

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Modules: The Best Fit for Anyone

By Anthony Carabache

#### These are Busy Times

The term “busy” doesn’t seem to cover it anymore. With the constant barrage of new technologies, split-second decision-making, and growing access to the flow of information, the meaning of the word “busy” has morphed beyond the once healthy hum and rhythm of life. Whether you are a teacher of 25 years or newly hired, a young parent with children or an empty-nester, self-directed time is at a premium and, many say, the most valuable currency. Despite these demands, when it comes to professional development teachers always find a way to fit PD in to their schedules.

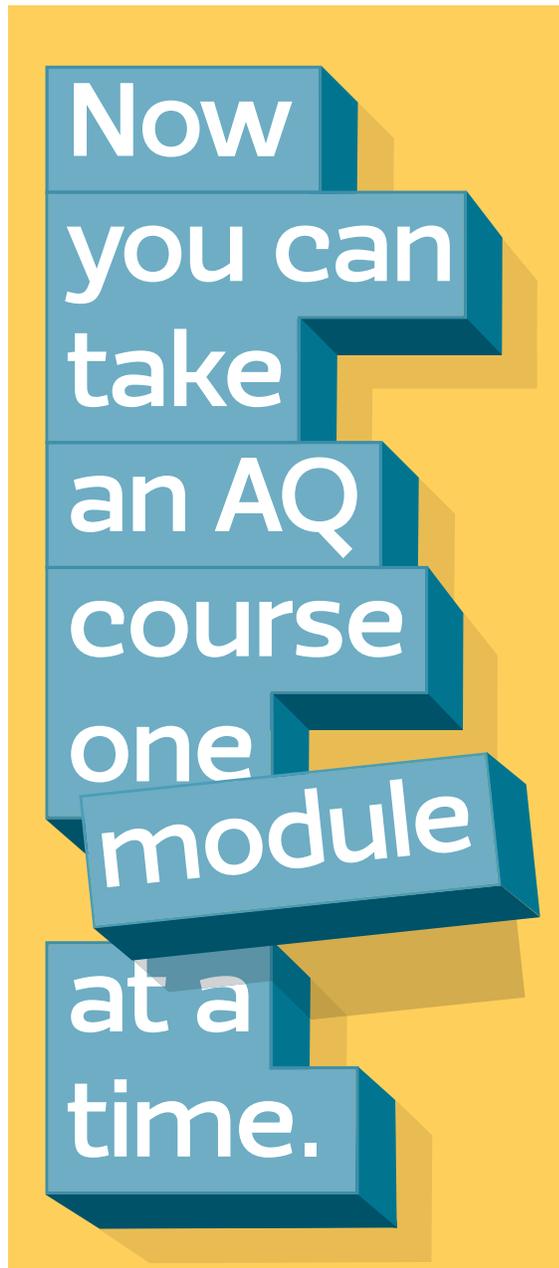
The drive to continue to learn and apply new information to the classroom embodies teachers as life-long learners in every sense. AQ providers have rarely acknowledged the need to mitigate stress and promote the well-being of teachers – until now.

OECTA always seeks to improve the teacher experience, which has led the Association to disrupt the typical AQ pathway by offering modular AQs.

#### Introducing OECTA Modules for Additional Qualifications or Professional Learning

In a world that’s continuously accelerating and pulling us in different directions, teachers in Ontario (and all over the world) finally have an option to take in some of that information in smaller, more manageable bites. Teachers can now take a full additional qualification course in five smaller modules.

Understanding that life balance and well-being are integral to teachers, OECTA’s modules respect time constraints, budgetary concerns and, most important, the need to balance teachers’ personal and professional lives. With AQ modules, teachers can take one-fifth of a course at a time over a six-week period.



#### Unbundled Learning

More and more, consumers are demanding the unbundling of preset product packages, so why shouldn’t teachers have unbundled professional learning opportunities? Modular AQs unbundle full courses and offer them as smaller, consumable packets to all teachers.

In the United States and, to a lesser degree, in Canada,

there is a growing movement towards Massively Open Online Courses or MOOCs. MOOCs have garnered so much attention that studies are being conducted globally to determine how they have disrupted traditional tertiary education. Though the mechanics of the module and the massively open online course are similar, their cores remain very different.

#### Your Needs, Your Choice

Modules are accredited by the Ontario College of Teachers. If you take five modules in the same course, you will receive accreditation for the full course. In essence, a teacher can choose to complete a course in one session or break the course up over two years.

OECTA also offers modules that have no bearing on additional qualification status. The Association has embraced the idea that teachers want to take professional development courses out of interest and a desire to learn. In these cases, teachers can take a module without worrying about completing the assigned tasks in order to be officially credited; instead, a certificate of completion is issued at the end of the module.

OECTA has always been committed to professionalism, particularly in the face of an ever-evolving profession. OECTA’s AQ modules demonstrate how passionate the Association is about respecting members, including their professional development needs and workloads.

Take a module with OECTA. Experience the difference. Learn at your own pace.

Join us online at [www.oecta.on.ca/wps/portal/courses](http://www.oecta.on.ca/wps/portal/courses)

---

*Anthony Carabache is a secretariat member in the Professional Development Department at OECTA Provincial Office.*