

Area of Interest: Community and Social Services

Indigenous Studies Foundations - Inuit, Métis, and First Nations

Ontario College Certificate

Program Code: 1412X01FWO

1 Year

Ottawa Campus

Our Program

Explore Inuit, Métis and First Nations` worldviews to identify ways towards a sustainable future.

Intended for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous learners, this one-year Ontario College Certificate program provides you with an opportunity to develop transferable personal and professional skills that are in demand in a wide range of Indigenous-focused areas. You explore Inuit, Métis and First Nations worldviews, community practices and perspectives to support a sustainable future.

You examine the important role and contributions of Inuit, Métis, and First Nations to the land that is now called Canada. You explore what it means to learn from the land, be an ally, and develop an understanding of the many facets of Canadian society to become an informed citizen with a strong cultural understanding and appreciation of the Ways of Knowing and Being of the Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island. Expand your knowledge of Indigenous realities, community organization and practices, and understanding of the ongoing harms of colonialism. Develop skills to strengthen community through responsibility, respect, relationality, and reciprocity. Collaboratively with peers and Indigenous community members, you engage in exploration of various historical and contemporary contexts to identify ways towards truth, reconciliation and resurgence.

You expand transferable skills for your academic and career journey toward an unlimited variety of areas, focusing on bridging cultures and Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Being including, but not limited to:

- relationship to the land
- environmental stewardship
- personal and community well-being
- legal traditions
- self-determination
- language revitalization
- arts and culture
- cultural sensitivity

As a graduate, you may find employment in public, private, non-profit and government sectors that engage with Indigenous communities, or within Indigenous community organizations and businesses. You may choose to continue your education in the Indigenous Studies 2-year diploma and receive credit for the first year. Alternately, you may continue your studies in a discipline-specific academic program, and you will qualify to receive two transfer credits for courses taken in this program.

SUCCESS FACTORS

This program is well-suited for students who:

- Are interested in knowing more about Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Being.
- Are passionate about promoting inclusivity and relationship-building with individuals and groups from diverse backgrounds.
- Are open to looking at issues from multiple perspectives.
- Value personal qualities such as responsibility, initiative, organization and self-regulation.

Learning Outcomes

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

- Use Indigenous Knowledge-informed strategies to establish and maintain equitable relationships in a personal and professional capacity.
- Identify opportunities to adopt a Two-Eyed Seeing approach to weave Indigenous knowledge systems, practices, and processes within a pluralistic society for the benefit of all.
- Use oral and visual Indigenous Ways of communicating knowledge to express thoughts, opinions and emotions.
- Describe strategies to achieve harmony and balance, addressing wholistic needs, to live a good life - mino-bimaadiziwin.
- Explain how Indigenous values, knowledge systems, and worldviews are used to create a vision for self in relationship with the land, family, community, and nationhood.
- Relate principles of Indigenous knowledge to identify personal, academic and career paths.
- Use approaches that respect Indigenous rights, knowledges and values to ensure ethical engagement with Indigenous community, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers.
- Analyze the impacts of colonial mindsets and policies to identify opportunities to support reconciliation frameworks for the advancement of Indigenous rights, perspectives and prosperity.
- Identify and apply discipline-specific practices that contribute to local and global community through social responsibility, economic commitment and environmental stewardship.

Program of Study

Level: 01	Courses	Hours
ENL1813M	Communications 1	42.0
IND0001	Plijashig, Tunngasugit, Miyoonakishkatoohk (Welcome)- Skills for Success	42.0
IND0002	Sustainable Community Development	42.0
IND0003	Introduction to Indigenous Cultures, Heritage, and Worldviews	42.0
IND0004	Indigenous Languages 1	42.0
IND0005	Land-Based Learning: Health and Wellness	42.0
IND0006	Indigenous Governance and Self-Determination	42.0
Level: 02	Courses	Hours
IND0007	Pathways to Career Success	42.0
IND0008	Indigenous Life in Contemporary Contexts	42.0
IND0009	Indigenous Languages 2	42.0

IND0010	Indigenous Legal Traditions	42.0
IND0011	Indigenous Arts: Aesthetics, Culture, and Reclamation	56.0
Choose one from equivalencies: Courses		Hours
GED1412	General Education Elective	42.0

Fees for the 2024/2025 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:

Textbook costs may range from \$300 to \$500.

Admission Requirements for the 2025/2026 Academic Year

College Eligibility

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent
- 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.

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

INDIGENOUS STUDIES FOUNDATIONS - INUIT, MÉTIS, AND FIRST NATIONS Program Code 1412X01FWO

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.force.com/myACint>

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>

Course Descriptions

ENL1813M 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

GED1412 General Education Elective

For this course, you will have the opportunity to choose one from a group of general education electives. Your options will include courses which cover the following broad topic areas: (list the themes that have not been met by the mandated courses, e.g. Arts in Society, Civic Life, Social and Cultural Understanding, Personal Understanding, or Science and Technology).

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

IND0001 Piljashig, Tunngasugit, Miyoonakishkatoohk (Welcome)- Skills for Success

There are many strategies, tools, and supports that can help students to thrive throughout their academic and professional pathway. Students begin to build peer, college, and professional connections to support their journey. Fundamental math, computer and interpersonal skills are explored. Reflections, workshops, and learning activities support the wholistic development of each student. A focus is placed on establishing effective habits as a team member and developing self-awareness.

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

IND0002 Sustainable Community Development

Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island had strong, thriving communities for thousands of years before

the arrival of the settlers. Students reflect on the meaning of community, explore skills needed to participate in sustainable community development practice and examine the work of various community development activists and leaders. A focus on the importance of relationship-building is central to the Indigenous perspective throughout. Students consider the social, physical and political needs that communities serve. Historical and contemporary community organization structures including elements of empowerment and disempowerment are examined to identify restorative practices and approaches. Students examine the critical need for the Government of Canada to fulfil obligations to support Indigenous community development. Through examination of case studies, students investigate how treaties, human rights and land rights are central to Indigenous community development.

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

IND0003 Introduction to Indigenous Cultures, Heritage, and Worldviews

The Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island include three distinct groups: First Nations, Métis, and Inuit, each with their unique history, language, culture, and spirituality. Respecting the diversity of the Indigenous Peoples is fundamental to relationship-building and reconciliation in Canada. Students explore the richness of Indigenous Peoples' diverse history, experiences, values and traditions to reflect on the contemporary relevance of heritage and culture. Led by traditional knowledge carriers, students participate in a variety of experiences to understand the significance of protocols and worldviews. Through examination of a wide range of resources students explore the tangible and intangible elements that make up the multiplicity of perspectives of Indigenous Peoples.

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

IND0004 Indigenous Languages 1

Indigenous languages carry the culture, spirit, and identity of the peoples. There are approximately 60 Indigenous languages in Canada and of those languages, few are considered stable. The others are at risk of vanishing and taking the knowledge and culture with them. Learning to use significant words and phrases contributes to student awareness of culture and heritage. Students explore Indigenous languages and discover the value and relationship between language and culture. Students use traditional protocols to engage in talking circles and examine language revitalization strategies through research, videos, and discussions. Through individual and small group presentations using foundational words and phrases, students develop basic Indigenous language skills.

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

IND0005 Land-Based Learning: Health and Wellness

Relationships with the land and all things in the natural world have contributed to positive physical, spiritual and mental health for the Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island for thousands of years. Contemporary research also acknowledges the interrelationship between the environment and overall wellness. Students take part in land-based activities that promote relearning, revitalizing and reclaiming traditional Indigenous practices. They explore the connection between one's relationship with the environment and personal well-being. Classes take place in both urban and rural settings and are structured to include a variety of cultural practices such as traditional teachings, nature walks, talking circles, harvesting, and reflection to gain a sense of how relationship with the land contributes to well-being.

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

IND0006 Indigenous Governance and Self-Determination

Indigenous communities have always had governing systems that guided people to live in tandem with each other and the land. European policies severed the Indigenous peoples from their traditional governance structures; however, contemporary recognition of traditional governing practices is seeing a resurgence. Students examine Indigenous socio-political relationships and

systems of governance. Students compare traditional governing customs with current government policies related to self-determination. Treaty rights, land claims and Indigenous rights are discussed. Through research and case studies, philosophical traditions that form Indigenous governance structures are explored.

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

IND0007 Pathways to Career Success

Developing a career pathway depends on deep self-reflection about one's interests, strengths, values and life goals. Students examine a variety of education and employment options, including those across Indigenous communities and beyond. Students explore concepts of personal and community leadership and responsibility. Individual and small group exercises, self-reflection, and discussion are used to promote a strong sense of self to inform students' career path planning process.

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

IND0008 Indigenous Life in Contemporary Contexts

Lived experiences of the Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island have resulted in intergenerational traumas and lasting social impacts. Students explore the ways that Indigenous Peoples are leveraging their own knowledges and voices to assert cultural sovereignty and self-determination for their peoples, while creating strategies for reconciliation and resurgence. Students examine topics and concerns such as racism, microaggressions, inadequate housing and water, access to health and education, human rights, land protection and appropriation and reflect on what can be done to support Indigenous resistance and reclamation. Through review of current media, readings, videos, and discussions, students identify on-going impacts of colonization and describe ways to support a renewed relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people on Turtle Island.

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

IND0009 Indigenous Languages 2

Indigenous languages can be linked to unique knowledge systems, human rights, social inclusiveness, poverty reduction, sustainable development, diversity, peace building and reconciliation. Contemporary issues related to Indigenous language protection, restoration and retention are explored. Students build word recognition in a variety of Indigenous languages through traditional personal introductions, pair and small group conversations and presentations.

Prerequisite(s): IND0004
Corerequisite(s):none

IND0010 Indigenous Legal Traditions

Indigenous legal systems have existed for thousands of years; colonization brought decades of government effort to suppress, eliminate and even criminalize its existence. Indigenous legal traditions are experiencing a resurgence and there is growing recognition of the importance to the Canadian legal system. Students examine the history and traditions of Indigenous law in Canada such as the Great Law of Peace. The focus is on how Indigenous legal traditions can be included as an integral part of and contribute to transformation of the Canadian multi-judicial system. Students examine how Indigenous legal systems influence behaviour, guide relationships, and help to overcome conflicts within the diverse societies on Turtle Island. Through analysis of articles, research, and case studies students investigate the interrelationship between Indigenous legal traditions and Canada's legal system.

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

IND0011 Indigenous Arts: Aesthetics, Culture, and Reclamation

Music, dance, stories, and visual arts are central to the way that Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island record and communicate their realities. Through authentic artistic works, Indigenous peoples express their truths, replacing the colonial representations of the past. Rich and evolving Indigenous cultures are celebrated through engaging with and reflecting on various artforms such as petroglyphs, beading, carvings, embroidery, music, dance and stories, and visual artists, performers, and writers. Students examine various art, stories, and curated collections that represent the rich historical and contemporary diversity of Indigenous Peoples. Students engage in creative workshops, artistic projects and written narratives to communicate their own ideas and realities using traditional and modern artistic methods.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none