

Family and Community Social Services ►



Honours Bachelor of Applied Science Social Service Worker Diploma

Admission

- >ENG4U and five additional 4U/M courses
- >Estimated minimum range for admission: 75%-80%

Focused Academic Program

Our program explores current social issues, and the development and delivery of programs designed to assist individuals, families and communities. First-year courses focus on understanding human behaviour and issues related to individuals, families and groups in the field of social work.

Second-year courses delve into theoretical and practical studies in counselling, ethical and professional issues, and working with various vulnerable populations.

In upper years, students work with diverse groups and learn theory and techniques in family therapy, case management and social work practice.

Sample First-Year Courses

>Social Work in Canada

Examines the social welfare institutions in the context of professional values and ethics of the social service professions. This course introduces first-year students to the purpose, value base, principles, settings and methods of social work practice.

>Social Issues and Social Environments

Provides students with the contexts necessary to see the presenting problems of clients within the larger social issues facing society. Also offers students an overview of methodologies utilized by social service professionals in addressing both individual and social issues.

>Interpersonal Communication Skills

Introduces students to the communication process that characterizes the human-services field. This course analyzes the factors that influence the ways in which clients and workers send and receive verbal and non-verbal messages and the causes of ineffective communication. It also considers issues of power in language, including sexism, racism and homophobia.

Industry Connections: More than 850 Hours

Starting in second year, students will earn more than 850 hours of supervised workplace experience at three different placements. Past placements include children's mental health centres, hospitals, seniors' residences, addiction centres, detention centres, correctional institutions, therapeutic farms, settlement agencies and youth drop-in centres.

>**Placement 1:** Initial exposure to a variety of social issues and the day-to-day operations within a community organization.

>**Placement 2:** Continue to learn about agency functions and begin to interact with clients and the community for one academic year.

>**Placement 3:** Provide direct client services through individual, family, group and/or community interventions in a year-long placement.

Note: You will be required to complete a Vulnerable Sector Screening prior to each placement.

Develop Clinical Skills

Students build strong clinical skills that exceed the industry standard for undergraduate education. Our program boasts many clinical courses that teach basic communication competencies to more in-depth therapeutic interventions for individual, group and family counselling.

Courses offer students the opportunity to practise interviewing, counselling, crisis intervention, mediation and conflict resolution. By videotaping the sessions and receiving feedback, students can analyze their techniques to learn to communicate and support people more effectively.

Students practice industry techniques as they are mentored by professors through a one-way mirror in a lab environment that simulates a community agency counselling room.

FCSS See | Change Symposium

The Family and Community Social Services Symposium is an annual student-run event that gives students the opportunity to learn from invited practitioners and researchers in the field.

International Hands-on Experience

Study Abroad (10 to 12 days)

In the International Field Study course, students are part of a small group on professor-guided study tours where concepts discussed in class are put into context. And because all study abroad courses are partially subsidized by the University, the opportunities are within reach.

This year, one of the FCSS-themed study abroad trips is heading to Japan to explore the principles and practices of Soka. Soka education is a humanistic self-empowerment philosophy of living that promotes the idea that individual happiness and global harmony can be attained through actions to create value in one's own life and in the lives of others. Soka, originating in Japan, is founded on Buddhist philosophy and holds as its core belief that everyone has an inner potential that is both the cause and effect of their own ultimate happiness. Destinations include Tokyo, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Osaka, as well as participation in classes at Soka University.

Although trips are themed according to a specific program, students may apply for any study abroad of interest.

Transfer Pathways

College-to-University

Students who choose to attend college have the potential to continue their postsecondary studies at university.

Block credit transfer pathway

Students can complete one of the following two- or three-year diplomas: Child and Youth Care; Child and Youth Worker; Developmental Services Worker; or Social Service Worker from a recognized institution and receive a predetermined block of transfer credit (up to a maximum of 10 credits) that will be applied towards completion of the FCSS program, earning them an honours degree and a diploma at the University. Students can finish their studies in approximately two or three years. Applicants require a minimum cumulative average of 75%.

General college transfer pathway

Students who are not eligible for the college block credit transfer pathway but have a recognized college diploma or coursework may apply and are eligible to receive transfer credit (up to a maximum of 10 credits) towards an honours degree and a diploma. A minimum 75% cumulative admission average is required for consideration. Time for program completion will range based on transfer credit received.

University-to-University

Students who complete courses at another university may apply and are eligible to receive transfer credit (up to a maximum of 10 credits) towards an honours degree and diploma. A minimum 70% cumulative admission average is required for consideration. Time for program completion will range based on transfer credit received.

Need more information? Contact us.

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