

MAYA SAGGAR

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Education – Educational Research – Curriculum and Learning, 2021 – Present

University of Calgary – Werklund School of Education

Candidacy Exams Completed October 2024, Dissertation Defense October 2025

Dissertation Title: Collaborative Learning Experience Design: Co-Creating a Pla(y)ce-Based Learning Experience and Design Framework

Master of Education – Curriculum and Pedagogy, 2019 - 2020

University of Toronto – Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE)

Specialization in Arts in Education

Research Project Title: Curriculum-based Role Play in Primary Grade Classrooms

Honours Bachelor of Arts – Communication Studies, 2016 – 2019

Wilfrid Laurier University

Specialization in Cultural and Creative Industries, and Digital Media Studies, with a double minor in Education and Leadership

TEACHING AND CURRICULUM EXPERIENCE

Research Associate, Harvard Business School, 2025 – Present

- Lead designer for experiential learning initiatives within the HBS Foundry
- Develop strategies to translate the Harvard Case Method into an engaging, interactive online format
- Write and adapt business cases and design multi-modal prototypes to support online delivery
- Conduct research on experiential learning, experiential learning design, and entrepreneurial education
- Collaborate with faculty, researchers, and technologists to co-create learning tools and resources
- Contribute to the development of academic papers and future-facing scholarship on online learning and case-based instruction

Contract Teaching Faculty, Wilfrid Laurier University, 2023 – Present

- Teaching EM300: Teaching in Non-School Contexts within the Faculty of Education
 - *In this course, students are introduced to different contexts in which teaching and learning occur: athletics, the arts, community programs, corporate training, etc. Students learn about different theories of learning, accommodations and modifications, contemporary teaching strategies, the incorporation of technology and equity, diversity, and inclusion practices within education. Students have the opportunity to complete a final assignment in an area of personal interest.*
- Spring 2023 (2 sections, 120 students), Fall 2023 (2 sections, 240 students), Spring 2024 (1 section, 120 students), Fall 2024 (1 section, 120 students), Winter 2025 (1 section, 120 students), Spring 2025 (1 section,

Owner and Learning Experience Designer, Impact Learning, 2020 – Present

- Consult on curriculum and programming design/development of education-based startup companies, community organizations, Canadian colleges and universities
- Provide feedback on design, learning outcomes and content
- Assist in the design and development of curriculum and programming
- Apply instructional design theory/principles to course development
- Current/Past clients include: Humber College, York University, University of Calgary, University of Toronto, Commonwealth College and Louis Riel Vocational College, BGC Canada, Speak for Success, Schoolio, Early Learning Foundations, Royal Canadian Air Force Foundation, and more.

Department Head and Instructor, Commonwealth College, January 2021 – December 2021

- Developed the curriculum for and taught the following courses:
- Inclusive Education
 - *The purpose of this course is to develop foundational skills and knowledge pertaining to inclusive practices in education. Students will be exploring the instructional strategies used to support students with additional needs. This course will emphasize not only the necessary support for students with exceptionalities but also the inclusion of all students in today's society.*
- The Role of the Educational Assistant
 - *In this course, students will be introduced to the Positive Behaviour Interventions and Supports (PBIS) that can be used when dealing with behaviour concerns, incidents and prevention in the classroom. Throughout this course, students will become familiar with how to understand the functions of behaviour, how to plan for appropriate behaviour intervention and support, as well as how to eliminate potential stressors or triggers of difficult behaviour.*
- Growth and Development
 - *In this course, students will gain a deep understanding as to the developmental stages and milestones that school-aged children and adolescents progress through. By the end of this course, students will have a strong foundation in the age-appropriate physical, cognitive, social and personality stages of development within children and youth, ranging from ages 2 - 18.*
- Exceptional Learners
 - *In this course, students will explore the various common exceptionalities in Canadian classrooms, as well as the necessary supports, adaptations and modifications necessary for these students to succeed. Pulling from previous knowledge of inclusive practices, students will be learning how to successfully support exceptional learners in the classroom.*
- Record Keeping
 - *In this course, students will gain an understanding of the importance of student record keeping for academic, behavioural and social purposes. Students will learn about the various types of record-keeping methods, practice using the different methods, as well as learn how to create these documents to be print-ready.*
- Learning Styles
 - *In this course, students will be introduced to the most common learning styles, Visual, Verbal (Read/Write), Auditory and Kinesthetic learning. Students will learn how to successfully engage and teach students within each learning style. Students will have*

the opportunity to practice developing lessons that are aligned with each learning style.

- Life Skills and Social Development
 - *In this course, students will gain an understanding of the essential life skills that children and adolescents must work towards acquiring in order to function as independents in society. In addition to life skills, students will explore the importance of social skills and how strong social skills support successful independent living. This course will provide students with background knowledge pertaining to life skills and social development, as well as practical tools and activities that will help build these skills in individuals.*
- Language Development
 - *This course will explore the development of language for students with and without exceptional needs. Students will explore the stages of language development with a focus on school aged children and teens; and with a secondary focus on the coexistence of language disorders along with other exceptionalities. Students will gain an understanding of appropriate instructional strategies and differentiation approaches that are effective for meeting the needs of students experiencing difficulties with language development.*
- Learning Disabilities
 - *This course introduces students to the various learning disabilities, as well as the support strategies that can be utilized to meet the needs of these students. This course aims to provide opportunities for students to engage with the material in creative and innovative ways, reflecting some of the creative methods that can be used when working with students with learning disabilities.*
- Math and English Curriculum
 - *In this course, students will become familiar with how to read, understand and utilize the Manitoba Curriculum documents for Math and English, ranging from Kindergarten - Grade 12.*
- Student Behaviour
 - *In this course, students will be introduced to the Positive Behaviour Interventions and Supports (PBIS) that can be used when dealing with behaviour concerns, incidents and prevention in the classroom. Throughout this course, students will become familiar with how to understand the functions of behaviour, how to plan for appropriate behaviour intervention and support, as well as how to eliminate potential stressors or triggers of difficult behaviour.*
- Ethics and Professionalism
 - *In this course, students will be introduced to ethics and ethical practices in the educational environment. Students will explore the importance of ethical decision-making and professionalism in the workplace. There will be a focus on ethics and professionalism as it pertains to relationships with students, colleagues and families.*
- Portfolio and Career Development Strategies
 - *In this combined course, students will explore the purpose of portfolios, both for students and for educators. This course will also look at how to find appropriate job opportunities, how to use a portfolio as part of a job interview, as well as best practices for preparing for and acing an interview.*

Curriculum Developer, Commonwealth College, November 2020 – May 2021

- Applying subject expertise in developing curriculum
- Identifying areas where the curriculum would improve the program's visibility and credibility over time
- Providing subject expertise and guidance to the program's instructional team.

Curriculum Vitae – M.Saggar

- Documenting the process, adapted and disseminating information to all relevant stakeholders

Primary Teacher, Learning Pod, September 2020 – December 2020

- Develop curriculum based on the Ontario curriculum objectives
- Manage classroom behaviours
- Differentiate, enrich, and scaffold learning material as necessary
- Communicate regularly with parents on the progress of their son/daughter

Curriculum Development Assistant, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, April 2020 – September 2020

- Develop learning resources based on expert provided content
- Create visually appealing resources, web pages, video and visual content
- Manage all project management pertaining to the creative team
- View, tag and organize all video footage from previous projects

Supply Teacher, Lynn Rose Heights, 2019 – 2020

- Substitute in Kindergarten – Grade 12 classrooms
- Serve as a subsite teacher during planned teacher absences
- Develop lessons based off the given curriculum requirements
- Manage classroom behaviours

Program Director, Appleby College, 2018 – 2019

- Oversee all before and after care programming during summer programs
- Manage programming for up to 700 campers ages 4-12, across multiple sites
- Generate weekly schedules for up to 120 staff members
- Handle all administrative matters before and after camp hours
- Act as a point of contact for parents

Owner and Curriculum Developer, LCI Movement, 2016 – 2020

- Develop activities, resources and lesson plans based off the k-12 Ontario curriculum
- Coordinate all client contracts, manage booking processes, up keeping all social media and website presence
- Hiring, training and supervising staff team

Dance and Movement Educator, Various, 2015 – present

- Develop weekly lesson plans for students ages 9 – 18
- Communicate with families about events, expectations, and schedules
- Be an active part of the teaching faculty, participate in regular meetings and attend all events

RESEARCH/DATA EXPERIENCE

Doctor of Education (EdD) Candidate, University of Calgary, 2021 – Present

- Dissertation Title: Co-Creating a Pla(y)ce-Based Primary Math Unit and a Framework for Future Learning Experience Design: A Case Study
 - Conducting a qualitative case study on the experience of an external curriculum expert collaborating with classroom teachers to co-design a classroom-based math unit
 - Developing a framework to guide future experiential learning curriculum design.

Curriculum Vitae – M.Saggar

- Progress (as of April 2025)
 - All data has been collected and analyzed
 - Currently drafting the final dissertation

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Calgary, 2021 – 2025

- Working on the Street Challenge/Learning in Places project under Dr. Alice de Koning and Dr. John McArdle (Visiting faculty from Salem State University)
 - Supported the development of an Open Educational Resource (OER) for the development and sharing of Place-Based Learning Resources
 - Successfully applied for and received a \$40,000 grant to support the continuation of the project.
 - Applied for and successfully presented at multiple conferences
 - Oversaw three undergraduate research assistants
- Working on a research study focusing on the Gamification of Assessment under Houston Peschel
 - Successfully wrote an ethics application for our research project
 - Created multiple teaching, learning and assessment materials for the course being studied
 - Worked alongside various research and teaching assistants to redesign the course and all course materials
 - Led a research team working on a study that looked at the effects of gamified learning and assessment on an undergraduate business course and wrote a paper to disseminate the findings.

Research/Curriculum Assistant, York University, 2020 – 2022

- Create learning resources based on data collected
- Support instructors by creating digital learning resources
- Conduct audits of existing material and provide suggestions for next steps
- Lead the development of Open Educational resources based on data collected

Coding and Data Analysis, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 2020

- Volunteered time at a Toronto middle school to observe
- Hired by Dr. Leslie Stewart Rose to research the play-based pedagogy occurring within a Toronto middle school using ethnographic research methods.
- Viewed and catalogued over 120 video files, totaling 20 hours of footage related to a play-based learning documentary project
- Coded all content by theme, tagged all materials, contributed to creative decisions, managed secure storage of all files
- Acted as project manager on the creative portion of the research project

Independent Research Study, Wilfrid Laurier University, 2019

- Titled: Navigating Careers in the Creative Industries
- Supervisor: Dr. Greig DePeuter in the Faculty of Arts, Communication Studies Department
- Using secondary research, I investigated the knowledge gaps that exist for creative workers who are trying to enter the industry. Using this knowledge, I created a hypothetical degree program, writing all the course outlines, reading lists and sample assignments that would help to bridge the gap from creative individual to creative worker

Independent Research Study, Wilfrid Laurier University, 2018

- Titled: Turning Creators into Leaders: Utilizing the Arts as a Method for Youth Leadership Development

Curriculum Vitae – M.Saggar

- Supervisor: Dr. Rosemary McGowan in the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences, Leadership Department
- Using secondary research, I explored the benefits of arts-based methods for developing leadership skills among youth populations. With this information, I created a summary of best practices that indicated the most effective methods for implementing arts-based leadership, including target age groups, curriculum design and milestones and program integration into current existing formats.

PUBLICATIONS

Saggar, M., McArdle, J.C., de Koning, A., & Choudhary, A. (2023). Designing effective experiential curriculum: The experiential learning map. *Imagining SoTL*, 3(2),40-63.<https://doi.org/10.29173/isotl693APPENDIXB>

de Koning, A., McArdle, J.F., Choudhary, A., & **Saggar, M.** (2023). Disrupting the traditional learning paradigm: Place- based learning as transformational space. *Imagining SoTL*, 3(1),37-45. <https://doi.org/10.29173/isotl679>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Peschl, H. & **Saggar, M.** [2025, July] Empowering Students Through Choice: The Impact of a Gamified Course on Well-Being and Achievement. Paper Presentation at the Academy of Management Annual Meeting. Paper Presentation. Copenhagen, Denmark.

Peschl, H. & **Saggar, M.** [2025, July] Decolonization Through Play: Cultivating Empathy and Diversity in Higher Education. Professional Development Workshop at the Academy of Management Annual Meeting. Copenhagen, Denmark.

Saggar, M. [2025, April] Let's Go Pla(y)ces: Bringing Community into the Classroom through Play. Research Presentation at the US Play Coalition. Bloomington, Indiana.

Saggar, M. & Ward, C. [202] The Power of Adult Play: Discover Your Play Personality to Boost Creativity and Productivity. Interactive Workshop at the US Play Coalition. Bloomington, Indiana.

Brown, M. & Cunningham, J., **Saggar, M.,** McArdle, J. & de Koning, A. [2024, May] Co-creating Learning Experiences – Engaging Student Voices via Visual Preference Surveys (VPS). Interactive Workshop at the Dalhousie Conference on University Teaching and Learning. Calgary, Alberta.

Saggar, M. McArdle, J., de Koning, A., Brown, M. & Cunningham, J. [2024, May] The Experiential Learning Map: A Storyboarding Curriculum Design Tool. Interactive Workshop at the Dalhousie Conference on University Teaching and Learning. Calgary, Alberta.

Saggar, M. McArdle, J. & de Koning, A. [2023, November] Let's Go Pla(y)ces: Bringing Community into the Classroom through Play. Presentation at the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSOTL). Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Saggar, M., McArdle, J.F., Choudhary, A. & de Koning, A. [2023, April] The Experiential Learning Map: a Holistic Curriculum Design Tool. Presentation at the University of Calgary Conference on Postsecondary Learning and Teaching, Calgary, Alberta.

Choudhary, A., **Saggar, M.**, de Koning, A. & McArdle, J.F. [2023, April] Transform Learning & Student Engagement with Visual Preference Surveys. Presentation at the University of Calgary's Tapestries of Learning Symposium, Calgary, Alberta.

Saggar, M., McArdle, J.F., Choudhary, A. & de Koning, A. [2023, March] Using the Experiential Learning Map to Design Learning Experiences in K - 12 and Post-Secondary Environments. Presentation at the University of Calgary's Tapestries of Learning Symposium, Calgary, Alberta.

Choudhary, A., McArdle, J.F., **Saggar, M.** & de Koning, A. [2023, March] Building Inclusive Learning Environments: Using Visual Preference Surveys to Activate Voice and Agency. Presentation at the University of Calgary's Tapestries of Learning Symposium, Calgary, Alberta.

Saggar, M., de Koning, A. J., McArdle, J.F., Reynolds, A. & Choudhary, A. [2022, November] The Experiential Learning Map: an Interactive Tool for Curriculum Development. Interactive Poster at Mount Royal University's Symposium for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Banff, Alberta.

Saggar, M., de Koning, A. J., McArdle, J.F., Reynolds, A. & Choudhary, A. [2022, November] The Experiential Learning Map: A Storyboarding Tool for Instructors to Design Impactful Learning Experiences. Interactive Poster at the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSOTL). Kelowna, British Columbia.

Reynolds, A., McArdle, J.F., de Koning, A.J., **Saggar, M** & Coudhary, A. [2022, November] Co-constructing Learning Environments: Activating Student's Voice and Agency Using Visual Preference Surveys. Presentation at Mount Royal University's Symposium for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Banff, Alberta.

McArdle, J.F., de Koning, A.J., Reynolds, A., Coudhary, A & **Saggar, M.** [2022, November] Building inclusive learning environments: Activating students' voice and agency using visual preference surveys. Workshop at the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSOTL). Kelowna, British Columbia.

McArdle, J.F., de Koning, A.J., **Saggar, M.**, Coudhary, A. & Reynolds, A. [2022, November] Using video reflections to improve students' engagement, critical reflection, and composition skills. Presentation at the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSOTL). Kelowna, British Columbia.

Saggar, M. (2021, March) Introducing Pla(y)ce Based Learning: Bring Play and Place into Elementary Classrooms. Presentation at the University of Calgary's Tapestries of Learning Symposium, Calgary, Alberta.

WORKSHOP/KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

Saggar, M. [2023, February] Leveraging your Student Status as a Young Entrepreneur. Workshop at EntEX hosted by Startup Laurier. Waterloo, Ontario.

Saggar, M. [2023, February] Careers Beyond the Classroom: Education Across Disciplines. Workshop at Queens Conference on Education. Kingston, Ontario.

ACADEMIC/PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Saggar, M. (2025) Niska's Quest. BGC Canada. Ontario, Canada.

Saggar, M. (2024) Entrepreneurship Co-Curricular Program 2.0. Humber College. Ontario, Canada.

Saggar, M. (2023) Entrepreneurship Co-Curricular Program. Humber College. Ontario, Canada.

Saggar, M. (2023) Early Childhood Educator II Diploma Program Curriculum. Louis Riel Vocational College. Manitoba, Canada.

Saggar, M. (2023) Educational Assistant Diploma Program Curriculum. Louis Riel Vocational College. Manitoba, Canada.

Saggar, M. (2022) Paralegal Certification Program Curriculum. [Private Client]. Manitoba, Canada.

Saggar, M. (2022) Accounting Administration Diploma Program Curriculum. [Private Client]. Manitoba, Canada.

Saggar, M. (2021) Administrative Professional Diploma Program Curriculum. [Private Client]. Manitoba, Canada.

Saggar, M. (2021) Accounting, Tax and Payroll Administration Diploma Program Curriculum. Commonwealth College. Manitoba, Canada.

Saggar, M. (2021) Educational Assistant Diploma Program Curriculum. Commonwealth College. Manitoba, Canada.

Saggar, M. (2020) Green Tech Entrepreneurship Program. Avatar Innovations. Alberta, Canada.

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS AND GRANTS

Research Funding

MITACS Accelerate Entrepreneur \$120,000 [co-applicant]
Taylor Institute Teaching and Learning Grant, \$40,000 [co-applicant]
RBC Teaching and Curriculum Development Grant, \$10,000 [co-applicant]

Academic

Elizabeth Cannon Graduate Scholarship in Entrepreneurial Thinking, \$40,000, 2022
Ethel King-Shaw Doctoral Scholarship in Literacy, \$17,500, 2022
Laurier Scholarship for Academic Excellence, 2019
QV Scholarship for Excellence in Leadership, 2019
Proctor and Gamble Scholarship for Excellence in Academics and Leadership, 2018
Quo Vadis Scholarship for Excellence in Leadership, 2016
Wilfrid Laurier Faculty of Arts Scholarship, 2016
Etobicoke School of the Arts Kennedy Business Award, \$1000, 2016,

Other

RAISE 3.0. Program/Grant, \$10,000, 2024
Named Niagara Region Top 40 Under 40, 2024
Mississauga Arts Council Micro Grant Recipient, \$2500, 2023
NOW Business Technology Improvement Program, \$15,000, 2022
NWO Innovation Pitch Competition Winner and Grant Recipient, \$1000, 2021
Young Innovator of the Year, Acknowledgement 2021
Named MNP Future Leader, 2021
University of Toronto Pitch Competition Winner and Grant Recipient, \$2500, 2021
Mississauga Arts Council Micro Grant Recipient, \$2500, 2020
#RisingYouth Social Entrepreneurship Grant Recipient, \$1500, 2020
Sheridan College Social Innovators Grant Recipient, \$2000, 2019
RECODE Grant for work in Social Entrepreneurship, \$1000, 2019
Webster Brothers Scholarship for Leadership in the Athletics Department, \$1000, 2019
Laurier Pitch Competition Winner and Grant Recipient, \$1000, 2018
Summer Company Government of Ontario Grant, \$3000, 2015

ACADEMIC SERVICE

EMTO Committee, Laurier Faculty of Education, 2024 - Present

- Non-voting member of the Education Minor/Teaching Option Committee

Vice President of Academic Initiatives, Laurier Faculty of Arts, 2017 – 2019

- Elected into an executive role in a club facilitated by the Dean of Arts office for high-achieving students. The club focused on building relationships and maintaining the high-achieving status of faculty of arts students.

Dean of Arts Council, Wilfrid Laurier University, 2017 – 2019

- Selected as one of four student representatives for the Dean of Arts Council. Attended all council meetings and brought student voice to the discussions, issues, concerns and ideas that were being brought to the table.

Communication Studies Council, Wilfrid Laurier University, 2017 – 2019

- Selected as the sole student representative for the communication studies faculty. Attended all council meetings and brought student voice to the discussions, issues, concerns and ideas that were being brought to the table.