

## **Frequently asked Questions**

### **What courses are offered?**

Nipissing offers a wide variety of courses including:

One-session AQs

Three-session AQs leading to Specialist Qualifications

ABQs (Primary, Junior, Intermediate and Senior)

Courses are offered primarily online. Most recently courses have been offered via the face-to-face/blended format in the Barrie, Brantford, Ottawa, and Timmins areas.

For course descriptions go to:

<http://www.nipissingu.ca/academics/faculties/schulich-school-of-education/pd-for-teachers/courses--programs/Pages/Course-Descriptions.aspx>

For course listings go to:

<http://www.nipissingu.ca/academics/faculties/schulich-school-of-education/pd-for-teachers/courses--programs/listing/Pages/default.aspx>

### **Are the courses offered online?**

We offer a large selection of additional qualification courses online in our Spring/Summer, Fall/Winter, and Winter/Spring sessions.

For a list of upcoming online courses go to:

<http://www.nipissingu.ca/academics/faculties/schulich-school-of-education/pd-for-teachers/courses--programs/listing/Pages/Online-Courses.aspx>

### **Where can I take a face-to-face (on-site) course?**

Based on interest, face-to-face/blended AQ courses are offered in regions across the province which may include Barrie, Brantford, Ottawa, and Timmins. The number and range of courses offered depends on the location.

ABQ courses are not offered at on-site locations.

### **What is the difference between ABQ and AQ courses?**

Additional Basic Qualification courses are courses that lead to qualification in a division beyond the two that are part of your BEd program.

- Primary ABQ (Grades K-3)
- Junior ABQ (Grades 4-6)
- Intermediate ABQ (Grades 7-10) – various teaching subjects
- Senior ABQ (Grades 11 and 12) – various teaching subjects

Additional Qualification courses focus in on specific areas to expand on qualifications. These can be one-session stand-alone courses (e.g., Alternative Education, Mathematics, Grades 7 & 8, Outdoor Experiential Education etc.) or three-session courses (taken in 3 parts) that lead to a specialist qualification (e.g., Special Education, Teaching English Language Learners, French as a Second Language, Guidance and Career Education, Reading, Kindergarten, etc.)

### **When are Additional Qualification courses offered?**

Courses are offered through a range of delivery modes and in several sessions throughout the year.

On-line courses: Spring/Summer (late May to mid August), Fall/Winter (early October to late December), Winter/Spring (early February to late April).

On-site (Face-to-Face): Month of July, Fall/Winter (early October to before March Break), Winter/Spring (late January to mid May), Spring (intensive courses from late March to mid June).

### **How many AQ courses can you be enrolled in at the same time?**

You can take more than one course at a time. If you choose to take multiple courses at once, you need to be aware of the rigorous workload you are taking on.

### **How much does an AQ course cost?**

The fee for AQ course is \$675 and the fee for ABQ courses is \$750.

Students should be aware that these courses are not eligible for OSAP funding.

### **Do you need to be a certified teacher before taking an AQ course?**

For those graduating from Ontario Faculties of Education, you must have completed your entire program of study (must be verified by your Dean) and you must have applied to the Ontario College of Teachers for certification (you must provide a valid OCT number). You do not need to wait until after convocation or after your certificate has been issued. You do need to complete the certification process and be a member in good standing by July 31<sup>st</sup> in order for courses to be reported to the

Ontario College of Teachers.

Graduates from outside Ontario must wait until their permanent OCT certificate has been issued (is in-hand).

### **How many people can be enrolled in a course?**

Online courses are generally capped at 25 students with popular courses having multiple sections. On-site courses are generally capped at 40 students or the maximum a room will hold (if less than 40).

We prefer to run courses only if they have 15 or more students, however, we do occasionally make an exception.

### **Does Nipissing offer Special Education, Pts I, II, and III?**

Yes, these courses are offered regularly as these are our highest enrolment courses.

### **If I am graduating from the Nipissing BEd program in June, can I still take an online course that starts in May?**

Yes you can. You must have successfully completed your entire program of study (including placements) and you must have applied to the Ontario College of Teachers for certification (you must provide a valid OCT number). You do not need to wait until after convocation or after your certificate has been issued but you do need to be a member in good standing by July 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **If you graduate with your Bachelor of Education with only one teachable, do you need a second teachable to take the Senior ABQ?**

You only need one teaching subject to take Senior ABQ courses. The admission requirement for the Senior Division is three full courses in a teaching subject.

### **What is the course load like for an online course?**

Online courses will run for a period of approximately 12 weeks. The number of hours per week will differ depending on the individual and the week. However, since the OCT mandates that the course must be 125 hours of work for the student, you can expect 10 to 15 hours of work each week.

Some students wish to "fast-track" and do all of the work at once and finish early. This is not allowed. Course assignment due dates are set within the course to allow for reflection and feedback from the instructor.

As well, your online time must reflect what your attendance would have been in a face-to-face format. Course instructors will be tracking and monitoring your time online as well as the quality of communications and interactions.

While flexible, participation in asynchronous course discussion is **mandatory** and participation must be active and ongoing throughout the course. Candidates are expected to be online every two to three days (at a minimum) throughout the course. It is not acceptable to wait until the last day to post. You need to provide time for others to respond to your posts. In order to get the most of your learning experience, it is important to contribute ideas and knowledge and actively engage with the course content. Discussion postings will not simply be evaluated on the number of postings you make. Your posts must be substantive, well constructed, and demonstrate your comprehension of the course material. You must be prepared to support your opinions with evidence from your readings or experience.

Students who do not meet the attendance and discussion requirements will not be successful in the course and will not be reported to the Ontario College of Teachers.

**I am a J/I student. If I take the Senior ABQ course can I take the same teachable as my Intermediate?**

Yes, as long as you meet the admission requirement of three full courses in the teaching subject, you can take the Senior ABQ in the same teaching subject as your J/I.

**If I have my P/J qualification, do I have to take the Intermediate ABQ before I can take the Senior ABQ?**

No, you can register in the Senior ABQ as long as you meet the admission requirement of three full courses in one teaching subject. If you ever plan to become a principal, however, you will need your Intermediate qualification.

**Do these courses qualify for OSAP or any other student funding?**

No, these are part-time professional development courses and do not qualify.

**Can I pay for the course by credit card?**

Yes, you can pay by MasterCard and Visa.

**Which courses do I need to move from A3 to A4?**

Questions regarding pay categories should be directed to QECO.

**What undergraduate courses count toward the Senior ABQ (Social Science-General)?**

This question is best answered in the Office of the Registrar as they are responsible for evaluating your transcript and determining your admissibility into the course. In general, psychology and sociology, criminal justice, anthropology, political science, and women's studies courses will count but this is not a comprehensive list.

**What if you want to obtain another teachable and you do not have the required prerequisite credits in that specific subject?**

If you don't meet the admission criteria, you will have to take additional undergraduate courses. Although an additional teachable might be desirable, it may be of more benefit to take an ABQ in a division you are not already qualified in as this may make you more marketable.

**What is the purpose of an additional ABQ? Would you get an ABQ in History if it was one of your teachable subjects?**

If History is already one of your teachables and you are graduating in I/S, you would not take an ABQ in History since you are qualified to teach grade 7 – 12 History. If you are graduating in J/I History you may wish to take the Senior History ABQ since you are only qualified to teach grade 7 – 10 History. Some people take an ABQ in an additional division to increase their marketability. If you ever plan to become a principal, you must be qualified in three divisions – one of which must be Intermediate.

Some individuals who graduate from the I/S division may also choose to take an Intermediate or Senior ABQ course in a teachable other than the one they completed during their BEd. This increases the subjects you are able to teach at the Secondary School level.