

Education Assistant

Department Overview

The Education Assistant Department launched in 1967 to prepare non-teachers to do educationally related work in schools. The department offers a [Certificate in Early Childhood Education](#) which can be completed full-time in one-year/three semesters, or part-time in two years. Students may receive a Coordinated Diploma if they earn an additional 30 university transferable credits outside of the Certificate.

Self-Study

Education Assistant launched its program review in academic year 2020/21 with a Self-Study. Eleanor Cramb was the primary Self-Study writer on behalf of the rest of the department's faculty. Additional support was provided by:

- Jennifer Erickson (Department Chair)
- Jim Bowers (Division Chair, Community Programs)
- Elizabeth Barbeau (Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Community Programs)
- Pennie Poon (Manager, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Sunita Wiebe (Director, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Institutional Research analysts

Data sources for the Self-Study included:

- Institutional Research-compiled student administrative data (*e.g.*, headcounts, retention, satisfaction)
- Student survey
- Alumni survey
- Faculty survey
- Employer survey

The Self-Study was completed in May 2021.

External Review

Education Assistant's External Review took place on May 31, 2021. The External Review Team consisted of:

- Andrea Dawson, Langara (External Review Chair)
- David Platt, Vancouver School District
- Tanya Wroblewski, Education Assistant Program, Capilano University

Action Plan Goals

In response to the Self-Study and External Review, Art History and Religious Studies created an Action Plan with these goals:

- Goal 1: Review structure, admission and enrolment of Education Assistant programs.
- Goal 2: Develop an ongoing curriculum renewal and assessment process.
- Goal 3: Strengthen external partnerships.
- Goal 4: Expand departmental resources and Education Assistant programs.

Examples of Post-Review Successes

2021/22

To support EDAS student understanding of Indigenous culture, language, history, perspectives and knowledge, students attended a field trip to a UBC decolonization tour, participated in workshops and presentations about Indigenous Education in k-12 schools, participated in cultural humility and anti-racism workshops, learned about the history of Special Education with a focus on Residential Schools and Institutions, examined ways to bring Indigenous content, perspectives and knowledge into literacy activities.

The department extended course duration of Summer EDAP offerings which was approved by the Registrar's office for Summer 2023, and moved EDAP program online, with in-person practicum courses.

The department formed partnerships with two school districts for targeted marketing and potential early hiring opportunities. They collaborated with two school districts to offer district specific in-person information sessions, created a new partnership with the Sunshine Coast school district and explored possibilities with other districts outside the lower mainland. A Day in the Life of an Education Assistant Student video was created with Communications and Marketing. The video was uploaded onto snəwəyət leləm Langara Instagram and Facebook sites and on the snəwəyət leləm Langara EDAS webpage.

2022/23

The department continued to expand student and faculty understanding of trauma-informed practices, including inviting a speaker from BCCH Healthy Minds Building and a principal whose school uses a Developmentally Responsive approach to working with all students. Trauma-informed content was integrated into the majority of EDAS courses. MANDT training was transitioned to CPI training. One EDAS faculty member received CPI instructor training. First cohort of students were trained in CPI in Spring 2023.

The department collaborated with SET BC to support training of EDAS students on k-12 technologies to support communication, self-regulation, learning and development. Alumni were offered opportunities to participate with current EDAS students in a presentation by Shelley Moore in February 2023. Alumni attended a presentation on inclusion in April 2023. Several alumni presented in EDAS courses in the Fall of 2022 and Spring of 2023. More alumni and school district representatives were invited to join PAC. With school district and alumni input and support, a short course was created that focuses on 'training for EA practicum mentors'. It was piloted with one district in Fall 2023.

EDAS department chair participated in a Ministry of Education and Child Care EA Workforce Engagement. This centered on gathering views and experience-driven insights on challenges and opportunities with the current state of the Education Assistant (EA) workforce in British Columbia's education system.

2023/24

The department revised course learning outcomes in EDAS 1100 Behavior Theory, EDAS 1200 Supporting Positive Behavior and EDAS 1130 Supporting Personal Care to ensure that the course learning outcomes connect to personal care practices in the field.