

Introducing Our New Program for Indigenous Learners for Fall 2018!

PATHWAYS TO INDIGENOUS EMPOWERMENT

Ontario College Certificate



Find your path.

Prepare for your future.

**Empower yourself and
your community.**

ALGONQUIN
COLLEGE

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This 1-year Ontario College Certificate 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 and ways of teaching and learning to foster 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
- learning in 12 courses including 3 transferable credits
 - Communications Level - 1
 - Computer Foundations - Level 1
 - Interconnection of Science - General Education Course

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 **Pathways to Indigenous Empowerment (PIE) Program** is designed with a full week-long orientation as the starting point. Our research shows that at the start of their post-secondary careers, living situations, transportation, accessing textbooks, and managing online information can be overwhelming for students. To help students become accustomed to the college, 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. Apply appropriate strategies to establish equitable relationships, in a personal and professional capacity, between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.
2. Distinguish between Indigenous and non-Indigenous perceptions of the environment, culture, and society to validate multiple paths of understanding.
3. Express thoughts, opinions, and emotions in ways appropriate to academic and workplace environments.
4. Identify personal needs in order to seek relevant support and strive towards holistic well-being.
5. Articulate self-understanding, as well as personal and social responsibility as an Indigenous person living in the midst of a diverse and changing society.
6. Relate principles of Indigenous knowledge to better identify personal, academic and career paths.
7. 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).

PATHWAYS TO INDIGENOUS EMPOWERMENT (PIE) 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.

SEMESTER 1:

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.

SEMESTER 2:

Communication Skills

Communication remains an essential skill sought by employers, regardless of discipline or field of study. Using a practical, vocation-oriented approach, students focus on meeting the requirements of effective communication. Through a combination of lectures, exercises, and independent learning, students practise writing, speaking, reading, listening, locating and documenting information and using technology to communicate professionally. Students develop and strengthen communication skills that contribute to success in both educational and workplace environments.

Pre-Requisite: ENL0080 - Foundations of Communication

Personal Development

Students continue to expand their interpersonal and transcultural skillset. Individualized weekly coaching sessions continue with a focus on identifying and developing successful interpersonal skills that reflect transcultural knowledge, particularly with respect to institutional processes and expectations. Students can expect to attend weekly sessions individually and group meetings. Researching, journaling, self-reflection and self-expression are also required to gauge and guide the Indigenous students' perceptions of self in a non-Indigenous institution.

Pre-Requisite: SSC0105 - Personal Discovery

Career Development

Students expand their personal career profile by exploring emerging issues facing employees in today's technology-driven workplace related to the realities of social networking, diversity in the workplace and work mobility. As business and higher education evolve and expectations change, students need to have the skills necessary to succeed in these new and dynamic environments as employees and/or business partners. Students investigate the strategies, tools and theories needed to thrive throughout their college career, selected professions, and in entrepreneurship. Reflections, workshops, mini-lectures, and online learning activities support the holistic development of each student. Focus is on establishing opportunities to meet potential employers, developing effective habits as a team member, as well as entrepreneurial skills and abilities.

Pre-Requisite: SSC0107 - Career Exploration

Transforming Turtle Island

Before colonization, Turtle Island was home to thousands of First Nations and Inuit communities who governed their lands according to their own cultural, political, and economic systems and beliefs. The arrival of the Europeans impacted these communities in ways that are still being experienced by First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) people today. Through online learning, in-class activities, field trips, guest lectures, and film and video, students reflect on the historical and contemporary experiences of FNMI people in Canada. Students consider ways to realize the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and to consider how the students themselves can be part of these vital and long overdue changes.

The Science of Interconnection

Indigenous people have understood the natural world as relationships that bind together forces within the physical world, astronomy, cosmology and agriculture. In contrast, 'Western' scientific concepts in biology, physics and chemistry tend to isolate phenomena to understand them. Through experimentation, research, class discussions, online learning and self-reflection, students examine the ways in which scientific concepts can be viewed as interconnected and how they impact on the health and well-being of all living things.

Environmental Guardianship

Indigenous communities have unique relationships with the land that recognize that environmental health is a prerequisite to human health. From an Indigenous perspective, students explore the principles of environmental citizenship, environmental rights, and the responsibility of individuals, communities and nations to protect the environment. Making environmentally-aware choices involves personal commitment to respecting and caring for the land and for taking responsible environmental action. Through in-class discussions, online learning, research, and self-reflection, students examine conservation practices and planned sustainable use of our planet's resources through a cultural and career-focused lens. They are encouraged to foster and share Indigenous-based approaches to environmental responsibility.

WEEKLY COURSE SCHEDULE

SEMESTER 1:

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 and discussion about Indigenous languages

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 (4 hours/week)

- 4 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, and Power Point

Career Exploration (3 hours/week)

- 3 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

SEMESTER 2:

Communication Skills (3 hours/week)

- 3 hours, 1 time a week
- in-class activities and assignments
- online learning as well as traditional textbooks and reading materials
- individualized writing assignments and feedback; time in class to complete work

Personal Development (20 hours/semester)

- continuation of Semester 1 with a focus on career-oriented skills development
- 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.

Career Development (6 hours/week)

- 3 hour classes, 2 times a week
- career-focused research to identify further post-secondary study options
- course shadowing and class visits; meeting with Program Coordinators
- interpersonal skill building: work ethic, information gathering, information analysis, group work

Transforming Turtle Island (4 hours/week)

- 3 hours in class, 1 time a week
- 1 hour online for individual study
- class discussions, field trips, guest speakers

The Interconnection of Science (3 hours/week)

- 3 hours, 1 time a week
- classroom, lab, and field trips
- discover ways understand the world through experimentation; hands-on learning

Environmental Guardianship (4 hours/week)

- 4 hours, 1 time a week
- explore land-based learning and education
- classroom, guest speakers and Elders, field trips, hands-on learning

Class Hours per semester:

Semester 1: 328 hours

Semester 2: 315 hours

Learning Hours per week:

Approximately 23 hours per week + homework and individual review and study time

Algonquin College's New Courtyard

SUMMER 2018



FEES (per Semester)

Program Tuition Fee.....	\$1825.00
Student Activity Fee	\$217.37
Technology Fee.....	\$159.62
Health Service Fee	\$20.00
Program Transcript Fee.....	\$20.00
eText Fee.....	\$92.00
Student Experience Fee.....	\$18.00
U-Pass Fee.....	\$202.46
U-Pass Administration Fee.....	\$3.42
F/T Student Sports Fee	\$72.63

Term Total \$2630.50

* Fees as of January 2018

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

APPLICATION PROCESS

As a Ministry-approved Ontario Certificate Program, students apply through OCAS using the **Program Code 1937X**.

The Pathways to Indigenous Empowerment Program is eligible for OSAP funding.

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

Please contact us for more information:

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