### Description: Professional Learning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Campus</th>
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<td>EDU</td>
<td>5221</td>
<td>66536</td>
<td>2, 2007</td>
<td>EXT</td>
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<td>Toowoomba</td>
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#### Academic group:
- FOEDU

#### Academic org:
- FOE002

#### Student contribution band:
- National Priority Teaching

#### ASCED code:
- 070303

### STAFFING

- Examiner: Marian Lewis
- Moderator: Joan Conway

### OTHER REQUISITES

State law in Queensland (Australia) requires that all adults working/undertaking professional experience/researching with children under the age of 18, in the state of Queensland are required to possess a current suitability card (Blue Card). (See "Other Requirements" for further information.)


### RATIONALE

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

The course objectives define the student learning outcomes for a course. The assessment item(s) that may be used to assess student achievement of an objective are shown in parenthesis. On successful completion of this course students will have acquired knowledge, understanding and skills of:
1. understanding of the implications of the knowledge age for professional learning especially within schools or other educational organisations (Assignment 1)
2. understanding of the changing demands for professional learning and learners (Assignment 1)
3. understanding of the importance of ongoing collaborative professional learning for changes in personal practice and workplace professional relationships (Assignment 1 and 2)
4. ability to assess a range of professional learning approaches and practices, and reflect on their applicability to own workplace context (Assignments 1 and 2)
5. ability to apply theory into practice for enhanced quality professional practice (Assignment 2)
6. ability to work with at least one other to enhance workplace learning processes and outcomes via an action learning project (Assignment 2)
7. Demonstrate competence in and appropriate use of language and literacy, including spelling, grammar, punctuation and bibliographic referencing (All Assignments)

**TOPICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Models of professional inquiry, supervision and mentoring</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Professional learning communities</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Professional learning approaches and new technologies</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Action learning for professional learning and changed professional practice</td>
<td>30.00</td>
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**TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED**

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

There is no 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. For those students who wish to read more widely on a particular topic, details of suggested additional sources will be provided in the Study Book.
STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>50.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Directed Study</td>
<td>65.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
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</table>

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Due date</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>SITUATION ANALYSIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROJECT</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>02 Nov 2007</td>
</tr>
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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 satisfactorily complete an individual assessment item a student must achieve at least 50% of the marks. (Depending upon the requirements in Statement 4 below, students may not have to satisfactorily complete each assessment item to receive a passing grade in this course.)

3. Penalties for late submission of required work:
   If students submit assignments after the due date without (prior) approval of the examiner then a penalty of 5% of the total marks gained by the student 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 complete and submit all of the weighted assessment items, achieve at least 40% of the total weighted marks allocated for the assignments, and at least 50% of the total weighted marks available for the course.

5. Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the aggregate of the weighted marks 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/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm.
ASSESSMENT NOTES

1 The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner.

2 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of request being made by the Examiner. The student must retain this copy until the grade for this course has been finalised.

3 The Examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances.

4 In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area, the due date for the assignment will be the next working day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the Examiner's convenience.

5 Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or to sit for an examination at the scheduled time may apply to defer an assessment in a course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination); IDM (Incomplete - Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).

6 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.

7 The Faculty will normally only accept assessments that have been written, typed or printed on paper-based media. The Faculty will NOT accept submission of assignments by facsimile. Students who do not have regular access to postal services or who are otherwise disadvantaged by these regulations may be given special consideration. They should contact the Examiner of the course to negotiate such special arrangements.

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

9 All assessment items must be submitted.

11 Summative assessment items will receive a numerical score. Any ungraded assessment requirement will receive a Pass, Fail or Incomplete.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1 Students will require access to e-mail and Internet access to USQConnect for this course. Students will be required to engage in collegial learning through online discussion around a given topic.

2 Students are to use either APA or Harvard referencing systems.

3 IMPORTANT NOTE: Working with Children: State law in Queensland requires that all adults (including university students, pre-service educators, trainers, vocational teachers, industry educators) working with children under the age of 18, in the state of Queensland*, obtain approval before commencing such work. Many education courses include a practical component (professional experience, project work, research, assessment etc.) that may require engagement with children under the age of 18. It is your responsibility to ensure that you possess a current suitability card (Blue Card) before commencing any practical components of this course. DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18 UNLESS YOU POSSESS A CURRENT 'BLUE CARD'. For further information: http://www.childcomm.qld.gov.au/employment/bluecard/informationSheets.html. *If you

CRICOS: QLD 00244B | NSW 02225M
are undertaking practical experience outside the state of Queensland, Australia you should check local requirements.