

Bachelor of Education (Secondary)

The Bachelor of Education (Secondary) program is a competitive, limited-access professional program. As the number of applicants for this highly sought-after program increases each year, competition for places is very intense, even among applicants with very strong qualifications. You should ensure, then, that you meet and wherever possible surpass the basic pre-requisites or co-requisites for this program.

Application and Admission Requirements

1. To ensure that your application will be forwarded to the Mount's Faculty of Education, you must meet the following minimum qualifications:
 - You must have completed at least 7.5 units (45 credit hours) of your undergraduate degree in teachable subjects as defined by the Nova Scotia Department of Education. These include most basic arts and science courses except those in philosophy, psychology and religious studies or other subjects not taught in Nova Scotia schools.
 - You must have maintained a grade-point-average of 3.0 or better in at least the last 10 units (60 credit hours) of your first degree, or in your major and minor fields.
2. When your application reaches the Mount's Faculty of Education, it will be reviewed according the following six criteria:
 - a) **Grades:** The Mount does not simply select the students with the highest undergraduate marks. Rather, marks are one indicator of academic success in post-graduate professional studies.
 - b) **Course Work:** Assessment of applications considers the range of courses within teachable areas. For example: applicants with a concentration in mathematics are expected to have completed course work that covers calculus, linear/matrix algebra, and statistics. Applicants in English should have a broad background in literature and composition, including poetry, short fiction, and the works of Shakespeare.

You must have completed **at least:**

First Teachable:

- 5.0 full units (30 credit hours) in one discipline taught in Nova Scotia secondary schools (e.g. business, English, family studies, French, mathematics, science (biology, chemistry, physics), social studies (history, geography, economics, political studies), and visual arts)

Second Teachable:

- 3.0 full units (18 credit hours) in a second discipline taught in Nova Scotia secondary schools (e.g. those disciplines listed above)

Please note: Students with a major (30 credit hours) in a discipline within one broad subject area (e.g. history, geography, or economics, which fall under Social Studies) must complete the equivalent of a minor (18 credit hours) in a discipline within a separate broad subject area (e.g. biology, chemistry, or physics, which fall under Science).

You must also have completed, either as part of the course work as noted above or in addition to it, at least:

- 1.0 unit (6 credit hours) in English (or French if your undergraduate degree was delivered in French)
- 1.0 unit (6 credit hours) from among history, geography, economics, political studies, philosophy, Canadian studies, African Canadian studies, Mi'kmaw studies
- 1.0 unit (6 credit hours) from among mathematics, science (excluding psychology) or computer studies
- 0.5 unit (3 credit hours) in developmental, educational or adolescent psychology

Applicants missing some of these components may be considered for admission on condition that they complete these courses before the beginning of their first year or, in some cases, the second year of the program.

A higher rating might be given to applicants with a broader academic background in the core subjects taught in their teachable subject area. Students with a concentration in biology are advised to complete course work in chemistry and physics, and students with a concentration in history are advised to complete course work in geography, economics, or political studies whenever possible.

- c) **References:** References are evaluated on the basis of what your referees say about you and on how well they know your particular aptitude for teaching. Your referees should be at arms-length, should know you in some professional or other responsible capacity, and should respond to the questions asked of them as fully as possible.
- d) **Experiences:** Your resume is evaluated on the basis of the nature and amount of experience you have had in areas relevant to teaching. This experience includes, ideally, paid or voluntary work in secondary schools, but other experience with young people as teacher, mentor, tutor or counselor will be considered. A one-page letter of introduction should accompany your resume.
- e) **Writing Sample:** Each applicant to the secondary program must submit an essay response, of no more than two pages (500 words), to the secondary case study included in the application package. Your response to the questions raised by the case study will be evaluated on the basis of what you say and how you say it. In other words, attention will be given to your ability to present well thought out responses in clear and correct prose.
- f) **Computer Skills:** You must have demonstrable competence in educational technologies such as word processing e-mail, the Internet and other computer applications. Please outline in your resume.

3. On the basis of the criteria outlined above, a limited number of applicants will be invited for a personal interview at the Mount. The thoroughness and thoughtfulness of your responses to the questions at the interview, any new information brought forward in the interview, and your professional demeanor will influence the ratings given by the interviewers.

4. The evaluation of your file and your interview will be taken into account in determining the awarding of available seats in the program.

5. Candidates who are offered admission to the program must submit completed criminal records and Child Abuse Registry checks by the deadline dates that will be provided by the Faculty of Education.

6. In view of the large and growing number of applicants to the BEd (Secondary) program and the time required to review files, the Faculty of Education does not provide individual advising/counseling for applicants to whom we are unable to offer a place. Applicants who wish to re-apply should attempt to strengthen their applications in each of the areas outlined in (2 a-f) above. General academic advice for the BEd program is available through the office of the Dean of Professional Studies (902.457.6400 for an appointment).

The application deadline is January. Students are admitted to the BEd program in September only. Mount Saint Vincent University does not offer a part-time program.

Apply today at msvu.ca
Questions? E-mail admissions@msvu.ca
or education@msvu.ca