



2024-25

INDIGENOUS STUDENT GUIDE

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
indigenousaffairs@assiniboine.net

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



Assiniboine Community 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.

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



Cecil Roulette, Anishinaabe
Indigenous Student Success Advisor
204.725.8700 ext. 7181 | roulettcc@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
Toll free: 800.862.6307 ext. 8750
recruit@assiniboine.net



Erin Lambert
Manager, Recruitment



Eileen Moody, Cree
Indigenous Student
Recruitment Specialist



Amanda Dorscheid
Student
Recruitment Specialist



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

204.725.8723

studentservices@assiniboine.net

about the college's programs and services. 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 ACC

Discover Assiniboine with this one-stop shop!

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

FREE GIFT when you sign up for an exploration guide!
Scan the QR code or visit assiniboine.net/experienceACC



SCAN ME



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

IN LOVING MEMORY

Marina Tacan

Elder Marina, also known as Red Bird Women, was a gifted story teller who would capture your undivided attention with her infectious smile, spirited cadence, and often refreshing candor. We are forever grateful for her 20 years of service with Assiniboine.



Bev Harvey

Elder Bev, also known as Bright Star Medicine Cloud Woman, will be remembered for her wisdom and guidance. She has been widely recognized for her efforts in helping people in the Parkland area with their personal recovery and healing journeys.



Lorraine Pompana, Dakota



Frank Tacan, Dakota



Susie McPherson-Derendy, Nehiyaw (Plains Cree)



Allen Sutherland, Anishinaabe



Deborah Tacan, Cree/Métis



Grace Masse, Woodland Cree

OUR COMMITMENT

Assiniboine Community 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
- » Birds Tail 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 indigenousaffairs@assiniboine.net if you'd like to learn more, need support, or would like to get involved.

LIVES CHANGED THROUGH LIFETIME LEARNING

SEBASTIAN KEEWATIN
AND STEVIE KAY
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



We often hear stories of education providing a brighter future for students and their families. Or about couples who have overcome challenges and adversity to build a stronger relationship and a better life for them and their children.

Other stories tell us about the transformative power of lifetime learning and the important role education can play in delivering that transformation to students of all ages. This is a story that captures all of these themes, told from the Parkland campus at Assiniboine.

Five years ago, Sebastian Keewatin, 35 - his friends call him "Sab" - was a young father without a high school diploma. He worked a series of low-wage, part-time jobs to help support his young family, but kept running in to the same problem.

"I applied at places, and most places said I needed my grade 12," he says. "And I didn't have my grade 12. I went to ACC, the mature

student program, and acquired my high school diploma in about six months."

That was a positive step, he says, but "I got that and then tried applying to more places, but they wanted me to work shifts, and that's what I wanted to get out of. I couldn't find any work that I wanted, so I decided to keep going.... I pushed myself to enter the business administration program at ACC, and I sparked a flame inside Stevie, and she wanted to go next. So we both applied for schooling."

Stevie Kay, 34, is Sab's partner and they share two sons, aged 13 and 7. Stevie had graduated from high school years ago and started university. "I had originally gone for a bachelor of science to do computer science," she says. "But when I got to university, I ended up falling behind and thinking 'This isn't what I want to do at all. I don't want to do this for the rest of my life.'"

Stevie found a job at a financial institution in Dauphin and thought to herself, "I love the finance industry. I love doing this stuff. I love working with figures. This is what I should have gone to school for."

When Sab applied to the Business Administration program at Assiniboine's Parkland campus, Stevie realized she also wanted to enroll in the program.

"I've always wanted to go back to school as well," she says. "I was like 'Well, if I don't take this opportunity, I'm going to have to wait two years to do this because the program is only offered every two years. And by then, he will be done, and we'll both be waiting for each other.'"

So, they entered the program together. They're enjoying it and they're doing great. "I absolutely loved the financial accounting," says Stevie. "It was like 'This is why I am taking this and going for this accounting specialization.' I excelled in the accounting classes and, for me, I was like 'I am loving this. I'm understanding it. This is fun.'"

Sab agrees. "I like everything about the program. I like the HR, marketing, financial accounting. I had problems with test taking.

It was the financing accounting tests. You get a cheat sheet, but I think the fear of tests gets to you."

Sab and Stevie are on track to graduate next June, and they have big plans for the future. "We're both planning to go for an advanced diploma in financial services and/or our masters degrees," says Stevie. "Because this is something that we're really passionate about."

As for their long term plans, Sab says "We're going to own our own business. As soon as we got into business administration, we said 'Ten years from now, we're going to open up our own accounting firm. We're going to be the first Indigenous-owned firm, and we're going to help out Indigenous communities all around.'"

Stevie adds that "Being Indigenous, we've noticed there's a stigma with Indigenous people and finances. There's this very big gap between Indigenous people and understanding finances better. So, that's where we want to market our services - to help people understand that."

Stevie has some advice for others who are in situations similar to Sab and Stevie's, and thinking of going back to school. "Don't think it's too late," she says. "At our age and situation, having a family and all that. Never be afraid, because I was afraid. I sacrificed a lot to go to school but - you know what? - the results of this are going to be way better than if I had never tried, never took on this challenge."

"We did it, and you can do it too."

INDIGENOUS STUDENT AWARDS

- » **Assiniboine Community College Foundation Indigenous Achievement Bursary** (x2) - \$3,000
Entrance or bridging; based on financial need
- » **Assiniboine Community 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 Community 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.

20% OF GRADUATES FROM
ASSINIBOINE SELF-IDENTIFY
AS FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS
OR INUIT.

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. Visit [assiniboine.net/studentsupports](https://www.assiniboine.net/studentsupports) for more information.

COUGARS ATHLETICS

Interested in playing a sport while attending college? We offer men's and women's volleyball, soccer, futsal and women's hockey. We provide travel, meals, accommodations and clothing to our student athletes. For more information on Cougar Athletics, visit [assiniboine.net/athletics](https://www.assiniboine.net/athletics) or contact our Athletics Manager at cougars@assiniboine.net.

FINANCIAL AID & AWARDS

The Assiniboine Community College Foundation raises money that goes directly to students each year. Approximately \$600,000 is available annually to students in the form of scholarships and bursaries. Visit [assiniboine.net/awards](https://www.assiniboine.net/awards) to browse all available options or contact awards@assiniboine.net for more information.

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.

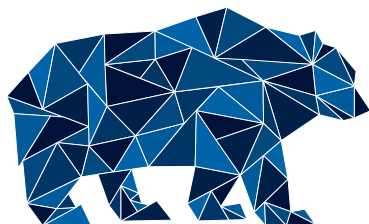
Assiniboine is a post-secondary partner with the Tuition Waiver program, which provides financial assistance to anyone who has ever been in care in the Manitoba child welfare system. Visit [futuresforward.ca](https://www.futuresforward.ca), call 204.987.8661 ext 671 or email tuitionwaiver@yesmb.ca for more information.

SEVEN SACRED TEACHINGS

FROM A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

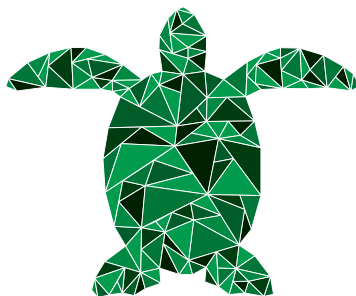
The Seven Sacred Teachings form the foundation of a full and healthy life. Traditionally, they were taught through the story of an innocent child who received these gifts from Seven Grandparents (powerful spirits). Nations and communities may use differing stories to impart these teachings, but the same 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.



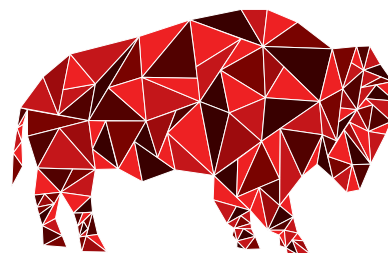
COURAGE

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 Ceil Roulette, Indigenous Student Success Advisor, at 204.725.8700 ext. 7181 or roulettcc@assiniboine.net

INDIGENOUS CENTRED EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING

A person in traditional Indigenous regalia, featuring a large, colorful feathered headdress with red, white, blue, and yellow feathers, is the central focus of the image. The background shows a crowd of people at an outdoor event under a clear blue sky.

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 Community 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

Connect with us

Community isn't just a part of our name; it's who we are. That means we're here for you and ready to help. Whether you want to know about careers, programs, financial aid, awards, or courses that are available right now, there is no question too big or too small.

Reach out and book an appointment with Assiniboine's friendly staff. Call 204.725.8750 or 1.800.862.6307 ext 8750 or email us at recruit@assiniboine.net.

Info 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!

To register, visit assiniboine.net/infosession.

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.

To register or learn more, visit assiniboine.net/spendaday.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ATTENDING ASSINIBOINE:

RECRUIT@ASSINIBOINE.NET 204.725.8750 800.862.6307 EXT. 8750

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