



2022-23

INDIGENOUS STUDENT GUIDE

WELCOME TO ASSINIBOINE!

WELCOME • BIENVENUE • TAWÓW • HAU/HAN
MASIH NENUDELI • TUNGAHOGITI • PIHTIKWAY
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.

FOLLOW US:

 ACC Indigenous



ACCMB



@ACCMB



ACCMANITOBA



ACCMB

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 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
Director, Indigenous Education
desjarlaik4@assiniboine.net

Our Indigenous Affairs 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



Crystal Bunn
Indigenous Services Officer
204.573.3690 | bunnc@assiniboine.net



Cecil Roulette
Indigenous Counsellor/Cultural Consultant
204.725.8700 ext. 7181 | roulettec@assiniboine.net

and Inuit students from a holistic perspective to support your academic goals. We act as a resource for all students and faculty 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



Larissa Lockerby



Erin Lambert

STUDENT SUCCESS ADVISORS



Jane Alex



Chris Hunt



Kristy Jamieson



Brandy Robertson



Shaya Smith



Caley Strachan



Jaïne Tegos



Trenton Therrien

Our student success advisors 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. 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.

204.725.8723
studentservices@assiniboine.net

EXPERIENCE ACC

- ✓ Register for info sessions
- ✓ Order custom exploration packages
- ✓ Take virtual campus tours
- ✓ Apply for student awards

FREE GIFT when you sign up for a custom exploration guide!
Discover Assiniboine with this one-stop shop! Visit assiniboine.net/experienceACC.



VISITING ELDERS & KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS

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

They represent Dakota, Lakota, Ojibway, St'at'imc and Métis Nations, and provide guidance, teachings, historical information, traditional knowledge and support to all students. Although Elders are not always present on campus, they will meet with students anytime there is a request to do so. Meeting with an Elder may be as informal as a casual visit or can include cultural or spiritual teachings and guidance at your request.



Shirley Norquay
Anishinaabe



Eugene Ross
Dakota



Verna Demontigny
Métis



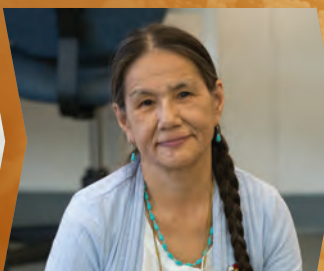
Harvey Pelletier
Métis



Gerry Oleman
St'at'imc



Marina Tacan
Dakota



Beverly Harvey
Plains Cree (Nehiyaw)



Allen Sutherland
Anishinaabe

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY

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

INDIGENOUS STUDENTS' 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 MENTORSHIP 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, from Head Start programs through to post-secondary. The day begins with a pipe ceremony and honour song, followed by a Grand Entry and Pow Wow. Métis and Inuit performances round out the music and dance components, and a community-wide feast caps off the celebration.

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 AFFAIRS

The Indigenous Affairs team offers a variety of services and events throughout the year. All students are encouraged to access our services and participate in the following:

- » Orientation
- » Welcome Feast
- » Holistic, proactive advising and support
- » Elders and Knowledge Keepers' program
- » Family events
- » Cultural celebrations, activities and teachings
- » Monthly sharing circles
- » Peer mentoring and role models
- » Student Success Celebration and Pow Wow

Our Cultural Resource Centres are located at the Victoria Avenue East and North Hill campuses in Brandon. Drop in 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.

19% OF GRADUATES FROM ASSINIBOINE SELF-IDENTIFY AS FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS OR INUIT.

STUDENT SUPPORTS

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 for more information.

COUGAR 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 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 \$400,000 is available annually to students in the form of scholarships and bursaries. Visit 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, call 204.987.8661 ext 671 or email lhildebrand@yesmb.ca for more information.

PEER MENTORSHIP STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Learn more about Assiniboine's Peer Mentorship program. Read about two of the college's peer mentors and their experiences.

TREVOR WILSON BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, CURRENT STUDENT

With a teaching degree and six years of experience as a teacher under his belt, Trevor Wilson decided to switch fields and enrolled in Assiniboine's Business Administration program last year. Originally from Peguis First Nation, Trevor is now in his second year of the program and is specializing in Financial Services. He is also a peer mentor with the college's Peer Mentorship program.

"As a peer mentors, I assist other students if they are having any difficulties while attending college," says Trevor. "I'm there to listen and to help direct them to the correct supports at Assiniboine or in the community. Sometimes it can be easier to talk to your peers initially, and that's where I come in."

Trevor, and other peer mentors, provide guidance and connect students to college supports, whether that means a guidance counselor, a student success advisor, or to areas such as the Learning Curve or Cultural Centre. Peer mentors also answer questions: everything from class work to the general college experience, and everything in between. They can even help with processes, such as applying for Manitoba Student Aid or understanding Manitoba's rent assistance.



"I kind of fell into the position during my first-year based on my experience teaching and previous post-secondary education," says Trevor. "I always thought it was important to have a strong cohort, and I always emphasized reaching out for help or planning study groups. I felt like I was a peer mentor before I officially became part of the Peer Mentorship program; it's just who I am."

This fall, Assiniboine's Centre for Adult Learning will move its physical location from downtown Brandon to the Victoria Avenue East Campus. The new location is perfectly situated beside the Cultural Centre and will give adult learning students convenient access to all college supports.

"There's a lot of opportunity as a mature peer mentor to be able to provide guidance to more students," says Trevor. "If students attending the Centre for Adult Learning plan on continuing their education in another program at Assiniboine, we'll be there to answer questions or help them with the transition. It's a new opportunity that will assist a lot of people."

AMANDA BALFOUR

SOCIAL SERVICE WORKER, CLASS OF '17
LEGAL ADMINISTRATION, CLASS OF '21

Originally from Norway House Cree Nation, located on Treaty 5 territory, Amanda has been part of the Assiniboine community for over five years now. She is a graduate of the Social Service Worker program ('17) and, most recently, a graduate of the Legal Administration program ('21). She is also a peer mentor in Assiniboine's Peer Mentorship program.

"When I first moved to Brandon for my post-secondary education, I had to figure out everything on my own in a new place," says Amanda. "I didn't know anyone at the time and being able to find a sense of belonging and meet new people through the Cultural Centre and peer mentorship program has made my education journey a success. It's great now to be part of the solution to help new students adapt and help make the transition easier."

The Peer Mentorship program was first introduced at Assiniboine in 2019. Second-year Indigenous students are approached and hired to help new students be successful during their time in college.

"Peer mentors help students in all areas of their lives and make sure they are doing okay in the day to day," says Amanda. "Sometimes it's just checking in and asking how they are doing, but it's also about giving them someone to talk to or to helping direct them to people or other supports the college offers."

Students can meet up with peer mentors at the Cultural Centre, located at Victoria Avenue East campus, or even online if they'd like to connect that way.

"A lot of the questions I get asked aren't necessarily college related, but rather asking for information about Brandon and the community," says Amanda. "There are college-related questions as well, some as small as asking for help installing printers or questions about specific events the Cultural Centre may be hosting."

Many events are held through Indigenous Affairs at Assiniboine and the college's Cultural Centre. Amanda hosts beading sessions in the evenings at the college for those wishing to learn or for anyone who



“It gives me great joy to help others. I was a new student as well once, coming from a small community. I know how it feels to be away from family and friends.”

simply wants to hang out with a group of people. She learned to bead through attendance at Cultural Centre events and is now able to pass those teachings to others.

"It's not just about beading though," she says. "It helps provide a sense of belonging. A lot of new students come from communities far away and having the opportunity to be part of events like these allow us to make new connections. I've met a lot of people through these events, and I consider them my friends and family now."

OUR COMMITMENT

Assiniboine Community College recognizes the unique history of Indigenous peoples and is committed to playing an active role in reconciliation. Our Indigenization Strategy focuses on four initiatives that help reduce barriers to education and educational support to empower Indigenous students to succeed.

CICAN INDIGENOUS PROTOCOL

Post-secondaries that have signed the Colleges and Institutes Canada protocol recognize and affirm their responsibility and obligation to Indigenous education.

BUAPC COMMITMENT OF PARTICIPATION

An MOU establishes the commitment between Brandon Urban Aboriginal Peoples Council and the City of Brandon to promote Aboriginal education, employment and business inclusion within the community.

MANITOBA INDIGENOUS BLUEPRINT

Institutions of the Manitoba Collaborative Indigenous Education Blueprint for Universities and Colleges are committed to making excellence in Indigenous education a priority.

ASSINIBOINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE INDIGENOUS STRATEGY

A strategy encompassing Assiniboine's commitment to the Truth & Reconciliation's calls to action on education in order to overcome the legacy of residential schools in Canada.

COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMMING

In addition to our campus-based programs, Assiniboine serves Indigenous students through community-based training. This allows us to customize our program delivery to suit the needs of learners and provide flexible, alternative opportunities in communities or central locations. We work with a variety of Indigenous partners throughout the province to deliver



**ACC SUPPORTS
RECONCILIATION
—EVERY CHILD
MATTERS.**

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.
- » Contact us to ask questions, set up a campus tour or meet to discuss program options:
 - Victoria Avenue East or North Hill campus - Brandon 204.725.8750
 - Centre for Adult Learning - Brandon 204.725.8735
 - Parkland campus and Centre for Adult Learning - Dauphin 204.622.2222
- » Attend a program information session or take a virtual tour of our campuses. Learn more at assiniboine.net/experienceACC.

☐ 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-completed, first-served basis. We accept applications up to one year prior to the program start date.
- » 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) or Places4Students Inc. (places4students.com), an online database of housing options for students in both Brandon and Dauphin. 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.

☐ XPLORE ACC

- » Complete this orientation and you will meet your instructors and fellow students, find your classes, get your locker, receive your student ID 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 the recruitment team at 204.725.8750 or toll free 800.826.6307 ext 8750 or recruit@assiniboine.net.

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.

Program info sessions

Curious about college? Explore your options! Our free 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 or for more information, including topics and upcoming dates and times, visit assiniboine.net/infosession.

Virtual tours

Log on and see what our campuses have to offer. Assiniboine's virtual tours give you an inside glimpse into shops, classrooms, and all of the spaces and places that make our campuses unique!

Go to assiniboine.net/virtualtour.



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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).