academic year in Year 1; this placement has timing flexibility, but needs to be approved by your Faculty Advisor. * Please note that this is the only placement for which you will choose the location of your placement; more information will be provided later.
Block C Classroom Practicum Year 2: 4 weeks*	Year 2: An observation week in September, 2023, plus four teaching weeks in November/December, 2023 (specific dates TBD)
Block D Classroom Practicum Year 2: 5 weeks*	Year 2: Five weeks in February - April, 2024 (specific dates TBD)

Please note that you may not receive payment of any kind for your practicums and placements, or any portion of duty associated with them.

3. Candidates need to make their own arrangements for transportation

We cannot take into account individual circumstances such as access to a vehicle when arranging practicums and placements. Candidates will assume all travel costs related to practicums and placements. Many Teacher Candidates car-pool to get to their practicum schools, but the Practicum Office does not coordinate car-pooling, and does not guarantee that you will be placed at a school with other Teacher Candidates present. The School of Education will distribute a Transportation List with Practicum locations of those Teacher Candidates who have given us direct permission to do so, which you may use to help coordinate arrangements for your Practicum travel with other Teacher Candidates. Please note that many of our partner schools are not on public transportation routes.

4. COVID-19 Circumstances and Vaccinations

Circumstances in our partner schools have been changing on an ongoing basis since the start of the pandemic, and we expect that to continue. Teacher Candidates joining the B.Ed. program need to be ready to have the flexibility to adjust to circumstances. In some cases, there will be new information in relation to practicum or program information that we may not be aware of currently. We will expect Teacher Candidates in the program to respond constructively and professionally when such changes present themselves.

One such situation that may continue to change relates to COVID-19 vaccination rules. At this time, Teacher Candidates attending practicum in our partner school boards are required to be "fully vaccinated" against COVID-19, which (at the time of this document's writing) presently means two doses of vaccine. However, by the time practicums are taking place in 2022-2023, the definition of "fully vaccinated" may have been altered to include booster doses, or variant-specific doses. Regardless of the requirement in question at the time, your decision to accept the offer to join the B.Ed. program at Trent constitutes a contractual agreement on your part that you will not hold the School of Education responsible in any manner whatsoever if you are denied practicum opportunities due to not complying with the vaccination requirements of our partner school boards. Those accepting the offer to join the B.Ed. program also agree to fully disclose their vaccination status to the School of Education upon request.

Please note that due to program requirements, it is NOT possible to progress through the B.Ed. program with entirely virtual teaching experiences. As our partner school boards presently require vaccinations for in-person practicums to take place, **an individual who is not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 cannot presently complete the B.Ed. program.**

5. Your Class Schedule

In approximately May or June, you will be asked for information related to course preference timing for courses in the upcoming year. There is only a very limited amount of timing options that are available, but we will do our best to give you a schedule that takes your preference into consideration. We will create your schedule on the basis of taking all Teacher Candidates' preferences into consideration and scheduling students accordingly. We will provide you with your schedule as soon as possible (our goal is by the end of July).

Overall, those joining the B.Ed. program should ensure that they are available Monday to Friday between 9am and 8pm; most classes take place 9am-5pm, but some evening classes also occur. You will normally have 14-16 hours of class per week (this will vary slightly between P/J and I/S level). This time may not be evenly distributed across the week.

The schedule you receive will be final; we regret that we will not be able to consider schedule change requests.

As a professional program, attendance in B.Ed. classes is required throughout the program. If you have a part-time job that conflicts with B.Ed. class times, you will be expected to either make arrangements for your hours at work to be altered, or to discontinue the job that is creating the conflict. If that is not feasible for you, please note that regrettably the B.Ed. program may not be the right option for you to pursue at the present. We would be happy to discuss the option of deferring your offer of admission for one year, if you anticipate that your schedule might provide you with more flexibility a year later.

6. Literacy and Math Proficiency

We believe that all of our Teacher Candidates have the capacity to be successful in the B.Ed. program, and specifically within their teaching practicums in the schools. An important element of that success will be your ability to meet the curricular needs of students in all subject areas. In order to support Teacher Candidates in achieving that success, all Teacher Candidates (P/J and I/S) will undertake a proficiency assessment in both literacy and mathematics in the first two weeks of the program. For Teacher Candidates whom we identify as needing extra support in one or both of these areas, there will be a required additional support class(es) in the first year of the program.

There will be no additional cost for attending the course(s). While achieving a final "pass" on course material will not be required in order to progress in the program, Teacher Candidates identified as needing the course(s) will be required to attend the full duration of the course(s) as part of the core program requirements.

Please note that the math proficiency support mentioned above is a program that Trent has been offering for a number of years and has resulted in tremendous success among our Teacher Candidates. It is not the same as the province's new "Math Proficiency Test" required of new teachers entering the profession. That test is administered by EQAO and is not affiliated with the B.Ed. program. If you wish to learn more about that new provincial requirement, please go to <https://mathproficiencytest.ca>

7. Regarding Positive Vulnerable Sector Search Results

If your VSS is returned to us as a "positive" (ie- there is an issue of concern on the search record from the police), then we may request more information of you. That may include documents such as an incident report related to the offense. In such cases, we will need to discuss the situation with our partner school board(s) to determine if they would be willing to host you on practicums during your time in the program. The outcome of this process may result in your Offer of Admission being rescinded, or in your participation in the program being discontinued.

If the School of Education elects to maintain your Offer of Admission under such circumstances, it is with the understanding that you recognize that the Ontario College of Teachers (the body that will eventually approve your Ontario teaching credential) will conduct their own investigation into the matter at the time that you apply for your teaching certification (after completing the B.Ed.). It is in no way assured that they will license you under such circumstances, even if Trent has approved you to attend the B.Ed. program. The university in no way bears any responsibility under such circumstances.

8. Course Supplementary Fees

In addition to the tuition and general fee charges discussed on the university website related to attending the B.Ed. program, please note there is an additional Supplementary Fee related to attending courses and other general expenses, which varies by course in the program. This fee is normally less than \$300 per year, and it is charged during the academic year (normally prior to the end of first term). The fee covers assorted course-related materials and costs, including guest speakers, equipment, specialized learning materials, specialized space requirements, and duplicating costs. You will be notified when the fee has been charged to your account, and what the exact amount of the fee has been.

ACCEPTING YOUR OFFER!

Accepting your Offer of Admission to the B.Ed. program constitutes an agreement that you recognize and fully accept the information provided in this document, as well as details outlined on the "B.Ed. Accepted - Next Steps" page of our website. Please take time to read all information carefully to ensure that this program is the right match for your needs.

We look forward to having the opportunity to work with you over the next two years as you begin your journey as a future educator!