

Get the pre-requisites first

A new group of students just started their studies at Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley, and we are right back into another recruitment cycle. If you

are thinking about attending college for the first time, or considering a career change, here is some important information that may be helpful to you.

Recently the college has had a lot of calls from people interested in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, but concerned they do not have the science requirements to meet the admission standards. Again this year, the college is partnering with the Renfrew County Catholic and Public school boards to offer the Grade 12 university preparation biology and chemistry courses. The biology course will be offered this fall with the chemistry course beginning in the winter.

Bishop Smith Catholic High School will be offering the biology course, which begins Tuesday, Oct. 11, following the Thanksgiving holiday. There is no cost to enrol in the course, however students may be required to put down a deposit on the books and supplies they will need to complete the course. To fully meet the learning outcomes of the curriculum, students will need to attend classes two nights a week through the end of January. Classes will run on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Seating is limited and those interested need to register by calling Bishop Smith High School at 735-4596.

The chemistry course, which will most likely be offered at Fellowes High School, will also be delivered through night classes. The format will be similar, but classes won't begin until early February. This will provide those students who plan on enrolling in both courses the opportunity to complete biology before getting started with chemistry. Students are required to have a minimum grade of 65 percent in chemistry and biology to be considered for

Careers and College

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admission into the B.Sc.N. program.

Applicants considering the Practical Nursing program at Algonquin College can also pick up the science pre-requisite:

by enrolling in the General Arts and Science Program at Algonquin College, which has another intake in early January. Please note, these science courses do not meet the admission requirements for the B.Sc.N. program and are intended to help students prepare for the Practical Nursing program or other health-related programs offered at the college level.

If you are unclear of the admission requirements for any of Algonquin College's programs, you may want to consider attending the college's upcoming Open House. On Thursday, Oct. 13, the college will be highlighting all of its full-time programs in the cafeteria from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The following morning, high school students from across Renfrew County will participate in a similar Open House at the Pembroke campus.

Among the new programs that are planned for the fall of 2006 is the Computer Systems Technician program. This program will prepare students to work in the hardware, software and networking sectors of the information technology field. More information on this program will soon be posted on the College Web site at:

www.algonquincollege.com/pembroke.

Applications for college programs that begin in January are now available at www.ontariocolleges.ca. It will be a few more weeks before applications are available for programs beginning next fall.

(Jamie Bramburger is the manager of community and student affairs at Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley. The college provides free career counseling services. Call 735-4700 for more information.)