

Teacher Education Office
Faculty of Education
2125 Main Mall
Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6T1Z4

To Whom It May Concern:

We are providing this letter to graduates of our Teacher Education Program in order to aid them in communicating to interested institutions about the marking practices in our Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) degree. For example, graduate school admissions offices and/or adjudication committees that review grade point averages might well be interested in how to interpret the pass/fail grades awarded within our program. Similarly, our graduates sometimes apply for professional recognition based on the courses they have completed. Adjudicators of these requests may need to judge the quality of students' performance in those courses before granting recognition. This letter is addressed to individuals in these kinds of judgment situations.

In brief, the Faculty of Education at the University of British Columbia offers both 60-credit and 72-credit Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) degrees that students take after meeting our stringent entrance requirements. Most of our students are admitted after completing a Bachelors degree and all of our students are admitted based upon a high GPA in at least 30 credits of directly relevant courses. Students then participate in a rich set of learning experiences both within and outside of the classroom, with many opportunities on campus as well as within schools where they link theory and practice. While marks are assigned in a few elective courses, all mandatory courses are judged on a pass/fail basis. We believe that achieving a passing mark in our courses is contingent on a high standard of performance within all learning experiences (e.g., courses, practica). Our standard for a pass within our B.Ed. program is equivalent to at least a B+ (76%) in UBC's standard marking system and our students often exceed the B+ minimum by achieving work that is comparable to A-, A or A+.

We would note that UBC's Faculty of Graduate Studies (FoGS) recognizes this standard when making admissions decisions. Our written agreement with FoGS explicitly states that "achieving an overall pass in the B.Ed. program at UBC constitutes successful completion of the degree, and meets or exceeds the B+ minimum standard required by FoGS for admission to graduate studies." FoGS only requests supplemental justification for students who achieved an average GPA significantly lower than FoGS' minimum in their first degree (i.e., lower than 68% or B-).

For further information about our Teacher Education Program and/or our marking policies, please contact the Teacher Education Office at teacher.ed@ubc.ca.

Sincerely yours,



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