

# FACULTY OF EDUCATION REGULATION ON PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

As future teachers, graduates of the Faculty of Education's Bachelor of Education and Certificate of Education programs will be responsible for the physical safety, the psychological health and educational well being of students (children, adolescent or adult) in schools. In Ontario, Teacher Candidates are associate members of the Ontario Teachers Federation and subject to its standards of professional ethics during their practicum.

Under the *Ethical Standards for the Teaching Profession* of the Ontario College of Teachers, teachers must also demonstrate care, integrity, respect and trust in all of their interactions with students, parents, other teachers, school personnel and with members of the public.

While the Faculty of Education recognizes that its Teacher Candidates are learning their professional responsibilities as teachers, it expects all of its Teacher Candidates to demonstrate that they have the knowledge, attitudes and capacities needed to be responsible for the physical safety, the psychological health and educational well being of students (children, adolescent or adult) before they are placed in a school or other practice teaching situation. It further expects that they will at all times demonstrate care, integrity, respect and trust in their interactions with each other, with the representatives of the Faculty of Education and during their practicum with students (children, adolescent or adult), parents, other teachers, principals, other school personnel and with members of the public. The following procedures apply to this regulation:

## **1. Publicity**

This regulation will be publicized to all Baccalaureate and Certificate of Education students, to all teaching and administrative personnel of the Faculty of Education and to all school-based personnel involved in a Teacher Candidate's practicum. To be admitted to these programs, all candidates must demonstrate that they are aware of its contents and that they have the ability to live up to its requirements.

## **2. Prior to the Practicum**

A) Only those teacher candidates who demonstrate that they can act with care, respect, integrity and trust and that they have the knowledge, attitudes and capacities needed to be responsible for the physical safety, the psychological health and educational well being of students (children, adolescent or adult) will be placed in the practicum.

B) If a teacher candidate has not demonstrated the required qualities (care, integrity, respect or trust), or if the Faculty has well founded reason to believe that the teacher candidate may endanger the physical safety, psychological health or educational well being of students (children, adolescent or adult), the director of the Teacher Education or *Formation à l'enseignement* program may deny a practicum placement to the teacher candidate. In the absence of the program director, the decision to refuse a practicum must be made by the Vice-Dean Academic Programs or the Dean. The teacher candidate must be informed in writing of this determination and the reasons for it within five working days.

## **3. During the Practicum**

A) A teacher candidate will be immediately withdrawn from the practicum if he or she puts at risk the physical safety, the psychological health or educational well being of students (children, adolescent or adult), or otherwise demonstrates an absence of care, respect, integrity or trust.

B) Such determination may be made by the school principal, by another school board official such as a director of education, or by the Director of Teacher Education or of *Formation à l'enseignement*, the Vice Dean (Academic Programs) or the Dean of Education. The teacher candidate must be informed in writing of this determination and the reasons for it, normally within five working days of the withdrawal from the practicum.

C) In the event of such a determination, the teacher candidate will only be placed in another practicum by the Director of Teacher Education or of *Formation à l'enseignement*, [or in his or her absence the Vice-Dean (Academic Programs) or the Dean of Education], when the teacher candidate demonstrates that he or she

- i) no longer poses a risk to students (children, adolescent or adult);

- ii) is capable of acting with care, respect, integrity and trust, and;
- iii) has the knowledge, attitudes and capacities needed to be responsible for their physical safety, psychological health and educational well being.

#### **4. Denial or Withdrawal from Practicum**

In the event that a teacher candidate is denied or withdrawn from the practicum under this regulation, a committee consisting of three regular professors will examine the case.

A) The committee must normally meet within ten working days of the written notification to the teacher candidate of the decision to deny a practicum.

b) The committee may make one of three decisions:

- i) it may uphold the denial of a practicum placement;
- ii) it may identify conditions that the teacher candidate must satisfy before being placed in a practicum; or,
- iii) it may authorize the placement of the teacher candidate in another practicum.

c) The teacher candidate may make a written submission to the committee and may request to appear before it.

d) The committee must provide written reasons for its decision.

e) In the event that the committee upholds the decision to bar the teacher candidate from the practicum, a grade of F will be noted on the teacher candidate's transcript for the practicum and the teacher candidate will be withdrawn from the program.

f) In the event that the committee identifies conditions that the teacher candidate must satisfy before being placed in a practicum, a grade of E will be noted on the teacher candidate's transcript for the practicum.

#### **5. Right of Appeal**

The teacher candidate may appeal the decision of the committee through the normal procedures associated with a grade appeal as defined by the Senate of the University of Ottawa.

