

Mirror : Le Miroir : Wenjujaqmati : Sgàthan

Master of Education Newsletter

Spring 2020 VOL 9 NO 2



Faculty of Education

Contact: 902-867-3906

Toll Free: 877-867-3906

Email: med@stfx.ca

[Important
Handbooks for
Med Students.
Click here!](#)

**Frustrated
when courses
are cancelled?
Register early
to avoid
possible
cancellation of
courses!**



**Still need to register for
a summer course?
Check out page 5 for
seat availability!!**

During my three years as Chair, I cannot recall a period of time that has been so characterized by upheaval. Certainly, COVID-19 has impacted the global community, and Canada has not been spared from the reach of this pandemic. Grappling with social distancing has touched each of us in different ways, but we all now live in a world typified by what is often termed “the new normal.” And if dealing with the effects of a pandemic was not enough, we have also had to come to terms with the senseless tragedy that happened in Nova Scotia on April 18 and 19, 2020.

In my wildest imagination, I never thought we would experience these types of aforementioned events, and I suspect I am not alone in my thinking. Although we might not be coming together at this point in a physical sense, I do think it is important that we continue to support one another. Technology is a great tool, so whether it is a simple telephone call, FaceTime video, or other medium of communication, reach out and stay in touch with family and friends. I often say to look out for yourself, and each other, and these words have never rung truer than in the current context.

In terms of the MEd program, we are continuing to operate as usual, given of course the unusual times. It seems like most of my days are occupied with Zoom meetings. This is definitely a change in how we normally conduct business, but we are all embracing this and continuing to move things along. Although we had hoped to have face-to-face courses in July, this is simply not possible. As such, all courses for both continuing and incoming students will be offered fully online. Because this degree is delivered largely at a distance, I know our faculty is well-positioned to offer our slate of courses virtually.

I recognize that each of us is differently situated in terms of our readiness to engage in taking a course, so please remember that I am always happy to chat with you to arrive at a plan that suits your individual circumstances. I along with the members of the Program Office are here to assist you in arriving at a solution that works for you. And although I have communicated this previously, I would also like to remind you of the following resources that are available:

- [Healthy Minds NS](#)
- Good2TalkNS: 1-833-292-3698
- Crisis Text Line: text “GOOD2TALKNS” to 686868
- NS Mental Health Crisis Line: 1-888-429-8167
- To arrange a phone meeting with a StFX Health and Counselling Centre staff member, email idrouin@stfx.ca

We have been through a great deal in these past weeks, but I am extremely optimistic for the future. I know we will get through this together. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, don’t hesitate to reach out, and please stay well!

Best,

David

Spring Convocation – CONGRATULATIONS!

Kimberly Ann Ans
Erin Elizabeth Clutton
Shawn Allan Dalrymple
Sean William Ethier
Sharon Evadne Hoecherl
James Daniel MacDonald
Turk Daniel MacDonald
Suzanne Elizabeth MacGillivray
Andrew Peter Schaer
Michael Thomas Stevenson



Important Information

- **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS** for Master of Education students has been added to the Continuing & Distance Education website. <https://www2.mystfx.ca/masters-of-education/students-faq>
 - How do I register for a course?
 - How do I request a transcript?
 - How do I request an official receipt for tuition?
 - How do I apply to graduate?
 - What is the refund policy?And many more...
- **X-RING ELLIGIBILITY:**
<https://www.stfx.ca/alumni/everything-x-ring>
- **DROPPING A COURSE:** Please be aware of our refund policy. Dropping a course 2 weeks prior to the start date will result in an automatic charge of \$100.00. Please see [here](#) for the refund policy.
- **EDUC 569 SELECTED TOPICS:** Students may register for as many 569s as their elective requirements allow, provided the course title for each is different.
- **STUDENT STATUS:** If your student status changes for any reason, please notify the program office at med@stfx.ca
- **ASYNCHRONOUS:** We have developed several asynchronous courses. Asynchronous e-learning is an interactive, student-centered approach to learning that is not bounded by geography or time.
- **CORE COURSES:** Non-Cohort students are encouraged to take core courses first. Please visit the FAQ's for a list.



Connectivity: Maintaining good connectivity is essential for online learning (e.g., through Moodle and Collaborate). With many people working from home and an increase in households using multiple devices, you may have noticed an impact on connectivity. Here are some things you can do to strengthen connectivity and have a better experience of online learning.

- Wi-Fi is not as strong as a plugged-in network jack. Plugging in gives you 100% of your router bandwidth. Best tip is to plug in if possible. If Wi-Fi is the only option, proximity to your router matters. Know the location of your router and be as close as possible to it. Wi-Fi signal can drop significantly in as little as 5 metres away. This is even more critical with rural internet.
- A little time before class goes a long way. Test everything out well in advance. This allows time for solving problems or even just the reassurance it all works, so your focus can be on teaching and/or learning.
- When participating in a course via Collaborate on a laptop or desktop computer, best practice is to use Google Chrome as your browser. PowerPoint or PDF slides can be uploaded days or hours in advance if needed.
- To participate in online courses, you must have computer equipment that meets certain specifications. To see if your equipment meets the required specifications, please go to: bit.ly/computer-requirements-stfx. If you have any questions about your equipment, please contact CDE Support (cdesupport@stfx.ca).



Library Tips & Tricks

Accessing Library resources during COVID-19

Meghan Landry, Education Liaison Librarian

The Angus L. Macdonald Library has been closed since March 19, 2020 with no immediate plans of reopening. However, there are many services still available to students, while others have been modified or suspended.

- Checking out physical books is unavailable during this time.
- For those with physical books already checked out, loan periods have been extended to September 30, 2020.
- Document Delivery:
 - o For **electronic** resources within the Novanet consortium (Nova Scotia academic universities & Mount Allison in Sackville, NB), access is limited but available for some electronic journal articles or chapters of an eBook.
 - o For physical or electronic resources *outside* of Novanet, access is unavailable at this time.
- Research databases are still available using your StFX username (i.e. x2020xyz) and password
- Virtual reference assistance with myself is available using Microsoft Teams. Book a virtual appointment with me here: <https://stfx.libcal.com/appointments/meghanlandry>

For more information on library services during COVID-19, please see this subject guide:

<https://stfx.libguides.com/libraryservices>

Stay safe everyone!

In the News

- [Keeping You Informed: Message from StFX President Dr. Kevin Wamsley, May 8](#)
- [Student-led Xaverian Pen Pal Project keeps StFX students, community connected during COVID-19](#)
- [Speechless: StFX's Anne Simpson releases new book](#)
- [The four Maple League Universities sign historic agreement that encourages inter-institutional student mobility](#)
- [Students recognized for their outstanding work, art promise with Angus F. Macgillivray Art Bursary](#)
- [StFX Marine Ecology Lab paper reveals upwelling spike after arrival of Dorian to the Atlantic Coast](#)
- [Statistics Canada Survey: Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on postsecondary students](#)
- [StFX psychology professor launches study to see how people are doing during COVID-19 upheaval](#)
- [StFX establishes Student Emergency Fund to provide crisis financial support for students experiencing hardship](#)

New Cohorts Starting Summer 2020:

Master of Education in Administration & Policy

- Inclusive Education
- Non-Cohort

Master of Education in Curriculum & Instruction

- Inclusive Education
- Culturally Responsive Pedagogy
- Literacy
- Early Elementary Pedagogy
- Non-Cohort

Information on cohorts can be found here: <https://www2.mystfx.ca/masters-of-education/med-cohorts>

Seats are still available in the following summer courses:

[For full descriptions click here](#)

For instructions on how to register for a course, please visit our Frequently Asked Questions Page: <https://www2.mystfx.ca/masters-of-education/students-faq>

EDUC 511.66 - *Mindfulness and Social Learning*
- CRN 21282

EDUC 569.68 - *Selected Topics in Education: Supervision of Instruction*
- CRN 21283

EDUC 569.66A - *Selected Topics in Education: Teaching Online*
- CRN 21304

[The Fall/Winter/Spring 2020-2021 Calendar will be available in mid-July. You will receive an e-mail notifying you when the calendar has been posted and when registration will open.](#)