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Human Services Programs

Social Services

Location Offered:

Nanaimo

Credential:

Diploma

Program Length:

2 Years

The Program

The program provides advanced-level training for working in the social services field and is available on a full-time or a part-time basis. The program includes the following components:

- courses in addictions and addiction treatment, conflict resolution, leadership and supervision, community development, interpersonal skills, and special topics;
- elective courses drawn from a wide-ranging selection of elective options in many different disciplines relevant to the human services field.

The program uses workplace-based projects and assignments to help students integrate and apply classroom learning in practice.

Students who successfully complete the program will receive a Vancouver Island University diploma. Completion of the program also earns credit towards VIU's Bachelor of Social Work and Bachelor of Arts in Child and Youth Care degrees.

Students may also complete courses towards the diploma at the Cowichan campus.

Program Outline

Year 1	Credits
CRIM 290 - (Alternative Conflict Resolution in Criminal Justice Systems)	3
PSYC 121 - (Developmental Psychology I)	3
PSYC 122 - (Developmental Psychology II)	3
SOCW 200A - (Intro to Social Work Practice) <i>or</i> approved alternative	3
SOCW 200B - (Intro to Social Welfare in Canada) <i>or</i> approved alternative	3
SOCW 211 - (Family Studies)	3
CYC 165 - (Introduction to Group Work in Child & Youth Care Practice)	3
SOCW 252 - (Interpersonal Communication Skills)	3
Degree English Requirement*	6
Total Credits	30

* *ENGL 115 and ENGL 125 are recommended.*

Year 2	Credits
HHS 276 - (Trauma and Resiliency Across the Lifespan)	3
SOCW 270 - (Social Work Practice in Mental Health and Addictions)	3
SOCW 280 - (Methods in Social Work Practice)	3
SOCW 281 - (Practicum I)	
SOCW 282 - (Practicum II)	6
<i>15 credits chosen from the following list:</i>	
Faculty of Arts & Humanities	
INDG 101 - (Exploring Indigenous Identities)	
INDG 102 - (Exploring Indigenous Communities)	
INDG 203 - (Indigenous and Settler Relations)	
INDG 204 - (Indigenous Perspectives on the Environment)	
HIST 113 - (Canada since 1945: New and Changing Identities)	
HIST 208 - (North American Popular Culture After World War II)	
HIST 210 - (Canadian Women's History to 1920)	
HIST 231 - (First Nations People in Canadian History since 1867)	
MEDI 115 - (Popular Culture and Mass Media)	
MEDI 200 - (Media, Audience and Society)	
SWAG 200 - (Introduction to Feminisms)	
SWAG 210 - (Introduction to Indigenous Feminisms)	
Faculty of Health & Human Services	
HHS 263 - (Elders Teachings Across Disciplines)	
HHS 264 - (Elders Teachings Across Disciplines II)	
HHS 275 - (Animal Assisted Interventions with Individuals and Families)	
Faculty of Social Sciences	
CRIM 200 - (Aboriginal Issues in the Canadian Criminal Justice System)	
GLST 210 - (Introduction to Global Studies)	
PHIL 112 - (Intro to Philosophy: Ethics)	
POLI 200 - (International Peace and Security)	
POLI 201 - (An Introduction to International Political Economy)	
POLI 221 - (Canadian Politics and Government)	
POLI 245 - (Ideologies and Political Thought)	
POLI 260 - (Justice and the Good Life: an Introduction to Political Thought)	
SOCI 111 - (Introduction to Sociology)	
SOCI 112 - (Introduction to Sociology: Canadian Society in the Contemporary World)	
Total Credits	30

Note: *Not all courses are offered each year.*

Additional Notes

- Students planning to apply to the third year of VIU's Bachelor of Social Work degree require the following:
 - 6 credits of Degree English Requirements or equivalent. A minimum grade of "C+" is required in each course.
 - 6 credits of SOCW 200A and SOCW 200B or equivalent. A minimum grade of "B-" is required for each course.
 - 24 credits of Arts & Humanities and/or Social Science courses.
 - 24 credits of other post-secondary courses not including Social Services/Social Work courses.
 - A minimum Grade Point Average of 2.33 ("C+") calculated on the most recent 24 credits completed.
- **Students graduating from the Social Services Diploma Program with only the required 60 credits must also complete another 18 course credits to meet admission requirements to the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) Program at Vancouver Island University. Students who elect to enter the 3rd year of the BSW program without first completing the Social Services Diploma program at VIU can do so by meeting the admission requirements which are noted above and also located in the VIU**

Bachelor of Social Work Admission Requirements

- Students planning to apply to the third year of VIU's Bachelor Arts, Child and Youth Care degree program must choose CYC 111 and CYC 112 and should consult with the Child and Youth Care advisor.
- SOCW 281 and SOCW 282 (Practicum) are usually taken as a block between April and June (210 hours) and are assessed tuition fees the same as other courses in the program.

Completion Requirements

To earn the diploma, students must:

- complete all required courses, and maintain a minimum "C" grade average;
- complete all requirements for program completion within a 5-year period.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all requirements for the diploma are met. Students are encouraged to consult the Social Services Program Chair/Advisor for information and guidance.

Admission Requirements

- General admission requirements apply.
- English 12 with a minimum "C" grade, or equivalent.
- Volunteer or paid employment in the human services field.
- Résumé and two current letters of reference.
- Submit a Personal Profile.
- Interview may be required.

Notes on Admission

- Students who have completed a Human Services Certificate (e.g., Community Support Worker or Special Education Assistant) at VIU, or elsewhere, or have completed one or more years of University-level courses, may apply for advanced standing on a course-by-course basis. For further information, please contact the program Chair.
- Individuals who have gained knowledge and skills, through considerable experience in the field and through non-formal learning, may wish to explore Prior Learning Assessment towards credit.
- 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. A criminal record may limit practicum possibilities and work opportunities in the human services field.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the diploma program will gain skills to prepare them for work in a broad range of social services positions, including supervisory/administrative roles and more specialized direct service roles with community agencies, private service providers, and some government services.

Start Date and Application Deadline

The program starts in September and applications are accepted between the first business day in October and March 31.

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