



ETEC 580: Directed Study / Problems in Education

Overview

Directed Studies courses provide opportunity for students to develop a focused independent program of study under faculty supervision. Directed Studies courses should be equivalent to other ETEC courses in both quantity and quality of work (e.g., readings, activities, and assignments), and should allow students to explore topics otherwise not included in regular courses or seminars at UBC.

Like all MET courses, ETEC 580 courses are worth 3 credits. Normally, students are advised to limit the total number of ETEC 580 credits to 6 for the MET degree or 3 for a MET certificate. Students should have successfully completed at least three ETEC courses, including ETEC 500, before undertaking a directed study.

Topics and Assignments

Proposed topics should be related to questions of educational technology, broadly construed. Assignments may include literature reviews, conceptual-philosophical papers, analytical essays, creative multimedia work, and so on. Normally *we advise against* any research with human participants in the context of an ETEC 580 course.

At UBC, “all research involving human participants – and all other activities which, even in part, involve such research – must be reviewed and approved by a UBC-affiliated Research Ethics Board (REB)” prior to the commencement of the research (UBC REB).

Ethics review is a long process that is not normally feasible in a directed studies course. In proposing your course, therefore, avoid including methods such as surveys, interviews, collection of or commentary on student work, etc. In short, you may not collect data from your own students or colleagues, even if you have approval to do so from your home institution or place of work, and even if the only reader of your work will be your supervisor.

For more information about what sort of research must be approved by the UBC REB, visit the Office of Research Ethics site: ethics.research.ubc.ca/about-human-research-ethics/should-i-apply.



Student Responsibilities

Students should identify a topic and a possible supervisor whose teaching or research interests align with the proposed topic area. ETEC 580 supervisors are normally selected from among MET instructors; however, MET students may also ask faculty members who teach in other UBC graduate programs to supervise. If required, the MET Academic Advisor may be able to help identify an appropriate supervisor.

In consultation with the faculty member who has agreed to supervise, students are responsible for designing a course syllabus and submitting an application form to the MET Academic Advisor *prior to the beginning of the term* in which the course will be offered.

The course syllabus should include the following:

- Statement of purpose and objectives for the proposed directed study (include a working title for the directed study).
- Course schedule (specify the form and frequency of student-supervisor consultations; also, specify the timeframe [e.g., number of weeks] over which the course will take place).
- Expected outcomes and assignments (list the expected length, format and due dates for primary course milestones, reports, papers, etc.).
- Assessment plan (list all components of grading, along with weighting and criteria).



ETEC 580 Course Proposal Form

Name of Student:

Student Number:

Credits: 3

Session:

Program: MET Degree or Graduate Certificate (TBDL or TBLS)

Name of Supervisor:

1. **Statement of purpose and objectives** for the proposed directed study (include a working title for the directed study).



2. **Course schedule** (specify the form and frequency of student-supervisor consultations; also, specify the timeframe [e.g., number of weeks] over which the course will take place).



3. **Expected outcomes and assignments** (list the expected length, format and due dates for primary course milestones, reports, papers, etc.).



4. **Assessment plan** (list all components of grading, along with weighting and criteria).



5. **Guidance plan** (outline the form and frequency of student-supervisor consultations).



We commit to carrying out the directed study described above:

Student Name: _____

Date: _____ **Signature:** _____

Supervisor Name: _____

Date: _____ **Signature:** _____

Submit to the MET Academic Advisor when all the above sections are complete and signatures are in place.

Academic Advisor Approval Name: _____

Date: _____ **Signature:** _____