AESW – Aboriginal Education Support Worker

Health and Human Services

Effective Term & Year: Fall 2022
Program Outline Review Date: 2026-01-01

Program Area: Child Youth and Family Studies

Description:

College of the Rockies was the first post-secondary institution in BC to offer an Aboriginal Education Support Worker (AESW) diploma program. Today it is still the only BC institution that offers this program for local and on-line students in community and other areas of the province. The initial development of the College AESW was based upon the input from extensive consultations with Aboriginal communities, students, support workers and educators throughout the region. The program is designed for individuals with interest in working with and supporting Aboriginal students in public, Aboriginal or private K-12 schools. Those already working as Aboriginal Support Workers can undergo a flexible assessment process at the College that may credit their existing experience and/or credentials toward the diploma.

The AESW program includes 18 academic, cultural and applied courses. There are also two practicum experiences. The diploma was designed to prepare Aboriginal Education Support Workers with knowledge and skills to better support Aboriginal students, their families and school communities in a culturally appropriate and respectful manner.

Program Information:

The program is under the Health and Human Services Department and students take courses in both University Studies and Child Youth and Family Studies program areas.

With an AESW diploma students may gain employment within an elementary, middle or high school or may choose to continue on to Bachelor programs in Education, Arts, General Studies or Social Work.

Credentials Granted:

Aboriginal Education Support Worker Diploma

Minimum Course Grade: A minimum grade of C in CYFS courses and a minimum grade of D in University Art and Science courses

Program Average: A minimum program grade point average of 2.0/10 (C- average)

Delivery Methods: On-Campus (Face-to-Face), Online

Credits: 63

Admission Requirements:

- Complete all of the following
  - Secondary school graduation or equivalent
  - Earned a minimum grade of C+ (65%) in each of the following:
    - ENGL090 – English – Provincial Level
    - ENFP 12 – English First Peoples 12
    - ENST 12 – English Studies 12

Recommended Admission Requirements:

The above are the prerequisites to get into the program; however students must have the necessary prerequisites for each course within the program.

Non-Academic Admission Requirements:

Completion and submission of AESW Application Package. Completion of immunizations, document by the immunization form in the admissions package, or completion of immunization waiver form (lack of immunizations may impact applicant's access to practicum placements and employment opportunities following graduation). Solicitor General Criminal Record Check (Note: Conviction of a criminal offence may influence an applicant's access to practicum placements and employment opportunities following graduation).

Program Completion Requirements:

Year 1
36 Total Credits

- Complete all of the following

Fall Semester

- Completed the following:
  - EAP150 – Guiding Behaviours in K-12 Schools (4)
  - EAP112 – Introduction to Systems, Structure and Roles in Education (4)
  - ENGL100 – English Composition (3)
  - INDG120 – Introduction to Indigenous Worldviews (BC Focus) (3)

Winter Semester

- Completed the following:
  - COMC253 – Intercultural Communication (3)
  - CYFS116 – Lifespan Development (4)
  - EAP111 – Understanding the K-12 Curriculum (4)
  - FNST101 – First Nations Studies (3)
  - INDG105 – Introduction to Health and Wellness in Indigenous Communities (3)

Spring Semester

- Completed the following:
  - AESW101 – Practicum 1 (2)
  - HSWR214 – Introduction to Addictions (3)

Year 2
27 Total Credits

- Complete all of the following

Fall Semester

- Completed the following:
  - EAP102 – Technology & Augmentative Communication (3)
  - INDG203 – Indigenous Ways of Knowing (3)
  - INDG240 – Indigenous Family Support Studies (3)

Winter Semester

- Completed the following:
  - EAP105 – Special Education (3)
  - HSWR215 – Issues in Adolescence (3)
  - INDG205 – Indigenizing Practice (3)
  - KTUN101 – Introduction to Ktunaxa Language (3)

Spring Semester

- Completed the following:
  - AESW201 – Practicum 2 (3)
  - EAP151 – Trauma and Challenging Behaviours (3)

Grand Total Credits: 63

Program Completion Requirements Notes:

A grade of "D" grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

Flexible Assessment: Yes

In some cases students may be able to apply for recognition of prior learning outside the classroom. This flexible assessment process provides equivalent course credit. It is a rigorous process that may include external evaluation, worksite assessment, demonstration, standardized test, self-assessment, interview, products/portfolio, and challenge exam, or other measures as appropriate. Tuition fees apply. Contact an education advisor for more information.

Program Transfer Credit:

For information about block transfer agreements between programs in British Columbia, Alberta, and elsewhere, please visit http://www.cotr.bc.ca/transfer.

To minimize transfer issues, check with an academic advisor at the institution that will receive the transfer credits.

Academic Policies:

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/ and include the following:

- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
- Policy 2.4.4 Student Conduct (plagiarism, other cheating, behavioral misconduct)
- Policy 2.4.8 Academic Performance
- Policy 2.5.3 Grade Appeal
- Policy 2.4.9 Student Concerns Re Faculty

Program Changes:

Information contained in this program outline is correct at the time of publication. Courses and course content may be revised from time to time based on changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The timetable may also be revised.

Course Descriptions: Refer to Course Outlines – https://outlines.cotr.bc.ca/course/