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Human Services Programs

Education Assistant and Community Support

Location Offered:

Nanaimo, Powell River

Credential:

Certificate

Program Length:

8 Months

The Program

Note: The Education Assistant and Community Support Certificate program was formerly called the School and Community Support Worker Certificate program.

This program includes both theoretical studies and practical applications for working with people who have disabilities, across the life span. The core and specialty courses provide students with the skills and knowledge to work in schools and community. The program is offered with courses rotated.

Acceptance into the program does not mean that students will be placed into a practicum. Students will be individually assessed as to their readiness for the practicums in terms of skills, knowledge and personal suitability. Placement into a practicum will be at the discretion of the program Chair.

Students who successfully complete the program will receive a Vancouver Island University certificate. This certificate may ladder into other Human Services diplomas and degrees.

Program Delivery

The Education Assistant and Community Support program is a certificate program delivered in both Nanaimo and Powell River. Part time students can be accommodated in this program. Although classroom-based in Nanaimo, both distance and local learners have the opportunity to complete the program through the Powell River campus.

Program Outline

Courses Offered *	
<i>One of:</i> CYC 152 - (Interpersonal Communication Skills in a Therapeutic Context) <i>or</i> , ECEC 150 - (Interpersonal Communication: Theory and Practice)	3
EACS 110 - (Foundations for Practice)	3
EACS 130 - (Teaching and Learning Strategies)	3
EACS 140 - (Understanding & Supporting Behaviour Across the Lifespan)	3
EACS 150 - (Health and Wellness)	3
EACS 160 - (Augmentative Communication and Assistive Technology)	3
EACS 170 - (Challenging Conditions)	3
EACS 180 - (Practicum: School-Based)	3
EACS 190 - (Practicum: Community-Based)	3
<i>One of:</i> ENGL 115 - (University Writing and Research) ENGL 125 - (Literature and Culture) ENGL 135 - (Literature and Criticism)	3
Total Credits	30

* *The order of courses delivered is subject to change.*

Completion Requirements

To be eligible for an Education Assistant and Community Support certificate, students must:

- Complete all program requirements within 5 years.
- Achieve a passing grade in the practicum courses; and,
- Achieve a "C" grade in all other EACS courses

Admission Requirements

- General admission requirements apply.
- English 12 with a minimum "C" grade, or equivalent.
- Group interview.
- Two letters of reference.
- Résumé with covering letter.

Recommendations for Admission

- Volunteer or paid experience working with people who are mentally, physically or behaviourally challenged.

Notes on Admission

- Fieldwork and/or practicums will require a satisfactory criminal record check prior to placement. Criminal Record Checks are requested through VIU. The Registration Centre at VIU will contact prospective students by mail regarding the requirements for a 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. Students are advised that a criminal record may limit their practicum possibilities and their work opportunities in the Human Services field.
- For admission to the program, applicants will be assessed on past academic achievement, related volunteer/paid employment, writing skills, and performance

at an interview with faculty.

- Applicants may be required to provide a letter from a family physician attesting to the applicant's physical suitability to take the program.

Transfer Credit (from other institutions)

Vancouver Island University recognizes the academic knowledge and achievement of students who have undertaken post-secondary studies at other colleges, institutes, or universities. Credit is assigned on the basis of an official transcript, course outlines, and other supporting documentation. Transfer students must meet all of Vancouver Island University's admission requirements.

Student Transfer into Other Programs

Students who complete the Education Assistant and Community Support certificate will be able to bridge into other VIU diplomas and degrees such as the Disabilities Studies diploma, Social Services and Child and Youth Care diplomas, as well as the Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Social Work and Bachelor of Arts in Child and Youth Care degree.

Career Opportunities

The program prepares students to work in entry level positions as education assistants in public and private school systems and in community settings with people who have disabilities.

Start Date and Application Deadline

The program is delivered at both the Nanaimo and Powell River campuses. The Nanaimo campus program starts in September. Intakes for Powell River Campus can vary from year to year based on demand. For a detailed description of the Nanaimo campus delivery see the School and Community Support Worker Program website. For a detailed description of the Powell River blended delivery see Powell River's Education Assistant and Community Support Program website.

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