

## Graduate Program in Teaching

# Program Description and Completion Requirements

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The Graduate Program in Teaching (GPT) is an official certificate program of Memorial University. The Program consists of the following two major elements:

**1. Teaching Apprenticeship** – The teaching apprenticeship requires participants to regularly attend classes in an undergraduate course taught by their teaching supervisor and to teach a minimum of three hours in that course.

Note: Graduate students who are employed as sessional instructors may not use teaching in their own course to fulfill the GPT teaching requirement.

**2. Weekly Seminars** – Seminars are held weekly on Fridays from 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The first of these is an orientation session. Subsequent seminars focus on specific teaching and learning topics and require active participation in a variety of practical activities. Completion of the following three activities scheduled during the Friday seminars is required:

- Microteaching session (group project, mid-semester)
- Teaching presentation (presentation about one's teaching experience, within last 3 weeks of semester)
- Synthesis project (individual project, last session of semester)

It is estimated that, including the Friday seminars, students will devote approximately **seven hours per week** to their participation in the GPT.

Students who successfully complete the GPT will receive the following:

- an official transcript notation indicating successful completion of the Graduate Program in Teaching,
- a certificate of completion, and
- a letter of commentary on their teaching practice from their teaching supervisor.

Details regarding each of the program components are provided below.

1. **Orientation Session** – an orientation session of one half-day (9:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.) held on the first Friday of classes for the semester. The orientation, for both students and teaching supervisors, provides information on the theoretical framework of the program, the structure of the program, and the roles and responsibilities of participants.
2. **Weekly Seminars** – a series of three-hour seminars held from 9:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. for 12 consecutive Fridays. The Friday seminars will usually include a presentation by an invited guest speaker from the university community and practical exercises and activities facilitated by the program coordinators. Topics such as the following will be addressed: the nature of student-centered learning; introduction to selected educational theories; class preparation – setting learning objectives, selecting teaching strategies, and

assessing student learning; ethics of teaching; working with students with disabilities; and preparation for an academic career.

#### Expectations for student participation in seminars

- fully participate in class activities, group work, and group presentations
- read assigned articles
- contribute to class discussions
- facilitate the presentation of one of the guest speakers
- provide support to peers and constructive feedback to program coordinators

**Note:** <sup>1</sup> Session one, the orientation session, and session two on student-centered learning are foundational to the GPT. Students are expected to attend these two sessions.

<sup>2</sup> Absence from more than three full seminars (or total absent time greater than 9 hours) will result in an incomplete program.

3. **Teaching Apprenticeship** – three hours of classroom teaching, in an **undergraduate** course taught by the GPT teaching supervisor. Every student will collaborate with a teaching supervisor in his/her subject area or a closely related one. In addition to teaching at least three hours of the selected course at appropriate intervals, the student will also regularly attend classes and observe the teaching supervisor conduct classes. It is expected that, throughout the semester, teaching supervisors will involve their student in class planning, designing and grading of some tests or assignments, and conducting teaching and learning activities within the class. Every effort should be made for the student to teach at least two hours by the end of the second month of the semester, and one hour in the third month. The teaching supervisor is expected to provide support for and feedback on the student's teaching experience throughout the semester, and write a letter of commentary on the student's teaching practice and development.
4. **Microteaching Session** – a group project designed to provide practice in applying the experiential learning cycle, developing a lesson plan, and teaching to accommodate a variety of learning styles. Participants will be assigned to disciplinary groups and be given seminar time to plan and deliver a 10-minute mini-lesson on a topic of choice related to their discipline.
5. **Teaching Presentation** – a 15-minute presentation by each student on his/her teaching experience over the semester. The teaching presentation must include **videotaped clips** from at least one of the required teaching sessions. Participants will be expected to describe the context of their teaching, their student learning goals, and the teaching strategies explored. Based on their teaching experience, participants will also relate any insights and reflect on how they have grown and developed as a teacher.

**Note:** The GPT provides video recording assistance to student participants.

6. **Synthesis Project** – an activity, conducted during the last seminar, in which students will represent their development as a teacher over the course of the GPT.