In addition to the questions listed below, there are likely many others that you, as students will have. While students are always welcome to send us their questions, we also encourage you to check the following three sources regularly for updated information...

3. Your U of M email for university and faculty-wide updates

Jump to:  

PBDE  
MEd  
PhD

BEd Questions

P1-P3 Questions

1. Why do P1, P2, and P3 students have to continue practicum to get the credits from the university as well as doing extra time next term to make up hours for the certification?  
   **Answer:** The University of Manitoba President directed all faculties to continue winter 2020 courses using alternative, remote learning platforms and assessments, including practicum courses where possible. Teacher candidates who successfully complete their 2020 Winter term practicum will receive three credits for their practicum course as required toward the UM Bachelor of Education degree and will not have to repeat the winter 2020 practicum term, thus avoiding a delay in graduation by having to extend their programs by an additional term. 
   In order to receive Professional Certification, teacher candidates who meet BEd program requirements must additionally meet the number of in-school practicum days (120) required by the Province of Manitoba. The Province of Manitoba has asked returning students at all Manitoba universities to add in-school practicum days to the 2020-2021 academic year in order to meet the required in-school practicum days for certification.

2. Why couldn’t the university just give us credit for practicum up to March 23 to avoid the difficult, challenging and uncertain online practicum situation? The university has control over their requirements for practicum so why couldn’t practicum be adjusted and shortened for students?
Answer: Practicum courses and their associated expectations and schedules are senate approved. To receive course credits, all practicum expectations must be demonstrated using alternative approaches outlined in the Practicum Continuance document.

3. Do we have to pay for the extra practicum days P1, P2, and P3 students will have to take next year?
   Answer: Outstanding days required for professional certification will be integrated into the 2020-2021 program schedule at no additional cost to students.

4. What if I don’t know about different technologies that are used in the virtual practicum classroom and that affects whether or not I pass or fail my practicum course?
   Answer: All teachers and students in Manitoba will be learning new technologies together. Professional growth and learning will be assessed and evaluated based on practicum expectations and not on abilities to use new technologies.

5. Why do I have to report my daily practicum attendance?
   Answer: All teacher candidates were asked to report their daily practicum attendance so the Practicum and Partnerships Office could ensure that teacher candidates were actively supported in their practicum experiences and could immediately respond with additional supports if teacher candidates reported that their CTs or PAs were no longer working with them.

6. Will the Faculty of Education be offering more online summer course options for BEd students for this spring/summer term?
   Answer: There are no plans to offer more online summer courses for BEd students other than the ones that were originally scheduled. The BEd course being offered for the summer is EDUB 3502 Education for Sustainability.

7. My question is, does the faculty have a May date for the release of practicum placements that they could share with the student body so that we may confirm availability for fall employment? If not in May, how soon can we expect to receive this information?
   Answer: The Practicum and Partnerships Office is on target to complete practicum placements as usual by mid-May and to finalize and confirm placements with teacher candidates and schools by mid-June.

P4 Questions
1. **How is the Faculty of Education and the university as a whole advocating on behalf of all students to our government, graduating and not, on potential loss of summer work and not falling into any category regarding Canada’s CERB fund?**

   **Answer:** We have been very concerned about the potential loss of income for our students. The Faculty of Education and University of Manitoba have provided emergency bursary funding for students. Our practicum continuance plan for P4 was approved by Manitoba Education, the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents, and the Manitoba Teachers’ Society. These approvals enable our final-year teacher candidates to graduate on time, apply for professional certification, and teaching positions posted on Manitoba school divisions’ websites. The Manitoba Association of School Superintendents reports that divisions are proceeding with hiring for the fall through an electronic format. If schools re-open before the end of June, substitute teaching and term positions will remain potential employment options. Senior academic administrators, including the dean of education, are advocating on your behalf in all relevant political forums for short-term funding in response to potential loss of summer employment for students.

   Additionally, on April 22, 2020, the federal government announced the Canada Emergency Student Benefit, which will help to supplement the income of students whose ability to work will be affected by COVID-19. More information about this funding is available at: [https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/22/support-students-and-new-grads-affected-covid-19#](https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/22/support-students-and-new-grads-affected-covid-19#) and more information will be available on the Government of Canada website as soon as this proposed plan has received parliamentary approval.

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**PBDE Questions**

1. **I am concerned about having too many semesters off. I took a fall course and planned to take at least one spring course, but it was the ASL course, so I don’t know if it will be offered. I don’t want to have my program paused or to have to re-apply if I am away from my studies for too long. What can I do if the courses required for my program aren’t offered?**

   **Answer:** While some elective summer institutes (in summer 2020) have been postponed to the following summer, most courses in summer 2020 and beyond will be offered as scheduled. The PBDE is an extremely flexible diploma program (courses from Education as well as external departments are permitted). Thus, there are numerous course options for students to choose from during the summer 2020 term.
2. There is a six-year time period to get a PBDE completed. The only things I need to complete for my Certificate in School Leadership are two field-led courses, but I’m worried that I will not be able to get them both completed in time given the current situation. Can this time limit restriction be extended?
   **Answer:** If a PBDE student comes to the end of their program, which included the winter 2020 pandemic-impacted term, the time to complete their PBDE program will be extended by two terms. Please recall that the University of Manitoba PBDE regulations and timelines are concerned with the general PBDE and not any specialist certificates requirements. Thus, students should be able to complete their general PBDE. If you believe that you will still require an extension to your PBDE Program timeframe, please reach out to an academic advisor at: PBDE.Education@umanitoba.ca

3. Are school boards still planning on going ahead with hiring for the fall for anyone qualified?
   **Answer:** Teachers holding professional teaching certificates for the province of Manitoba can apply for jobs posted on Manitoba schools division websites and Manitoba independent school websites, in the career sections of newspapers, and as advertised through various public media. The Manitoba Association of School Superintendents reports that divisions are proceeding with hiring for the fall through an electronic format.

4. Is it possible to share what courses are anticipated to be offered in the summer term through distance education? (Or a list of confirmed classes if there are any). I’m working on my PBDE and it would be very helpful to have even a rough idea of what courses will be offered.
   **Answer:** There are five Distance Education (DE) courses being offered this summer. Distance Education courses are scheduled to run from May 4 to July 31. With the exception of summer courses that have been cancelled, all other courses in the summer that were to be offered in-person, will be offered in a “Remote-Learning” (RL) format. RL courses will begin on June 1. A listing of the RL courses to be offered can be found at: https://umanitoba.ca/faculties/education/media/Revised_April_8_Summer_2020_Education_Courses_Schedule.pdf and on AURORA. Registration for DE course begins on April 20, 2020. Registration for RL courses begins on May 19, 2020. We continue to send e-mail information to students regarding where they can find updates regarding the Faculty of Education’s programs; it is extremely important that students read their UManitoba e-mail account on a regular basis.

5. With the postponement of certain summer courses, will this affect the “Future Graduate Course Offerings” schedule? Or will more courses simply be added to the current schedule?
**Answer:** There are no plans to remove any courses from the “Future Offerings List”, and the addition of more courses is being explored.

6. Considering that the majority of students are also educators and have been thrown into a whirlwind due to COVID-19 and trying to upload and create online classes for students the final days of our winter PBDE course have been difficult to manage. Many of us teach full time and have children, who are now trying to complete their schooling at home. My question is this: When the government announced the indefinite suspension of classes students are being granted their current mark with the possibility of improving but no fear of marks lowering, can PBDE students be granted the same consideration due to the stress and anxiety many are facing with trying to manage home life, school life and maintain mental health?

**Answer:** The university has provided options for students to try and alleviate some of the anxiety around completing courses during this stressful period. The University of Manitoba senate has determined what these possible options are for a degree granting institution. We, as the Faculty of Education are required to follow the senate-approved requirements of our professional degree programs. Please refer to the *Faculty of Education, PBDE Program, FAQs re: Include/Exclude and Pass/Fail Final Grade Options* document posted on our website here: [http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/education/current/504.html](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/education/current/504.html). This document was also emailed to PBDE students on April 15, 2020.

7. Are university marks going to be frozen like the minister of education has announced for early-, middle- and senior-years programming?

**Answer:** No, grades will not be frozen as for K-12 students in schools. For grading options, please refer to the *Faculty of Education, PBDE Program, FAQs re: Include/Exclude and Pass/Fail Final Grade Options* document posted on our website here: [http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/education/current/504.html](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/education/current/504.html). This document was also emailed to PBDE students on April 15, 2020.

8. Can students be notified by instructors if they are currently eligible to take the “Pass/P*” COVID-19 code for their course, rather than continuing with it if they feel they are unable to do so?

**Answer:** Please refer to the *Faculty of Education, PBDE Program, FAQs re: Including/Excluding and Pass/Fail Final Grade Options* document posted on our website ([http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/education/current/504.html](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/education/current/504.html)). The Faculty of Education’s Attendance at Class/Withdrawal Policy and PBDE Attendance Procedures apply to all students enrolled in courses in winter 2020. It is very important to note in the document referenced above that the “Pass/P*” grade option does not meet the minimum grade required for courses used toward BEd and PBDE programs.
9. **What feedback will be collected by the University of Manitoba regarding student experience during COVID to better offer instructor’s professional development to thrive in future situations like this? How will instructors take this experience and learn from it going forward?**

   **Answer:** There are so many lessons being learned in the context of the pandemic experience. Every day academic administrators and staff are talking about the impact the pandemic is having on pedagogical integrity, student learning and assessment using alternate, virtual environments, maintaining professor-student relationships, as well as mentorship and support for students. These conversations will continue for months and years to come. Faculties of education will have a large role to play in how universities learn from this experience and prepare for similar events in the future so a response is based on sound educational theory and practice.

   

**MEd Questions**

1. **Will the faculty be considering a term fees suspension for graduate students for the summer term should students feel they are unable to take courses due to reasons related to the pandemic? (That is students who choose to forgo classes in summer term will not be required to pay continuing fees)**

   **Answer:** The Faculty of Education cannot provide fee suspension or reimbursement as this is a matter determined by university administration. At this time, the Faculty of Education has not been advised of any plans to change the summer 2020 graduate fee assessment. As such we can only advise on this matter within the current parameters, including the following: If a student, due to illness or extenuating circumstances, will be unable to enroll in a summer course, that student should contact their advisor as soon as possible to discuss arranging a possible leave of absence for the summer term (see http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/graduate_studies/media/Leave_Of_Absence.pdf). As stated on the Definitions of Leave of Absence: “While on an exceptional leave of absence, a student is not permitted to maintain study and/or thesis research work, and is not required to maintain continuous registration, nor pay tuition fees. In addition, the leave period would not be included in the time period allowed for the completion of the degree.” All other questions, concerns and feedback surrounding summer 2020 graduate fee assessment should be directed to the Office of the University Registrar.

2. **With the postponement of certain summer courses, will this affect the “Future Graduate Course Offerings” schedule? Or will more courses simply be added to the current schedule?**

   **Answer:** Currently, there are no plans to remove any graduate courses from the “Future Offerings List”, but we are exploring additional courses to be added.
3. I have one required course prior to completing all courses necessary before beginning my practicum course in fall/winter 2020/21 (MEd in Counselling Psychology). This course was scheduled to be offered in the upcoming spring/summer session but it has now been cancelled. This is a required course of the program. I am doing the course-based route to the degree and I am not writing a thesis. My question is the following: Will I still have to register for GRAD 7020 master’s re-registration and pay tuition to “hold my spot” in the program if there are no course options for me to take?

Answer: The Faculty of Graduate Studies wrote the following in its latest communication: All graduate students are required to register every academic term, which includes Fall, Winter and Summer. As of April 20, if students do not register by July 3, 2020, they will be discontinued from their program of study. As summer 2020 term is approaching, ensure you are registered for the re-registration course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>CRN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master’s Re-registration</td>
<td>GRAD 7020</td>
<td>Summer 2020</td>
<td>1471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral Re-registration</td>
<td>GRAD 8020</td>
<td>Summer 2020</td>
<td>1476</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This re-registration should be over and above any course registration(s) you complete. So long as you are in a re-registration course for each term, you will retain status in your graduate program even if you withdraw from other courses.

PhD Questions

1. With some graduate students teaching as contract sessional instructors to support themselves and their families, are there any plans to support those who have been terminated due to complications from COVID-19?

   Answer: To confirm the transition from in-person to alternative format courses for summer 2020, we were required to officially cancel each in-person course, and to repost each cancelled course as an alternative format course. Each instructor who was hired to teach the canceled in-person course will be invited to apply for the posted course. Please know that we will make all efforts to support every sessional instructor who was hired for the in-person version of the course in Summer 2020.

2. During this time, I have heard that there is going to be an increase in the tuition fee for the following terms. I know that this was a decision university has made before all these things happen but with the current crisis this news is making a lot of students, especially
international students, worried about the upcoming tuition fees. Most of us are using our savings these days and we cannot work and our savings will be finished in the near future. Also, our countries are in quarantine we cannot expect our parents to send us the money since they are also not working. Would it be possible for the university to stick to the previous tuition fees until the situation get better?  

**Answer:** The Faculty of Education cannot provide commentary regarding yearly tuition/program fee increases—these are decisions made by the board of governors and university administration. All questions, concerns and feedback surrounding fee assessment should be directed to the Office of the University Registrar.

3. **Regarding the library, is it possible to put a service for students to come and just pick up the books they want once every two weeks?**  

**Answer:** After the physical closure of the UM Libraries, faculty and students were initially able to request through their Liaison Librarian access the physical collection. This option is not available anymore, neither for students nor for faculty. However, graduate students can email the Education Liaison Librarian Cody Fullerton (Cody.Fullerton@umanitoba.ca), who will try his best to give students and faculty (a) new electronic access to books the Libraries currently only have in print; (b) new electronic access to books the Libraries currently do not have in print. He is also available to assist students and faculty with finding related material.

4. **As a PhD candidate I am going to commence my candidacy exam soon. For this exam, I may require books from library. But the library, for safety reasons, has suspended issuing further books. In that case, can our faculty library initiate any steps to collect the required books from library and issue to the students who require them?**  

**Answer:** Students are encouraged to contact the Education Liaison Librarian, Cody Fullerton (Cody.Fullerton@umanitoba.ca) to see if the resource is available online or may be made available online. The limitation of access to resources while writing a candidacy examination will be considered by the examination committee. More information on such consideration will be forthcoming with the examination package at the time a PhD student starts their examination.