




Assiniboine
College

Indigenous Student Guide

2025-26



Assiniboine College campuses are located on the traditional territories of Treaty No. 1 and Treaty No. 2, and the shared traditional lands of Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, Dene and Anishinabek/Ojibwe peoples, and the homeland of the Red River Métis nation. We also recognize other Treaty territories where our community-based training takes place. We welcome students who seek knowledge here.



Welcome TO ASSINIBOINE!

Welcome • Bienvenue • Tawów • Hau/Han
Masih Nenudeli • Tungahogiti • Piihtikway
Kiwiishaamikoo • Miigwech Bi-Izhaayeg

We are honoured to welcome students from many nations across the province and around the country, strengthening our wealth of First Nations, Métis and Inuit knowledge at Assiniboine. We aim to infuse cultural teachings into curriculum to ensure that Indigenous students see themselves and their realities reflected in the learning process. Our goal is that all students will acquire the knowledge and skills to be culturally competent and gain a true understanding of Indigenous affairs, past and present, in Canada.

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CONTACT US:

Indigenous Affairs: indigenouaffairs@assiniboine.net

Learn more about Indigenous Affairs by visiting assiniboine.net/indigenous

Get to Know Us

Connecting with someone at Assiniboine is a great way to start your educational journey. Meet the team that will help you explore programs and assist with your education plan.

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS



KRIS DESJARLAIS, NEHIYAW/MÉTIS
Director, Indigenous Education
desjarlaisk4@assiniboine.net



CRYSTAL BUNN, DAKOTA
Indigenous Services Officer
[204.573.3690 | bunnc@assiniboine.net](mailto:bunnc@assiniboine.net)



CECIL ROULETTE, ANISHINAABE
Indigenous Student Success Advisor
[204.725.8700 ext. 7181](mailto:roulett@assiniboine.net)
roulett@assiniboine.net

Our team offers a wide-range of support and services to assist students along their post-secondary journey. We liaise with academic advisors, connect you with important community resources and provide guidance to First Nation, Métis and Inuit

students from a holistic perspective to support your academic goals. We act as a resource for all faculty and students, including those in community-based programs, in their efforts to acquire a true understanding of Indigenous cultures and ways of knowing.

RECRUITMENT

Our student recruitment specialists visit numerous communities throughout the year. For many of our students, Assiniboine's recruiters are the first point of college contact. We provide opportunities to learn about the college through presentations, campus tours and one-on-one appointments. We can help you explore programs, match you with the ones that are right for you, and introduce you to the Assiniboine experience. We are more than happy to meet to discuss program options, what life at Assiniboine is like, and answer any questions you may have!

[204.725.8750](tel:204.725.8750) | Toll free: [800.862.6307](tel:800.862.6307) ext. 8750 | recruit@assiniboine.net





STUDENT SUCCESS ADVISORS & LEARNING STRATEGISTS

Our student success advisors and learning strategists meet with prospective and current students of Assiniboine to ensure you are on the right path to achieving academic success. We are available to meet with you in-person or over the phone to answer questions about the college's programs and services.

204.725.8723 | studentservices@assiniboine.net

We can provide guidance on funding, housing and childcare, as well as help you with program planning, academic assessment for admissions and understanding college policies and procedures.

EXPERIENCE Assiniboine

DISCOVER ASSINIBOINE WITH THIS ONE-STOP SHOP!

- ✔ Find the program that best fits you
- ✔ Register for live, online info sessions
.... and so much more!

assiniboine.net/experienceassiniboine



**You've got mail
(and a free gift!)**

Fill out this form, tell us your interests and we'll mail you a personalized package with a free gift.



Visiting Elders

& KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS

Visiting Elders and Knowledge Keepers are available at all campuses for traditional knowledge and teachings.

They represent Dakota, Anishinaabek, Nehiyaw, St'at'imc and Métis Nations, and provide guidance, teachings, historical information, traditional knowledge and support to all students.

The visiting Elders program offers Assiniboine students an opportunity to interact with Elders and Knowledge Keepers in an informal setting, with the ability to request one-on-one spiritual and cultural guidance.



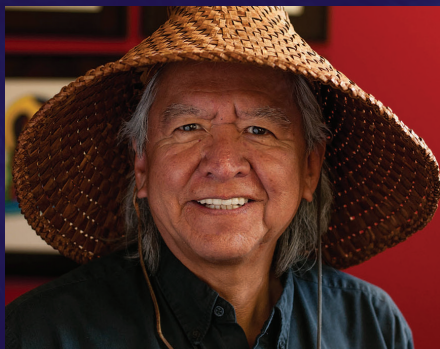
SHIRLEY NORQUAY, ANISHINAABE



EUGENE ROSS, DAKOTA



VERNA DEMONTIGNY, MÉTIS



GERRY OLEMAN, ST'AT'IMC



REG NEPINAK, ANISHINAABE
Parkland campus



HARVEY PELLETIER, MÉTIS



LORRAINE POMPANA, DAKOTA



FRANK TACAN, DAKOTA



GRACE MASSE, WOODLAND CREE



ALLEN SUTHERLAND, ANISHINAABE



DEBORAH TACAN, CREE/MÉTIS



**SUSIE MCPHERSON-DERENDY,
NEHIYAW (PLAINS CREE)**



Our Commitment

Assiniboine College recognizes the unique history of Indigenous peoples and is committed to playing an active role in reconciliation. Indigenous learners and communities are an important consideration in senior-level decision making and organizational planning.

We believe strongly in strengthening our partnerships with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples through continued collaboration. Our college has a proud history of working with Indigenous communities and organizations across the province and this will continue to flourish. By making positive changes to reduce barriers to education and educational supports, we can empower Indigenous students to succeed.

Assiniboine has an important role in helping to reducing the educational attainment and employment gaps that currently exist between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Increasing pathways for Indigenous learners will contribute to the success and prosperity of individuals, families, and communities while also addressing labour market demand and Manitoba's economic growth. With the support of provincial and federal governments, additional education opportunities extend beyond our campuses to training sites both on- and off-reserve.

Strengthening OUR COMMUNITY

Assiniboine strives to celebrate Indigenous cultures, develop strong ties, improve access to study opportunities and bring learning options directly to those who prefer to learn closer to home.

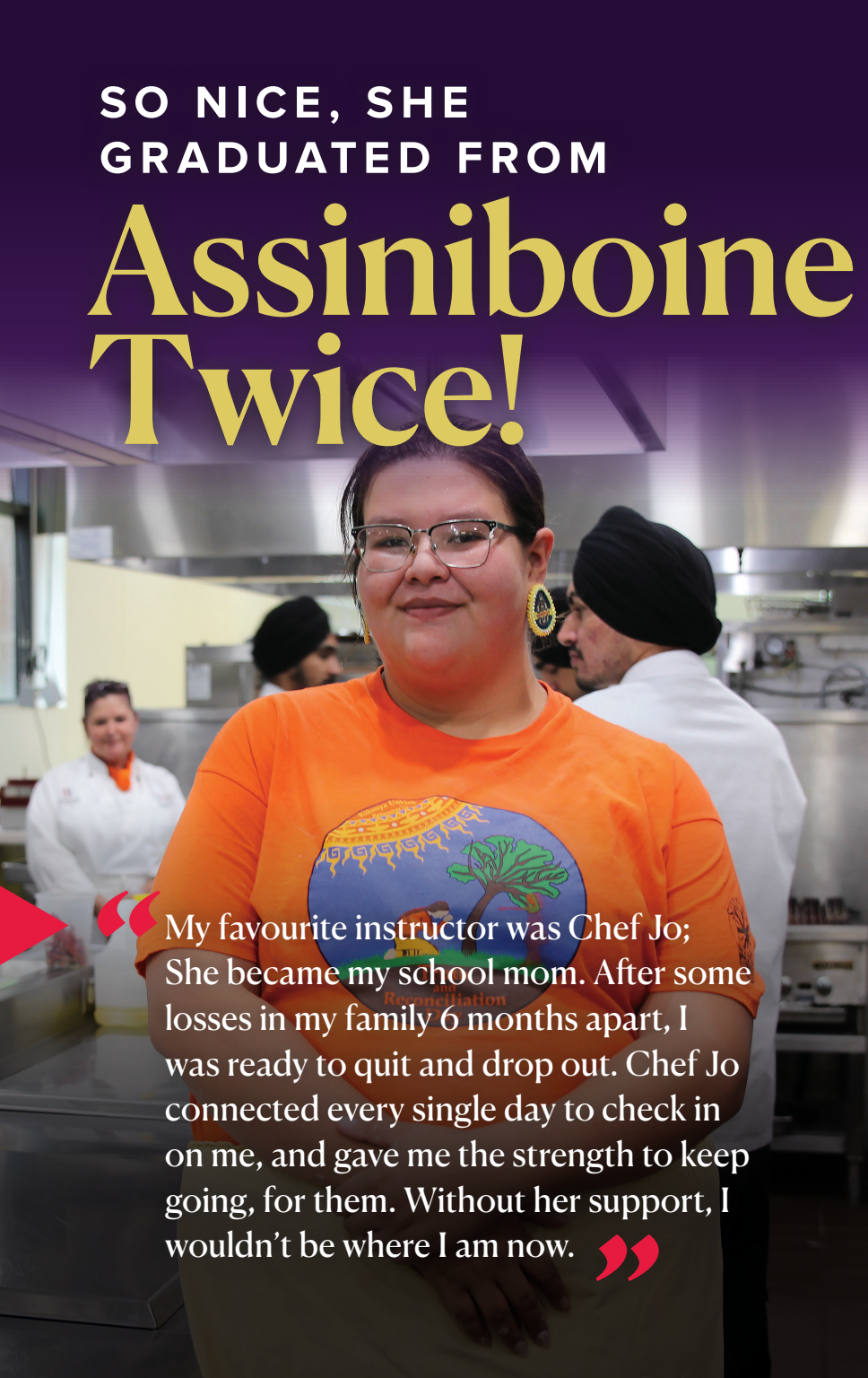
Community-based training is one of the strengths of Assiniboine; in locations where we don't have a permanent campus, we deliver training and programs so students can live and study where you have strong ties and roots. In the past several years, we've partnered with a variety of First Nation communities across Manitoba, including:

- ▶ Sandy Bay
- ▶ Gods Lake Narrows
- ▶ Peguis
- ▶ Pine Creek
- ▶ Tootinaowaziibeeng
- ▶ Rolling River
- ▶ Swan Lake
- ▶ Ebb & Flow
- ▶ Birdtail Sioux
- ▶ Sioux Valley

If you're looking for educational opportunities close to where you live, connect with your counselor. If you're enrolled in a community-based Assiniboine program, you have access to all of the student supports that on-campus students have—reach out to our Indigenous Affairs team at indigenouaffairs@assiniboine.net if you'd like to learn more, need support, or would like to get involved.

SO NICE, SHE
GRADUATED FROM

Assiniboine Twice!



“My favourite instructor was Chef Jo; She became my school mom. After some losses in my family 6 months apart, I was ready to quit and drop out. Chef Jo connected every single day to check in on me, and gave me the strength to keep going, for them. Without her support, I wouldn't be where I am now.”

A two-time Culinary Arts and Baking Foundations grad's journey to television

Aaliyah Dominique-Taylor has been a culinary enthusiast from a young age. What started as time with her mom in the kitchen, cooking the Christmas turkey, has evolved into being responsible for the pies and sweets at family gatherings. Thanks to her training from Assiniboine, they are coveted additions and a testament to her passion for the art of cooking.

Aaliyah graduated from the Culinary Arts program in 2021, and completed her Baking Foundations program the following year. Both programs were delivered at the Manitoba Institute for Culinary Arts at Assiniboine's North Hill campus.

Her most unforgettable moment in the industry came this September, and is going to be hard to top – Aaliyah entered the culinary spotlight when she appeared on the popular cooking show, “Chuck and the First Peoples Kitchen.” The show's host, Chef Chuck Hughes, travels to Indigenous communities from Quebec to Saskatchewan to interview Indigenous people and learn about their traditional recipes and ancestral hunting and fishing techniques.

On the show, Aaliyah was part of a demonstration on how to traditionally cook bison. Bison was a staple in her culture for generations, and she was fortunate to share the rich culinary traditions of her people with a wider audience.

Using a mix of traditional methods and culinary skills gained through her education at the college, Aaliyah cooked the tongue of the bison, and presented it to the show's host, Chuck, who was

amazed by her expertise and the delicious flavour of the dish.

Aaliyah's journey to the culinary world hadn't come without its intimidations. She recalled her high school days when the prospect of going to college felt daunting.

"I remember when I was in high school, I was scared to go to college. I was filled with so much anxiety and fear, making myself think I wasn't going to make friends, I was going to be the worst one in my class," she said.

However, her fears dissipated on her first day of college during the orientation. A friendly classmate leaned over and asked, "Are you scared too?"

Aaliyah's anxiety and fear melted away as they connected over their shared apprehensions. Both young and fresh out of high school, they had each moved away from their families for the first time.

Her new classmate, she learned, was also Indigenous, and their friendship marked the beginning of a transformative journey for Aaliyah. She learned that

college was not only about education but also about building lifelong friendships and creating unforgettable memories. Aaliyah's culinary pursuits thrived in this supportive environment and her passion for cooking blossomed.

Aaliyah's family is always eager to savour her delicious creations. Her signature pies, cookies, and cheesecakes have become family favorites. Baking, in particular, has become her forté, and she takes immense pride in sharing her skills with her loved ones.

Aaliyah's appearance on "Chuck and the First Peoples Kitchen" feels like it is just the beginning of her journey. She knows that she had a unique opportunity to promote the traditions and flavors of her heritage, and she is determined to continue sharing her passion with the world. As she looks back on her college journey, she has a piece of advice for those who were afraid to take the leap into higher education.

"Don't be scared to do what you love because you could be making history," she said.

Aaliyah Dominique-Taylor is certainly making her mark, not just as a two-time college graduate, but also as a culinary artist dedicated to preserving and sharing the rich cultural heritage through her delectable creations.



INDIGENOUS STUDENT AWARDS

- ▶ **Assiniboine College Foundation Indigenous Achievement Bursary (x2) - \$3,000**
Entrance or bridging; based on financial need
- ▶ **Assiniboine College Indigenous Achievement Award - \$2,000**
Bridging (between first and second year); based on demonstrated college/community involvement, leadership and GPA
- ▶ **The D.R. Nankar Bursary for Indigenous Education - \$1,000**
Entrance; based on financial need
- ▶ **Assiniboine College Indigenous Leadership Entrance Award - \$2,000**
Entrance; based on demonstrated school/community involvement, leadership and high school marks
- ▶ **Louis Riel Institute Bursary (multiple) - up to \$5,000**
Entrance or bridging (between first and second year) for Métis students; based on financial need
- ▶ **Tundra Oil and Gas Indigenous Award (x2) - \$4,000**
Bridging (between first and second year); based on demonstrated school/community involvement and leadership

EXPERIENCE THE Difference

Assiniboine's friendly and welcoming attitude is simply who we are. Small class sizes mean your instructors know your name and want to get to know you. Our campuses are easy to find and navigate, which means you can move between classes quickly, see friends every day and access any supports you need.

INDIGENOUS STUDENT SUPPORTS

Our team offers a variety of services and events throughout the year that are available to Indigenous students studying on campus, online or through community-based programs. All students are encouraged to access our services and participate in the following:

- ▶ Orientation
- ▶ Indigenous Student Welcome
- ▶ Holistic, proactive advising and support
- ▶ Elders and Knowledge Keepers' program
- ▶ Family events
- ▶ Cultural celebrations, activities and teachings
- ▶ Monthly sharing circles
- ▶ Online bingo
- ▶ Peer mentoring and role models
- ▶ Our Journey: End of Year Celebration

The Cultural Centres, located at the Victoria Avenue East and North Hill campuses in Brandon, are dedicated and welcoming Indigenous spaces to relax, visit, learn or study. Crystal and Cecil are available to meet with students at the Brandon centres from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday.



26% of domestic graduates from Assiniboine in the 2023/24 academic year were Indigenous.

STUDENT RESOURCES

Everyone experiences a different transition when attending college. We ensure all students have access to the supports they need to live a healthy and balanced lifestyle. Your instructors will be great resources if you have questions throughout your program. We offer supports to all students, including peer tutoring, the Learning Curve, the library, **accessibility/disability** services and connection to your student success advisor.

assiniboine.net/studentsupports

COUGARS ATHLETICS

Interested in playing a sport while attending college? We offer men's and women's volleyball, soccer, futsal and curling and women's hockey. We provide travel, meals, accommodations and clothing to our student athletes.

assiniboine.net/athletics

FINANCIAL AID & AWARDS

The Assiniboine College Foundation raises money that goes directly to students each year. More than 1 million dollars is available annually to students in the form of scholarships and bursaries.

assiniboine.net/awards

Note: In order to qualify for some forms of funding, students will need certain tax information. Ensure you have filed your taxes so that you can qualify for Student Aid and other forms of funding.

Assiniboine is a post-secondary partner with the Tuition Waiver program, which provides financial assistance to anyone who has ever been in care in the Manitoba child welfare system.

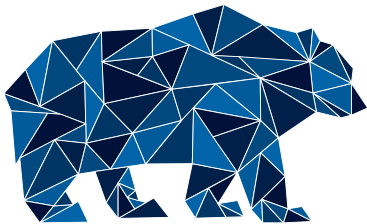
futuresforward.ca

Seven Sacred Teachings

FROM A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

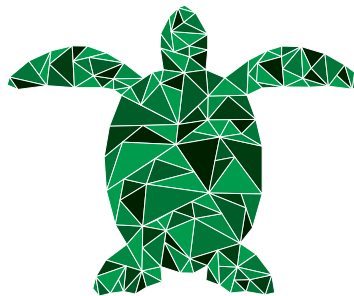
The **Seven Sacred Teachings** form the foundation of a full and healthy life. Traditionally, they were taught through the story of an innocent child who received these gifts from Seven Grandparents (powerful spirits). Nations and communities may use differing stories to impart these teachings, but the same guiding principles and morals are found in all. Over time, Indigenous peoples used animals to embody the spirit and intent of the teachings, and the animals are now the symbolic representations. The teachings remind us of the way to live a good life and carry ourselves in relation to all others. Their origin dates back to the beginning of time, and they have been embraced by Indigenous cultures across Turtle Island.

The write-ups included here have been written by the Indigenous Affairs team at Assiniboine to help guide you during your student journey.



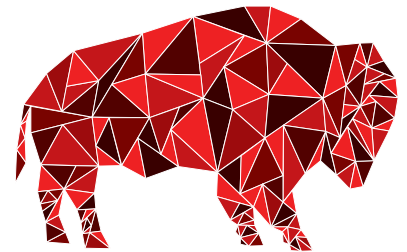
COURAGE

Venture out. Push yourself.
Do the right thing. Stay strong.
Live a health life—mind, body and spirit.



TRUTH

Do not lie to yourself or to others.
Speak truthfully. Do what you say,
honourably and truthfully.



RESPECT

Respect others in and out of school.
Treat others the way you would like
to be treated. Respect rules. Show up
on time. Hand in work and listen.
Respect yourself.



HONESTY

Be honest with yourself and others. Do what you say you are going to do; keep your word. Be realistic with time, money, school work and life.



HUMILITY

Life is sacred. Everyone is a human being; no one is better than another. Have compassion; do not say "I know"—you stop yourself from learning when you do. Be selfless, not selfish.



WISDOM

Be open-minded. Use your gifts to create a healthy lifestyle. Listen. Be observant. Make wise decisions. Live and learn.



LOVE

There is no shortcut to achieving love. Learn to love yourself so you can learn to love others.

STEPS TO Success

Track your progress to becoming an Assiniboine student with this check list!

Part 1 SECURE A SPOT IN YOUR PROGRAM

Find a program that interests you

- ▶ See what programs may interest you by taking our Me@ACC career quiz at assiniboine.net/careerquiz.
- ▶ Find out more by searching our program list online at assiniboine.net/programs.
- ▶ Attend a program information session. To register, visit assiniboine.net/infoession.
- ▶ Contact our recruitment team at recruit@assiniboine.net or 204.725.8750 or 800.862.6307 ext. 8750.

Take upgrading courses (if applicable)

- ▶ We offer upgrading courses for students in both Brandon and Dauphin. Check out the details at assiniboine.net/adultlearning.

Submit your application

- ▶ Visit assiniboine.net/apply to get started on your online application. For most programs at Assiniboine (those that are not competitive entry), qualified applicants are admitted on a first-qualified, first-served basis.
- ▶ You will need to submit the following (at minimum) to apply:
 - ▶ Online application
 - ▶ \$95 application fee
 - ▶ Official transcripts
- ▶ Certain programs, such as our competitive entry programs, require additional documentation. Check out the admission requirements on your program's webpage for full details.
- ▶ Receive an automatic follow-up email from Assiniboine stating we have received your application.

Receive your acceptance e-mail

- ▶ This email will inform you of your acceptance and will ask you to pay your tuition deposit to hold a spot in the program. It will also contain your start date and any conditions of your acceptance.

Apply for sponsorship (if applicable)

- ▶ Contact your sponsor (by April for a September start and October for a January start) and ensure they complete a sponsorship authorization form to send to Assiniboine as soon as your sponsorship is confirmed. Visit assiniboine.net/sponsorship to download the form.

Pay your tuition deposit

- ▶ This deposit secures your spot in your program. If you cannot pay your tuition deposit on time, call the Admissions Office toll-free at 800.862.6307 ext. 4036.

Congratulations!

on securing a spot in
your program!

Part 2 PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

Communicate with your supports

- ▶ Identify supports that will help you through your educational journey. Feel free to contact the member of your team at Assiniboine who has been assisting you so far. They will set up an appointment with your student success advisor for program information or can connect you with cultural supports.

Apply for housing (if applicable)

- ▶ Apply for housing early! Some options for housing include Brandon University residence (brandonu.ca/residence), an online database of housing options for students in Brandon. Students can also post a free roommate or sublet advertisement.

Apply for childcare (if applicable)

- ▶ The Assiniboine Early Learning Centre is located at the Victoria Avenue East campus in Brandon. Parkland Campus Kids Inc. is located at the Parkland Campus in Dauphin. Call 204.725.8713 (Brandon), 204.622.2222 ext. 6557 (Dauphin) or visit assiniboine.net/childcare for more information.

Find your mode of transportation

- ▶ In Brandon, a bus pass is included when you pay your Students' Association fees. If you are bringing a vehicle, paid parking is available at each campus and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit assiniboine.net/parking for more information.

Balance your finances

- ▶ Apply as early as June 1 for a Manitoba Government student loan (if applicable) at manitobastudentaid.ca.
- ▶ Apply for Assiniboine scholarships and bursaries. See assiniboine.net/awards.

Receive your registration package

- ▶ This package will be emailed to you in July. It will have information on registering for courses, parking and other campus supports.

Pay your tuition fees

- ▶ Information on how and when to pay these fees will be delivered to you from our registrar's office.

Indigenous student welcome

- ▶ Attend this orientation and you will meet your instructors, fellow students, peer mentors, knowledge keepers, elders, academic supports, find your classes, get your locker and much more. Get to know your campus and feel like a part of the community!

Attend Class

- ▶ Enjoy your first day of classes! Be sure to keep any course outlines and descriptions, as they may be important further along your educational journey.

Need help with anything on this checklist?

Contact Cecil Roulette, Indigenous Student Success Advisor,
at 204.725.8700 ext. 7181 or roulettc@assiniboine.net

Indigenous Centred

EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING

It's important that you receive a warm welcome, are supported throughout your journey, and are celebrated when you achieve success. Assiniboine has developed many activities, events and programs where you can experience what the college has to offer. We hope to see you at as many as possible!

INDIGENOUS STUDENT WELCOME

We know many students will be nervous as they make their transition to college. Each year, we like to welcome new and returning students with a day filled with food, fun, prizes, entertainment and ceremony. This event gives students an opportunity to meet peer mentors, advisors, Elders and Knowledge Keepers, as well as other supports available on campus and in the community. It is a great way to get to know other students, make important connections, and helps ensure students are ready to go on the first day of class.

PEER MENTORING PROGRAM

The Indigenous Peer Mentoring Program pairs new and returning Indigenous students to meet for a few hours each month to support positive connections and student success.

Participate in activities such as one-on-one and group mentoring sessions, cultural events, study groups and sharing circles.

Meet new people, navigate and access college and community supports, build communication and relationship skills, and help other students embrace their culture!

OUR JOURNEY: END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

In May, Assiniboine College, Brandon University, Brandon School Division and our Indigenous education partners hold a joint celebration of Indigenous student success. It is a chance to honour our graduates together and celebrate Indigenous students in ceremony.



EXPLORE Assiniboine

INFORMATION SESSIONS

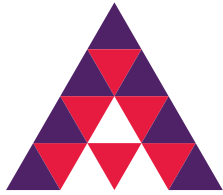
Curious about college? Explore your options! Our live, online information sessions give you an overview about the program you're interested in. Chat with faculty, ask questions and get to know Assiniboine!

assiniboine.net/infoession

SPEND A DAY

The program is a great way to “test drive” a program to find out if it's the right fit for you. When you register to spend a day, we will partner you with a current student in the program of your choice and you will have the opportunity to participate in classroom activities, experience college life, explore all of our helpful services for students and meet college students and instructors.

assiniboine.net/spendaday



**Assiniboine
College**

For more information
on attending Assiniboine :

recruit@assiniboine.net
204.725.8750 | 800.862.6307 ext. 8750

assiniboine.net

f ASSINIBOINEINDIGENOUS

 [assiniboinecollege](https://www.instagram.com/assiniboinecollege)

 [assiniboinecollege](https://www.facebook.com/assiniboinecollege)

 [assiniboine_mb](https://www.x.com/assiniboine_mb)

 [assiniboinecollege](https://www.linkedin.com/company/assiniboinecollege)

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Please contact accessibility@assiniboine.net or **204.725.8700** (ext. 6052).