



Re: Admission to Graduate Programs

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 (BEd) 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 situations.

In brief, the Faculty of Education at the University of British Columbia offers a 60-credit BEd degree that students take after meeting our stringent entrance requirements. Most students are admitted after completing a baccalaureate 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.

Achieving a pass for a course that is judged on a pass/fail basis is contingent on the teacher candidate achieving mastery of the material for that course. The criteria for mastery are articulated by the instructor and are appropriate to the teacher candidate's professional development at that point in time.

Solely for the purpose of admission to graduate programs at UBC, UBC's Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (G+PS) uses a mark of 76 for a course that is judged on a pass/fail basis for the calculation of a teacher candidate's GPA. Our written agreement with G+PS explicitly states: "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 G+PS for admission to graduate studies".

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,

Marianne McTavish, PhD
Associate Dean, Teacher Education