



FACULTY OF EDUCATION
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June 8, 2020

Dear student,

I am looking forward to welcoming you to Vancouver Island University for the fall 2020 semester. Our office has been receiving many questions from Education students about our plans for the Fall. This note is intended to provide you with the most up to date information.

I'd like to share more details about what you can expect in your Undergraduate Education Courses this September:

- If you are a student in B. Ed **Years 1-4** of our Bachelor of Education degree program, or in your first term of our Post Baccalaureate program (Year 5 PB), your classes will be delivered **on-line in the fall, including your scheduled field experience courses**. Attendance on campus will not be required, however, you will be expected to maintain availability during your timetabled course slots as this is when instructors know they will be able to connect with you synchronously – in real time. We have shifted to provide you with alternate learning activities for field experience courses for the fall term that will not require you to participate in field work at K-12 schools (you can expect to participate in a more traditional practicum with a placement in a K-12 school as part of our program in the spring as permitted by provincial health guidelines at that time)
- If you are a graduating student in B.Ed. **Year 5 or PB 6 streams**, your classes will be delivered **on-line in the fall**. While you will not be attending classes on campus, you will be expected to maintain availability during your timetabled course slots. Instructors will be using this time to be in touch with you. Importantly, you will be **required to attend your scheduled field experience/practicum** as usual. Plans for this are being set up in collaboration with our K-12 and Certification Branch/Ministry partners. You will be provided with updates through communication from the Field Experience Office.
- All students will require access to technology to engage in online course work. This includes a stable and reliable internet, and a computer with a working camera and a microphone.

You can expect to hear from your instructors (and the Field Experience Office) prior to your classes beginning in the fall with specific details about individual courses such as course outcomes, meeting times, and other important information.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we develop plans in response to a changing landscape. If you are a returning student, I know you will look forward to reconnecting with your peers and instructors in the cohort structure. If this is your first experience at VIU, I look forward to connecting with you early in the semester. You will be receiving an invitation to ROCK VIU which is our fun University-wide orientation and welcome activities.

I know that many of you may still have questions about the fall semester and I want to assure you that VIU is here to assist you in various ways to ensure that you have an enriching experience. The University has put together a [FAQ for students](#) that is being updated as new questions come in, and we are also happy to answer any further questions you may have – please reach out to me directly about your program, or to universityrelations@viu.ca.

I am very much looking forward to seeing you (virtually) in the fall. In the meantime – I hope you have a wonderful summer. Stay safe!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Paterson".

David Paterson, Ph.D.
Dean of Education