

## **Explorations Course Instructions -Equity and Social Justice Cohort**

The Explorations course (EDUC 5143) in the Master of Education in Inclusive Education – Equity and Social Justice Cohort is an opportunity to apply for credit for verifiable professional development in the focused areas of equity and social justice. To ensure that your PD program is considered a viable choice, send an email to the Equity and Social Justice Cohort Lead ([kesa.munroe-anderson@acadiu.ca](mailto:kesa.munroe-anderson@acadiu.ca)) with a clear description of your proposed plan of study. The total number of credit hours required is at least 120 with the bulk of these being instructional contact hours, while a smaller number may be considered under the category of preparation or study hours.

### **The following principles guide credit for Educational Explorations (EDUC 5143):**

- PD must be related to the work you do as a professional equity and social justice leader in education and not simply be personal growth choices. You must adequately justify how each PD opportunity used for this credit is related to the work you do or plan to do as an equity and social justice leader in education.
- The PD must be voluntary. Students cannot use PD hours that are required of them as part of their job or that are done on mandatory PD days.
- The PD must total at least 120 hours and can originate from a range of accumulated experiences. The hours documented may be a combination of contact hours and out-of-class time (such as would be required for assignments and outside reading.) However, these types of asynchronous hours must be backed up by facilitator/instructor estimates (in a letter) and cannot simply be your personal estimate. Use of conference hours must also be justified in a letter.
- The 120 hours of PD would normally be completed while students are registered in the MEd graduate program at Acadia. However, PD completed up to three years prior to starting the MEd can also be used.
- You are encouraged to contact the Program Lead – Equity and Social Justice for confirmation of approval for types of PD eligible for your program of study (preferably before you undertake the PD for the purposes of fulfilling the course requirement).
- The PD must be documented and verified. Documentation can include certificates provided for workshops (showing hours), or other experiences, the invested hours of which have been verified by a letter from the instructor/facilitator.
- After the application and documentation have been approved by the Equity and Social Justice Cohort Program Lead, students will receive notice to formally register in EDUC 5143 at which point they will receive credit.

SEE EXPLORATIONS CREDITING PROCESS BELOW

The preferred approach for submitting Explorations documentation, is that students in an

ongoing process for themselves, would fill out a singular Explorations form (see accompanying link) and scan supporting evidence. Include in the package a brief overview of how the PD supports your professional growth. There are three preferred ways of submitting your final and complete application and supporting documentation:

1) Email attachment to [kesa.munroe-anderson@acadiau.ca](mailto:kesa.munroe-anderson@acadiau.ca) with Explorations application on the subject line (if the number of documents is small)

2) Use WeTransfer (<https://wetransfer.com/>) for free transfer of up to 2GBs of files

3) Add files to an electronic dropbox (see: <https://www.dropbox.com/>). When 120 hours had been accumulated, the student would send the link for the dropbox to the Equity and Social Justice Program Lead ([kesa.munroe-anderson@acadiau.ca](mailto:kesa.munroe-anderson@acadiau.ca)) such that the application could be assessed.

Upon approval, the student will be contacted by the School of Education to proceed with course registration and payment which simply involves calling Open Acadia at: 1-800-565-6568.

\*\*\*While not preferred, a folder of paper copies mailed or faxed (902 585-1071) to the School of Education c/o Melanie MacEachern is also acceptable.