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Human Services Programs

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Social Services

- 2-Year Diploma Program
- Program Fees: [Domestic Students](#), [International Students](#)
- [Apply for Admission](#)

VIU also offers the [Bachelor Arts, Child and Youth Care](#) and [Bachelor of Social Work](#) degrees.

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.

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.

Admission Requirements

- [General admission requirements](#) apply.
- English 12 with a minimum "C" grade, or [equivalent](#).
- Interview.
- Volunteer or paid employment in the human services field.
- Resume and two current letters of reference.
- Submit a [Personal Profile](#).

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.

Start Date and Application Deadline

The program starts in September and applications are accepted between October 3 and March 15. For further information regarding late applications and program contacts check the [Program Availability List](#).

Program Outline

| YEAR 1 | Credits |
|--|---------|
| CRIM 290 - (Alternative Conflict Resolution in Criminal Justice Systems) | 3 |
| PSYC 121 - (Developmental Psychology I) <i>or</i> CYC 111 - (Child Development) | 3 |
| PSYC 122 - (Developmental Psychology II) <i>or</i> CYC 112 - (Adolescent Development) | 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 |
| Degree English Requirement * | 6 |
| Two approved electives** | 6 |
| Total Credits | 30 |

* [ENGL 115](#) and [ENGL 125](#) are recommended.

** Electives must be chosen in consultation with program faculty. Note: Students planning to apply to the Bachelor of Social Work program must choose electives from the [Arts & Humanities](#) and/or [Social Sciences](#) faculties.

| YEAR 2 | Credits |
|---|---------|
| SOCW 252 - (Interpersonal Communication Skills) | 3 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| SOCW 270 - (Social Work Practice in Mental Health and Addictions) | 3 |
| SOCW 280 - (Methods in Social Work Practice) | 3 |
| SOCW 281 - (Practicum I) | 6 |
| SOCW 282 - (Practicum II) | |
| 12 credits chosen from the following list: Faculty of Arts & Humanities FNAT 101 - (Exploring Indigenous Identities) FNAT 102 - (Exploring Indigenous Communities) FNAT 103 - (Introduction to First Nations Studies I) FNAT 104 - (Introduction to First Nations Studies II) HIST 206 - (Canadian Society: New and Changing Identities Since 1960) 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 112 - (Popular Culture and Mass Media) MEDI 200 - (Media, Audience and Society) WOST 200 - (Intro to Women's Studies I) WOST 210 - (Intro to Women's Studies: First Nations I) Faculty of Health & Human Services CYC 265 - (An Introduction to Group Work Practice in Professional CYC) CYC 362 - (Child Abuse and Neglect Concerns) 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) | 12 |
| One approved elective* | 3 |
| Total Credits | 30 |

* Electives must be chosen in consultation with program faculty. Note: Students planning to apply to the Bachelor of Social Work program must choose electives from the [Arts & Humanities](#) and/or [Social Sciences](#) faculties.

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 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.

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.

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Vancouver Island University Calendar
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