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Human Services Programs

Child and Youth Care (BA)

Location Offered:

Nanaimo

Credential:

Bachelor Degree

Program Length:

4 Years

The Program

A full range of courses is available to complete a program of studies leading to a B.A. degree in Child and Youth Care at Vancouver Island University. The Child and Youth Care degree program is a four-year course of study (120 credits), which prepares students to enter a variety of child and youth care employment settings. These range from early intervention programs to youth corrections programs, child protection and guardianship work, community-based programs such as day-care, schools, family support and group homes.

The program is designed in response to increasing demand from employers for skilled child and youth care practitioners who are able to work in an integrated, multidisciplinary way. Some of the topics that students will be required to study are child welfare, abuse and neglect concerns, human and family development, theories of practice; and activity-based interventions. Aboriginal ways of knowing and cultural competency skills are integrated throughout the curriculum. The program is offered on a full-time, as well as a part-time basis to accommodate practitioners working in the field.

Bachelor of Arts in Child and Youth Care - Program requirements prior to September 2015

Child Protection Specialization

A Child Protection Specialization within the program is available for a limited number of students admitted to the Bachelor of Arts in Child and Youth Care degree program. Students in the child protection specialization will be doing their fourth year practicum in a delegated child protection office.

If the number of applicants exceeds the number of practicums available through the Ministry of Children and Family Development then student's GPA in CYC 232, CYC 301, CYC 362, and CYC 310 will be used to determine admittance into the specialization. If necessary, there may also be the possibility of a suitability interview.

Interested students must apply for the specialization once admitted to the program and are required to complete their CYC 410 practicum in a child protection agency. Students may only apply for admittance to the child protection specialization once. They must have all core child and youth care courses completed prior to beginning their practicum.

Child protection practicums are block practicums and are full-time as students are required to complete 400 hours during a 10-12 week term likely during the intersession semester. Consequently, students in the child protection specialization will not be eligible to participate in convocation until January. Practicum locations may occur anywhere on Vancouver Island so travel will likely be required. Students are responsible for any travel costs. For further information, please contact the Child and Youth Care Practicum Coordinator and/or CYC Advisors.

About your practicum experience in Child and Youth Care at Vancouver Island University

Field experience is an integral part of the CYC educational experience. Students will complete one 350 hour practicum and one 400 hour practicum while in the program. There are a variety of unique practicum experiences available to our students. The VIU Child and Youth Care program has relationships with many agencies and organizations in the field of child and youth care.

Different sites will have different requirements regarding schedules and the amount of time students will need to spend there during practicum. If a student is currently employed, they should be prepared to adjust their schedule to meet the demands of practicum. Practicum is usually approximately 10-15 hours (or approximately two days per week) over a two-semester period. Given the importance of practicum to the educational experience in Child and Youth Care at VIU, students who are working often save up vacation time; others have taken a leave to complete the required practicum hours.

University Credit

Students may apply for admission to the four-year B.A. in Child and Youth Care degree at VIU at all years of the degree, however we normally admit at first and third year. Students who have completed a diploma in a Human Services area may be eligible for third year admission. Students who complete the B.A. in Child and Youth Care may then pursue graduate studies at a number of educational settings.

Program Outline

Below is a suggested schedule that is based on full-time attendance and includes all required courses. Not all courses are available in each academic year at each campus.

Year 1	Credits
CYC 111 - (Child Development)	3
CYC 152 - (Interpersonal Communication Skills in a Therapeutic Context)	3
CYC 100 - (Introductions to Professional Child and Youth Care Practice)	3
ENGL 115* - (University Writing and Research)	3
CYC 165 - (Introductions to Group Work in Child & Youth Care Practice)	3
CYC 101 - (Theoretical Foundations in Child and Youth Care)	3
CYC 112 - (Adolescent Development)	3
ENGL 125* - (Literature and Culture) <i>or</i> , ENGL 135 (Literature and Criticism) <i>or</i> , Equivalent from within the degree English requirement.	3
Elective	6
Total Credits	30

* *To obtain second-year standing in the program students must complete 24 of the required 30 credits from first year. Those 24 credits must include English 115.*

Year 2	Credits
CYC 231 - (An Introduction to Family Development and Support)	3
CYC 212 - (Introduction to Activity Based Child and Youth Care Practice)	3
CYC 362 - (Child Abuse and Neglect Concerns)	3
CYC 252 - (Fundamental Counselling Skills)	3
CYC 262 - (Relational Youth Work)	3
CYC 232 - (Diverse Abilities in Child and Youth Care)	3
HHS 276 - (Trauma and Resiliency Across the Lifespan)	3
Elective	9
Total Credits	30

* *To obtain third-year standing in the program students must complete 54 required credits from first and second year. Those 54 required credits must include the full Degree English Requirement.*

Year 3	Credits
CYC 324 - (Community and Program Development in Child and Youth Care Practice)	3
CYC 321 - (Contact and Colonization: Implications for CYC Practice)	3
CYC 323 - (Research in the Field of Child and Youth Care)	3
CYC 310* - (CYC Professional Practice Seminar and Supervised Practicum)	9
CYC 350 - (Law and Child And Youth Care Practice)	3
CYC 301 - (Applying Assessment and Service Planning in CYC Practice)	3
CYC 361 - (Understanding Substance Use in Child and Youth Care Practice)	3
Elective	3
Total Credits	30

* *CYC 310 is completed over the fall and spring semesters.*

Year 4	Credits
CYC 466 - (Therapeutic Assessment Work with Families)	3
HSD 425 - (Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis)	3
CYC 410* - (Advanced Supervised Project/Practicum)	9
CYC 476 - (Therapeutic Intervention Plans with Families)	3
CYC 424 - (Child And Youth Mental Health)	3
CYC 475 - (Advanced Activity Based CYC Practice in Groups)	3
CYC 403 - (Best Practices in Child Safety)	3
Elective	3
Total Credits	30

* *CYC 410 is completed over the fall and spring semesters.*

Note: The Child Protection Specialization Practicum is to be completed in Intersession semester (April/May/June). Students completing the Child Protection Specialization are required to complete CYC 403 with a minimum "C+" grade prior to commencing their Child Protection field placement. CYC 403 is open to all Child and Youth Care students.

Note: Any university-level course may be used as an elective.

Completion Requirements

- In order to graduate from the BA in CYC, a "C+" or higher is required in all CYC core courses, including CYC 212 and 232, University English requirements (6 credits), Human Development requirements (6 credits).
- To be eligible for a Bachelor of Arts in Child and Youth Care degree, students must

have completed at least 120 university-level credits and have completed all required Child and Youth Care courses.

- A minimum overall "C+" average and a minimum "C+" in each individual required course is necessary to progress in the program and to qualify for graduation. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all requirements for the degree are met. Students are encouraged to consult the Child and Youth Care Program Advisor for information and guidance.
- Bachelor of Arts in Child and Youth Care degrees are conferred at a convocation ceremony held in January or June of each year. Students who have completed all academic requirements qualifying them for a degree in Child and Youth Care must make a formal application for graduation through their online student record.

Residency Requirement

Students are reminded to be aware of VIU's Residency Requirement.

Admission Requirements

- General admission requirements apply.
- To be eligible for admission at **first year**, general admission requirements apply.
- To obtain **second year standing**, VIU B.A. CYC program students must complete 24 of the required 30 credits from first year. Those 24 credits must include ENGL 115 *and* 6 credits of Human Development (normally CYC 111/112), *and* the following Child and Youth Care core courses (or content equivalent of) CYC 100, 101, 152, and 165, **or** students must have completed a recognized Human Services Certificate program that includes the English and Human Development and CYC courses or equivalency requirements as stated above.
- To be eligible for admission to **third year**, students must have completed a diploma in a Human Services discipline, including completion of the Degree English requirement, (6 credits with a min. "C+") and Human Development Requirement (6 credits with a min. "C+"), providing courses meet the VIU CYC program requirements. Human Services Diplomas, which will be granted a block transfer of a maximum of 60 credits, must be from accredited institutions and does not include vocational or continuing studies certificates or diplomas. Successful block transfer does not guarantee an offer of admission. Elective course requirements vary depending on transfer credits or previous VIU course work.
- The overall GPA of students to be admitted to third year will be a minimum of 2.33 ("C+"), calculated on the most recent 24 credits completed, and with a min. "C+" in each of the individual courses previously identified for meeting admission requirements.

To apply to the program, applicants must submit the following documents:

- Transcripts from all secondary and post-secondary institutions/programs attended.
- Education/work résumé.
- Complete the personal profile.
- Two completed reference forms.

NOTES ON ADMISSION

- - Human Services diploma will be granted a maximum of 60 credits.
 - Fieldwork and/or practica will require a satisfactory criminal record check

prior to placement. The Registration Centre at VIU will contact prospective students regarding the Criminal Record Check. Criminal Record Checks are processed through the Ministry according to the Criminal Records Review Act. A check completed through the RCMP is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the Act.

- An interview may be scheduled following receipt of the above information.
- Enrolment is limited. Students who meet or exceed the minimum admission requirements may not necessarily be admitted to the program.
- Upon admission, students will be expected to be familiar with and adhere to the Code of Ethics of the Child and Youth Care Association of British Columbia and The Council of Canadian Child and Youth Care Associations.
- Students admitted to the BA degree can apply for a Child and Youth Care Diploma provided that have met all the program requirements which include the CYC 210 practicum.
- Students who wish to take individual courses without being admitted to the program may take up to three courses maximum if space is available and when prerequisites have been completed. Students who take courses in Child and Youth Care without being formally admitted into the program are not guaranteed entry into the program. Students are encouraged to explore the program with a VIU Advisor before pursuing application.

Start Date and Application Deadline

The program starts in September and applications are accepted between the first business day in October and March 31. Applicants are encouraged to apply by the Early Consideration Deadline of January 31. The program fills quickly and early applicants are given priority. Admission is limited and applicants who meet or exceed the minimum admission requirements may not necessarily be offered admission.

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