

Introducing Our New Program for Indigenous Learners Starting Fall 2017!

Personal Development for Indigenous Success College Certificate



Find your path.

Prepare for your future.

**Empower yourself and
your community.**

ALGONQUIN
COLLEGE

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This 15-week program is designed in collaboration with Indigenous communities to provide foundational academic, transferable and personal skills development opportunities for First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) students to prepare them for further academic studies and to familiarize them with post-secondary educational expectations. Beginning with an intensive one-week orientation, the program embodies Indigenous values, fostering a holistic, culturally meaningful approach to education and career options. Unique program components such as individualized curriculum delivery and personal weekly coaching sessions build a circle of care to engage students' interests and nurture self-confidence.

Students will experience the following:

- an intensive one-week orientation
- an individualized learning environment
- a personalized approach to career exploration
- access to weekly meetings with a personal coach
- a collaborative circle of care that includes the student, the college, and the community

Success factors:

This program is well-suited for students who:

- are motivated by new opportunities for Indigenous people
- are focused on educational and career pathways
- are enthusiastic about expanding their life experiences

FIRST WEEK ORIENTATION

One of the best ways to be successful at college is to get a strong start.

The **Personal Development for Indigenous Success Program** is designed with a full week-long orientation as the starting point. Our research has shown that living situations, transportation, accessing textbooks, and managing online information can be overwhelming for students, so the first week is set up with opportunities to settle in, work out bus routes, and get organized for classes. Students will tour the college, spend time at the Mamidowsewin Centre, participate in group and pair activities, go on field trips, and learn how to use the ACSIS and Blackboard systems. Orientation Week is a time for the students to get to know each other, the coaches, the professors and the college community in an enjoyable, manageable way.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

1. Identify academic needs and seek support in order to meet post-secondary and/or workplace requirements.
2. Identify and manage personal and social challenges within the college environment.
3. Articulate Indigenous and non-Indigenous ways of knowing the world.
4. Investigate the connections between personal interests, cultural knowledge, academic skills and career paths.
5. Recognize institutional processes and behavioural norms operating within college and workplace environments.
6. Identify and apply discipline-specific practices that contribute to the local and global community through social responsibility, economic commitment and environmental stewardship.

COLLEGE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Pathways to Indigenous Empowerment Program supports learners in becoming skilled communicators and confident learners. There are several options for entry into the program:

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent. Applicants with an OSSD showing senior English and/or mathematics courses at the Basic Level, or with Workplace or Open courses, will be tested to determine their eligibility for admission; OR
- Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) certificate; OR
- General Educational Development (GED) certificate; OR
- Mature Student status (19 years of age or older and without a high school diploma at the start of the program).

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR INDIGENOUS SUCCESS (PDIS) COURSES

The focus is on skill building through identifying academic challenges and completing lessons that enable every student to create a solid foundational learning base that blends Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge.

Foundations of Communication

Effective English communication skills are foundational to success in post-secondary education and the workforce. Working at their own pace, First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) students complete individualized study plans to develop skills in active listening, reading comprehension, various writing formats and presentation skills. Through self-directed, technology-supported learning, class discussions, and team activities, FNMI students acquire the skills needed for communicative competence.

Math for Everyday Living

Effective mathematic skills are foundational to success in post-secondary education, the workforce, and in establishing and maintaining healthy personal finances. Working at their own pace, First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) students complete individualized study plans formulated to develop skills in identifying math problems, applying basic number concepts, and solving everyday math problems. Math skills are applied to the history of money, budgeting, credit and debt, savings, government programs, insurance and financial planning. Through self-directed technology-supported learning, in class discussions, team activities, and personal budgeting and journaling, FNMI students focus on the skills needed for competence in everyday math.

Personal Discovery

Research has shown that First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) students benefit from regular one-to-one meetings and individualized support during the transition to college. In weekly coaching sessions, FNMI students ask questions, discuss concerns, and obtain information regarding academic support, student services and career focus. Students can expect to attend weekly sessions, maintain a journal and complete guided self-discovery activities to develop a Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (KSA) inventory related to career options.

Health and Wellness

Personal empowerment is built on a healthy body, mind and spirit. Through an exploration of Indigenous diets and others, students research daily energy requirements and healthy food choices. Students also learn about the positive impact that physical activity has on physical and mental well-being and how to identify injuries, treatments and preventions to keep the body healthy. Similarly, students identify ways of supporting mental and spiritual health. In a combination of lectures, discussions, hands-on exercises, meetings with Elders, online learning and self-evaluations, students determine healthy life choices for Indigenous people and their communities.

Computer Foundations

In today's world, it is essential to communicate effectively using technology in the education and employment fields. Students improve or learn new computer skills by producing multi-page documents, creating spreadsheets and presentations with Microsoft Office software.

Career Exploration

Research demonstrates that goal-setting is a key factor in academic and personal success. To focus on setting career goals, students discover and explore a wide variety of employment options. Through a combination of in-class activities, research projects, field trips, guest visits, self- and community-assessments, as well as online learning, students identify work opportunities that match their interests and create individual career profiles.

WEEKLY COURSE SCHEDULE

Foundations of Communication (8 hours/week)

- 2 hour classes, 4 times a week
- individualized study plans; work at your own pace
- online learning as well as traditional textbooks and reading materials
- individualized writing assignments and feedback; time in class to complete work
- examination of Indigenous language structures; build a glossary of terms

Math for Everyday Living (4 hours/week)

- 2 hour classes, 2 times a week
- individual and group work
- Indigenous ways of using mathematical concepts
- basic math concepts understood through practical examples
- financial planning concepts; budgeting, banking, etc.

Personal Discovery (20 hours/semester)

- 1 hour, 1 time a week (extra time on projects at midterm and end of term)
- one-to-one coaching sessions; weekly check-in to answer questions re: a variety of topics, issues, etc.
- complete journal writing to record new ideas, concepts, plans, etc.

Health and Wellness (3 hours/week)

- 3 hours, 1 time a week
- discover ways to balance mind, body and spirit for overall health
- track eating, sleeping and exercise habits to establish healthy habits

Computer Foundations (3 hours/week)

- 3 hours, 1 time a week
- held in a computer lab
- begin with overview of all software used at AC (ACSIS, Blackboard, etc.)
- instructor-led lessons in Word, Excel, Power Point

Career Exploration (4 hours/week)

- 4 hours, 1 time a week
- opportunity to explore interests and expand curiosity about different career options
- build an inventory of skills, knowledge and ability
- share ideas about building community capacity

Learning Hours per semester = 328 hours

Class Hours per week = approximately 23 hours per week + homework and individual review and study time

FEES

\$1825 (tuition approx.)

\$900 (ancillary approx.) (Student Activity Fee, Technology Fee, Health Services and Health Insurance, Transcript, Convocation, UPASS, Admin Fee, Student Experience Fee, Student Sports Fee)

\$ 400 (textbooks approx.)

\$3125 = \$210/week; roughly \$42/day to be at the college

GOAL: Make every dollar count by attending classes regularly and participating fully!

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