

University of
Lethbridge



Faculty of Education

University of Lethbridge
4401 University Drive
Lethbridge, AB T1K 3M4
403-329-2259
ulethbridge.ca/edu



"The Professional Inquiry Project allows for focused attention to a particular aspect of teaching where the intern can pursue a question and take risks. My intern had a class of highly motivated art students, and a Social Studies class where motivation was a challenge. Her question was whether the less motivated students could be encouraged, like the art students, to take ownership over their own learning through hands-on project."

Jane Huson
Mentor Teacher
Winston Churchill High School





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Professional Inquiry Project



U of L student, Jessica Joy presents her Professional Inquiry Project at Winston Churchill High School. L to R: Administrator, Larry Thatcher; teacher mentors, Jane Huson, Amy Magliocco; and U of L faculty consultant, Dr. Janice Rahn
Inset photo: Practicum interaction with Grade 12 student, Kaitlin Rogers

"The Professional Inquiry Project focuses on improving and encouraging the student learning process, positively contributing to the school climate, while maturing the skills and knowledge of the teacher."

Jessica Joy
Intern
Faculty of Education

University of
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$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0$$

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

The Professional Inquiry Project (PIP) provides a collaborative opportunity for interns and teacher mentors to focus on a question about student learning that is relevant to a specific teaching context. During a final meeting with the mentor teacher, administrator, and faculty consultant, interns present evidence that they have achieved this important professional learning goal.

Q.What is the difference between the PIP and the Professional Growth Plan? How is it different from a goal?

A. It grows out of a particular question, passion, or goal about teaching. It impacts student learning and makes a contribution to the school.

Q. How much time should I spend on PIP?

A. 50% of your school day should be spent on the Growth Plan and the PIP.

"During the semester I made sure to document, collect, reflect, and finally assemble my PIP project in a complete online resource for my final meeting."

Jessica Joy
intern

Q. Is coaching, directing a play, or setting up an art exhibition a PIP?

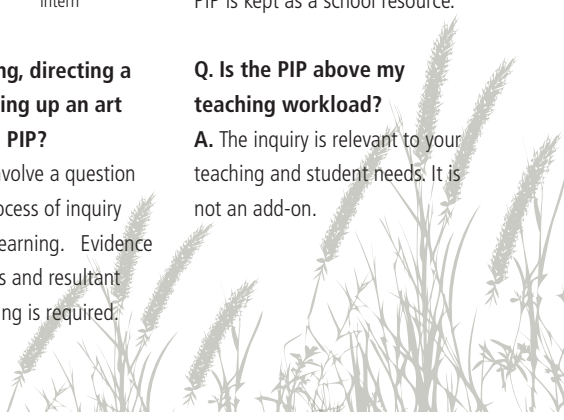
A. It has to involve a question to begin a process of inquiry into student learning. Evidence of this process and resultant student learning is required.

Q. What happens to the PIP after it's done?

A. The intern presents it at the final meeting to the administrator, mentor, and faculty consultant. A copy of the PIP is kept as a school resource.

Q. Is the PIP above my teaching workload?

A. The inquiry is relevant to your teaching and student needs. It is not an add-on.





"As an educator, questions are my life. Teaching is reflective practice and in the constant search to better facilitate student learning, I question, read, collaborate, experiment, evaluate and reflect again. It's the creative cycle that renews my practice."

Mary Anne Murphy
District Principal
Holy Spirit School Division

"As the FNMI Lead Teacher, research is extremely important. I enjoy discovering and exploring different ways of teaching and learning to help our children succeed in education and reach for their dreams."

Jamie Medicine Crane
First Nations, Métis and Inuit
Lead Teacher



"The inquiry process has impacted my career and my life by recognizing it is better to learn than to know. 'Knowing' is content, complacent, and at its worst, stagnant; 'Learning' is active, accelerating towards new ideas, perspectives, and greater depths of understanding. My career as "teacher" has become a position of co-learner with my students as we share the wonder of inquiry and discovery; a student's greatest skill is learning 'how to learn'."

Derek Lidstone
Teacher
St. Patrick Fine Arts Elementary



The professional learning of effective 21st Century educators is guided by the notion of teacher-as-researcher.

The Professional Inquiry Project introduces future teachers to this critical dimension of their educational careers.

Drs. Pam Adams and David Townsend
Faculty of Education