RATIONAL

Education throughout Australia is in a period of dramatic change. The patterns of organisation and decision making of central agencies and those within each individual educational setting, along with the resultant expanding role of individual educators, increases the importance of opportunities for professional development. Professional learning communities offer an emerging framework through which to consider issues of professional development in their context.

SYNOPSIS

This course will examine professional learning perspectives and processes within the context of changes in Australian education. Participants will analyse the role of professional learning communities and action learning as they develop professionally and will develop skills which will enable them to develop appropriate mentoring practices within their workplace. For this course, access is required to an educational setting where professional learning processes may be explored and developed. This may include working with peers and mentoring.

OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this course students will have acquired knowledge, understanding and skills of:

- Cognisance of the nature and role of change in education.
- Generation of the nature and role of change in education.
- Generation and implementation of mentoring practices appropriate to the education context.
- Mentoring with one or more of pre-service teachers, beginning teachers and others across the novice to expert continuum.
- Individual personal professional development through action learning/research.

**TOPICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Professional Learning Communities</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Models of Mentoring and/or Supervision</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Action Learning/Research Theory and Practice</td>
<td>30.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Novice-to-Expert Continuum or Professional Development</td>
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**TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED:**

Books can be ordered by fax or telephone. For costs and further details use the 'Book Search' facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au by entering the author or title of the text.

There is not set textbook. A book of readings and associate materials is supplied to supplement the Study Book.

**REFERENCE MATERIALS**

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

Readings and references for other sources are included in the Book of Readings.

**STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Directed Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
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**ASSESSMENT DETAILS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks Out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>SITUATION ANALYSIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROJECT</td>
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<td>50.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>07 Nov 2003</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION**

1. Attendance requirements:
There are no attendance requirements for this course. However, it is the students' responsibility to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.

2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
   To complete each of the assignments satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available least for each assignment.

3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
   If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval then a penalty of 5% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each working day late.

4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must submit all of the summative assessment items and achieve at least 50% of the available weighted marks for those items.

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate of the marks (or grades) obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.

6 Examination information:
   There is no examination in this course.

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
   There will be no Deferred or Supplementary examinations in this course.

8 University Regulations:
   Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL http://www.usq.edu.au/SECARIAT/calendar/Part5/ or in the printed version of the current USQ Handbook.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

1 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within five days if required by the Examiner.

2 The examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances.

3 When there is more than one marker for a single item of assessment, the distributed patterns and means for the different markers will be compared and marks adjusted if necessary.

4 Marking criteria are provided in course material as mark sheets/guides or as part of assignment specifications.

5 All assessment items must be attempted/submitted and passed.