

SOCIAL SERVICE WORKER

(Two Year Post-Secondary Diploma)

Please read and think about the following information below carefully to decide whether this program is a good fit for you. This information may change and is simply intended to offer you a helpful perspective on what you will experience in this program.

Orientation:	Final week of August (Required for all students)
Program Dates:	September through June each year, for two years
Post-Graduation Work Permit:	Up to 3 years.
Scheduled Breaks:	Last week of December and first week of January (two weeks); first week of March (one week). Check your registration for exact dates.
Schedule:	Classes: Monday to Friday as early as 8:00 a.m. and as late as 6:00 p.m. Practicums: hours will vary.
Location:	1430 Victoria Avenue East, Brandon, Manitoba. See campus information here 520 Whitmore Avenue Dauphin, Manitoba See campus information here

What You'll Study:

Program has an indigenous focus.

Gain practical skills and knowledge in counselling and interviewing, professional communication and proposal writing.

Study government, justice and social welfare systems. Explore critical issues like addictions, family systems, mental health, and violence. Learn about social services, community development, psychology and sociology.

Develop your cross-cultural awareness, professionalism and communications, writing and conflict management skills.

See course descriptions [here](#). Click on the "Courses & Costs" tab.

See PDF document on [this page](#).

How You'll "Learn By Doing":

Work with individuals, groups and communities to develop strategies and programs to proactively address social challenges, including poverty, addiction, abuse and mental health issues.

Learn through hands-on activities and field trips.

Much of the learning will be in groups. You will need to be comfortable in examining and discussing your own background, beliefs, values and behavior.

Research theory and issues and write term papers.

Use computer software for class assignments, communication and presentations.

Apply your learning in two (unpaid) practicum placements in community health, education or institutional environments.

Job Options for Graduates

Graduates may find employment such as a case worker with social services, the regional health authority, provincial corrections, probation services, or community-based assistance programs. Community-based programs may include: drop-in centres, crisis centres, food banks, homeless shelters, group homes, and mental health settings.

Some jobs will require evening and weekend work and/or long hours of work,

Some jobs may be part-time or “contract”, dependent on funding.

Some jobs may require a Manitoba driver’s license. See information [here](#).

Possible jobs on Manitoba In-Demand Occupations list: [4212 – Social and community service workers](#)

What You’ll Need To Do to Graduate:

- **Attend all classes:** participate in activities, ask questions, complete all evaluations. Do **not** plan vacation/a trip home outside of regularly scheduled college breaks.
- **Purchase all required books and supplies.**
- **Pass all courses with 60%.** Re-testing is (usually) **not** an option. If you fail a course, it may not be available again until the following year and/or you could become a part-time student.
- **English only during class.** All English skills (reading, writing, listening, speaking) are important. You will write a number of research papers/essays. Evaluation will also include tests, group projects, and presentations in English.
- **No personal cell phone use during class.**
- **Do your own work.** Cheating, not referencing sources of your ideas, or using other people’s work (current or previous) will result in failing grades, probation or suspension. See Policy A25 from this Academic Policies [link](#).
- **Be respectful** of all students and staff.
- **Ask for help** when you need it!

How College Can Help You

- Trained instructors will share their knowledge and experience from the industry, and will give you frequent and specific feedback on your progress.
- Learning Commons staff can assist with study and test taking skills, mathematics, writing reports or term papers, and some tutorial support.
- Student advising staff offer support for academic planning and can refer you to resources outside the college such as counselling, housing, and other supports.
- A Regulated International Student Immigration Advisor can answer questions related to permits.

Other important information:

“Co-op work permit” will be required by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada before you start the practicum placement in Spring term of Year 1. Your letter of acceptance will allow you to apply. See the IRCC website [here](#). Apply for this **early**, as processing time is very long!

Criminal record and abuse checks: Many practicum placements require students to disclose convictions for any offenses. In some instances, applicants with a criminal record or listed on the Child Abuse Registry and/or Adult Abuse Registry may be unable to complete the program. If you complete the program *without* these checks, your employment opportunities will be less.

International students can complete these checks when they arrive in Canada; **note these checks will have an additional cost.**