

Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy

Guidelines for Directed Studies Courses (EDCP 580)

Directed Studies courses provide an opportunity for individual or small (generally, no more than 3 students) with independence and initiative to develop a focused reading program under professorial supervision. A successful reading course allows a student to pursue a line of study otherwise not available from regular courses or seminars at UBC. Directed Studies courses should be equivalent to regular courses in both the quantity and quality of work required.

A student, in an On-Campus program, or an Off-Campus Cohort must first obtain permission to undertake a 580 from her/his Supervisor. Thereafter, the student approaches a full-time EDCP faculty member, negotiates the topic, develops a written proposal including the purpose of the 580, a reading list, number of course meetings (e.g., once every two weeks) and course timeline, a description of what will be produced and upon which the grade will be submitted and criteria regarded as important in assessing the product produced and, if both sides are in agreement, the professor agrees to supervise.

Students cannot register for a 580 directly; they must do so through the Department's Graduate Secretary. To register, the form (available from the EDCP Graduate Office and website) for permission to register should be filled out by the student (giving the details noted above) and properly signed by the faculty member who has agreed to supervise the student in this directed course. The form or its equivalent must be completed out or it will be returned with a request for missing information. Any course with a greater than average number of students, whose course requirements are unclear or whose equivalency to a regular course is ambiguous may be reviewed by the GAC. Once these terms are worked out, the student completes the 580 form, collects appropriate signatures, and is registered into the course. A maximum of 9 credits of EDCP 580 may be counted toward MA / M.Ed degree requirements and PhD requirements. Typically, students are advised to limit the total number of 580 credits to 6 per program.