

Area of Interest: Community and Social Services

## Human Services Foundations

Ontario College Certificate

Program Code: 1632X01FWO

1 Year

Ottawa Campus

### Our Program

**Explore the array of human services careers to define your pathway.**

In this program, you develop core skills that are common to all areas of human services such as relationship building, team-work and stress management. You increase your own awareness of issues of diversity and inclusion in Canada and how social issues influence human and community development. You develop a strong understanding of client and community needs and the impact that systemic barriers have on marginalizing specific populations. This exploration empowers you to select a population group and industry that you would like to focus on. You develop academic skills and career planning skills to support you through the next stages of your academic study.

This foundational training provides students with an introduction to more advanced human services programs including, but not limited to:

- Child and Youth Care
- Social Services Worker
- Community and Justice Services
- Early Childhood Education
- Developmental Services Worker

As a graduate, you will qualify to receive transfer credits in related programs for some courses taken in this program. Contact the Program Coordinator to explore specific transfer credit opportunities.

### Learning Outcomes

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

- Identify the roles and responsibilities of professionals in human services and the impact of these contributions on the health and wellness of individuals and communities.
- Develop collaborative skills that support the development and maintenance of positive working relationships and inclusive team environments.
- Apply major psychological and sociological theories of developmental growth and mental health to respond to client needs.
- Select a variety of human services support strategies to meet the needs of diverse populations for inclusion and participation in civic life.
- Identify the professional requirements and opportunities in various human services fields to inform academic and professional goals.
- Develop academic strengths and strategies to support success and wellness in lifelong learning and career development.
- Develop written and verbal interpersonal communication and research skills specific to human services to convey messages clearly and concisely.

- Identify and apply discipline-specific practices that contribute to the local and global community through social responsibility, economic commitment and environmental stewardship.

## Program of Study

| Level: 01                              | Courses  | Hours |
|--|--|-------|
| COR1928                                | Introduction to Sociology                                  | 42.0  |
| ENL2029S                               | Foundations of Communication                               | 42.0  |
| FAM0076                                | Diversity  | 42.0  |
| FAM0080                                | Life Skills for Academic Study                             | 56.0  |
| FAM0081                                | Introduction to Human Services                             | 56.0  |
| FAM0082                                | Career Planning for Human Services                         | 42.0  |
| Level: 02                              | Courses  | Hours |
| ENL1813S                               | Communications 1   | 42.0  |
| FAM0083                                | Life Skills for Human Services Professionals               | 42.0  |
| FAM0084                                | Developmental Psychology                                   | 56.0  |
| FAM0085                                | Social Issues  | 70.0  |
| FAM1190                                | Ethical Issues and Persons with Developmental Disabilities | 28.0  |
| Choose one from equivalencies: Courses |  | Hours |
| GED1457                                | General Education Elective                                 | 42.0  |

## Fees for the 2025/2026 Academic Year

Tuition and related ancillary fees for this program can be viewed by using the Tuition and Fees Estimator tool at <http://www.algonquincollege.com/fee-estimator>

Further information on fees can be found by visiting the Registrar's Office website at <http://www.algonquincollege.com/ro>

Fees are subject to change.

Additional program related expenses include:

Textbooks and supplies can be purchased at the campus store. For more information, go to <http://www.algonquincollege.com/coursematerials>

## Admission Requirements for the 2026/2027 Academic Year

### College Eligibility

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent; OR
- Mature Student status (19 years of age or older and without a high school diploma at the start of the program). Eligibility may be determined by academic achievement testing, for which a fee will be charged.

**Program Eligibility**

- English, Grade 12 (ENG4C or equivalent).
- Applicants with international transcripts must provide proof of the subject specific requirements noted above and may be required to provide proof of language proficiency. Domestic applicants with international transcripts must be evaluated through the International Credential Assessment Service of Canada (ICAS) or World Education Services (WES).
- IELTS-International English Language Testing Service (Academic). Overall band of 6.0 with a minimum of 5.5 in each band; OR TOEFL-Internet-based (iBT)-overall 80, with a minimum of 20 in each component: Reading 20; Listening 20; Speaking 20; Writing 20; OR Duolingo English Test (DET) Overall 110, minimum of 110 in Literacy and no score below 95.

Should the number of qualified applicants exceed the number of available places, applicants will be selected on the basis of their proficiency in English.

**Admission Requirements for 2025/2026 Academic Year****College Eligibility**

- 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). Eligibility may be determined by academic achievement testing for which a fee of \$50 (subject to change) will be charged.

**Program Eligibility**

- English, Grade 12 (ENG4C or equivalent).
- Applicants with international transcripts must provide proof of the subject-specific requirements noted above and may be required to provide proof of language proficiency. Domestic applicants with international transcripts must be evaluated through the International Credential Assessment Service of Canada (ICAS) or World Education Services (WES).
- IELTS-International English Language Testing Service (Academic) Overall band of 6.0 with a minimum of 5.5 in each band; OR TOEFL-Internet-based (iBT)-overall 80, with a minimum of 20 in each component: Reading 20; Listening 20; Speaking 20; Writing 20; OR Duolingo English Test (DET) Overall 110, minimum of 110 in Literacy and no score below 95.

Not sure if you meet all of the requirements? Academic Upgrading may be able to help with that: <https://www.algonquincollege.com/access/>.

Should the number of qualified applicants exceed the number of available places, applicants will be selected on the basis of their proficiency in English.

**Application Information****HUMAN SERVICES FOUNDATIONS**  
**Program Code 1632X01FWO**

Applications to full-time day programs must be submitted with official transcripts showing completion of the academic admission requirements through:

ontariocolleges.ca  
60 Corporate Court  
Guelph, Ontario N1G 5J3  
1-888-892-2228

Students currently enrolled in an Ontario secondary school should notify their Guidance Office prior to their online application at <http://www.ontariocolleges.ca/>.

Applications for Fall Term and Winter Term admission received by February 1 will be given equal consideration. Applications received after February 1 will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis as long as places are available.

International applicants please visit this link for application process information:  
<https://algonquincollege.my.site.com/myac360/s/self-registration-page> .

For further information on the admissions process, contact:

Registrar's Office  
Algonquin College  
1385 Woodroffe Ave  
Ottawa, ON K2G 1V8  
Telephone: 613-727-0002  
Toll-free: 1-800-565-4723  
TTY: 613-727-7766  
Fax: 613-727-7632  
Contact: <https://www.algonquincollege.com/ro>

## Contact Information

### Program Coordinator(s)

- Bridgette Brown, <mailto:brownb@algonquincollege.com> , 613-727-4723, ext. 6912

## Course Descriptions

### COR1928 Introduction to Sociology

Sociology is the study of society and culture which aims to explore our interdependencies and differences. By providing a critical lens to topics such as inequality, gender and sexuality, ethnicity, culture, and deviance, emphasis is placed on understanding power relations in society and their impact on particular communities. Students explore key concepts, figures, and theories of the discipline of sociology while developing their own "sociological imagination." Focus is on student enlightenment and empowerment to challenge their worldview through a combination of discussions, case studies, readings, and lectures.

Prerequisite(s): none  
Corerequisite(s):none

### ENL1813S Communications 1

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.

Prerequisite(s): none  
Corerequisite(s):none

### ENL2029S Foundations of Communication

Students develop language and communication skills necessary to promote success in education pathways and careers. With effective workplace communication skills as the focus, students achieve correctness and confidence in presenting messages in various formats appropriate to workplace correspondence, report writing and teamwork activities. Students compose, edit and revise a variety of workplace-oriented messages, practise presentation skills, and use technology to produce a collaborative project. In all written work, students develop and enhance their skills in English language usage, grammar, mechanics and style to meet professional workplace standards.

Prerequisite(s): none  
Corerequisite(s):none

**FAM0076 Diversity**

Child and youth care practitioners work with diverse populations. Students explore concepts of equity, diversity, and inclusion as they relate to culture, race, religion, social class, ability, and gender at the personal, societal, and professional levels. Students examine the impacts of structural inequality on marginalized communities to inform their interactions, engagement strategies, advocacy, and allyship. Students critically reflect on their own ethnocentricity and privilege and how these influence their interactions with children, youth, and families. Through learning activities and case studies, students examine practices and policies that further marginalize young people and families and explore ways of engaging that promote cultural humility and safety.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

**FAM0080 Life Skills for Academic Study**

There are specific skills and competencies that students need to be successful in academic pursuits. Students develop skills in time management, learning strategies, critical thinking, online research and group work. Students gain skills to navigate this new learning environment and explore resources to support them. Students prepare for study at the post-secondary level through group discussions, self-reflection and collaboration with peers on projects.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

**FAM0081 Introduction to Human Services**

Human services supports individuals, families and communities to attain a higher quality of life. Students examine the human services delivery system and diverse population groups that receive these services. Students identify the varying needs of these populations. Through case studies, community visits or guest presentations from professionals in the community-based and volunteer sector, students develop an appreciation and demonstrate an understanding of the landscape of human services in Canada.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

**FAM0082 Career Planning for Human Services**

Career planning strategies are a key component of goal setting and decision making concerning career choices. Students explore various roles in the human services field to identify their associated responsibilities and functions. This informs student academic and career planning. Students visit human services settings, learn from industry professionals, explore academic opportunities in the college and build foundations of a job search portfolio.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

**FAM0083 Life Skills for Human Services Professionals**

Success in a human services role requires specific skills, knowledge and values in order to support effective professional worker-client relationships. Students develop strategies for stress management, and resilience and for maintaining professional boundaries. Students develop the ability to think critical and application of how ethics informs human services. Students begin to define themselves as professionals in the human services field through group discussions, self-reflection, examination of ethical codes associated with human services professions and collaboration with peers on projects.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

**FAM0084 Developmental Psychology**

Knowledge of individual physical, cognitive, social and emotional growth across the individual life span is foundational to being an effective human services professional. Students gain knowledge of developmental theories, milestones and influences of physiological and social factors in human development. Through discussion of case studies and their relevance to human services professionals, students integrate developmental psychology into their understanding of human behaviour.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

### **FAM0085 Social Issues**

Emerging and ongoing social issues within Canada inform the development and delivery of human services. Students identify how emerging, social issues influence people's lives and impact the response from the human services field to support the development of healthy individuals and communities. Students reflect on potential barriers that community members may experience in accessing human services and how to design a seamless approach to meeting client needs. Through case studies and review of media, student discuss the complexity of building, maintaining and planning for human services.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

### **FAM1190 Ethical Issues and Persons with Developmental Disabilities**

Developmental Services Workers encounter ethical issues when providing support to people with developmental disabilities. Students consider the philosophical problem of human nature and discuss how our assumptions about human nature influence our interactions with people with developmental disabilities. Students develop a basic understanding of several theories of ethical conduct. Through discussion, written exercises, and debate students practise using ethical theories to guide their consideration of contemporary ethical issues in the field of developmental services.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

### **GED1457 General Education Elective**

Students choose one course, from a group of general education electives, which meets one of the following five theme requirements: Arts in Society, Civic Life, Social and Cultural Understanding, Personal Understanding, and Science & Technology.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none