

Community Support Worker

CERTIFICATE

Why earn a Community Support Worker certificate?

You want to be involved in your community and you know you can make a difference in someone's life. This program will prepare you to work in a variety of roles with children and adults with mental and/or physical disabilities.

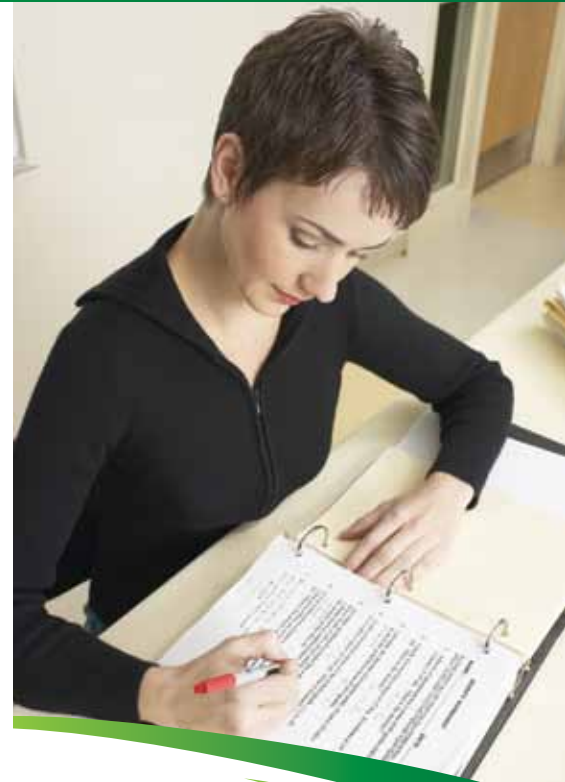
As a graduate you will be prepared for employment in community support setting such as group homes for people with mental and/or physical disabilities, and in various special education settings.

You can also tailor your studies to become a special education assistant where you would work under the supervision of classroom teachers and perform such duties as coaching in basic subjects, preparing specialized teaching materials, and meeting students' special physical needs, as well as maintaining progress records.

Once you have earned your Community Support Worker certificate, you can apply to enter the Social Services diploma program at the the second-year level. The Social Services credential will then qualify you for employment in program management and administration.

WHAT TYPE OF CAREER CAN I EXPECT?

Typical jobs for which diploma graduates are qualified include community service worker, teacher aide, and residential service worker. Many students find jobs through their fieldwork placements, which are carefully selected for employment potential. However, completion of the program does not guarantee that you will find the job of your choice immediately upon graduation.



“Our programs will assist you in making a difference in the lives of others. From certificate to diploma to BSW, we have something for everyone.”

—JOHN HOGG,
Acting Director,
UFV School of Social Work
and Human Services.

Community Support Worker



“The Community Support Worker program was very rewarding and I would recommend it to anybody interested in helping people with special needs. This one-year program made me employable immediately — even prior to graduation! Job opportunities available to me included working in a group home as a care aide, working for the school district as a teacher’s assistant, and working for home support services assisting the elderly in their own environment.”

— FRED A FOISEY, Community Support Worker certificate, '05.

WHY STUDY AT UFV?

You have a busy life. We realize that. That’s why we offer this program on either a full- or part-time basis. The Community Support Worker program includes both theoretical studies and practical applications and focuses on basic information and skills that are needed by front-line workers in the social services and educational systems. In addition to a thorough understanding of professional roles and standards, values, and ethics, you’ll study the history of service delivery, philosophies, training technologies, communication, and creation of community support.

CAN I TRANSFER ANY OF THESE COURSES FOR A DIPLOMA OR DEGREE PROGRAM?

Once you’ve earned your Community Support Worker certificate you can apply to study for your Social Services diploma, which will then qualify you for jobs in program management and administration. You will find that many of the courses you take in this program can be used towards other diploma and degree programs.

WHAT DO I NEED TO GET IN?

You must have your B.C. secondary school graduation or equivalent. If you’re a mature student, and you have at least three university transfer credits that apply to the program, you do not require a high school transcript. You must meet the prerequisite for CMNS 155 (i.e., CPT score of 48 or better, C+ or better in ENGL 081 or 091, or C or better in ENGL 099, or a B in English 12, Literature 12, or Technical Professional Communications 12). An LPI essay score of 30 (level 5) is considered equivalent to a CPT score of 48.

To qualify for the program:

- You must be physically and emotionally prepared to undertake this program of studies
- You must be willing to undergo a criminal record check

You must also participate in a group interview, which generally consists of four to six students and two Social Service department members, where you will discuss your career goals and your knowledge of the field. You must also demonstrate appropriate interpersonal and life skills. Your suitability for working with people with disabilities will be assessed using a point rating system with points awarded for past academic education, all work or volunteer experience, demonstrated writing ability, reference letters, personal statement, and a group interview. Admission will be granted on a first-qualified, first-served basis to those scoring above the required threshold and who have completed a successful interview.

I'M INTERESTED. WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP?

Check out our online calendar at www.ufv.ca/calendar or our website at www.ufv.ca/swhs. Make sure you read the information about the Community Support Worker certificate program carefully. Visit the download centre and download the appropriate application forms. You can then either mail your complete application, along with the documents listed in the calendar and the \$45 processing fee, to any UFV campus or centre, or transmit it through the internet at www.pas.bc.ca.

WHEN CAN I APPLY?

Submit your application after October 1 for the following September. Early application is encouraged. Applications received after January 31 will be considered if spaces are still available in the program. Applications will be accepted until the program is filled.

WHAT TYPE OF COURSES WILL I TAKE?

Here is a basic program outline of the Community Support Worker certificate program:

SEMESTER I

COURSE #	TITLE
CMNS 155	Communications for Human Services
HSER 120	Intro to Interpersonal Communications
HSER 127	Practicum Seminar
HSER 190	Intro to Community Support
SOWK 110	Intro to Social Services
SOWK 225	Human Behaviour and the Social Environment

SEMESTER II

COURSE #	TITLE
HSER 192	Supporting Skill Development
HSER 195	Relationships and the Community
HSER 196	Personal Care for Persons with Disabilities
HSER 131	Practicum

You will be required to complete a First Aid course before beginning your practicum. You can also have the option to enhance your certificate by completing continuing studies in sign language, computer skills, food safe, and other relevant support skills courses.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS PROGRAM?

This is a multi-campus program and because we offer a part-time option to those who are currently working, some courses, such as HSER 196, are only offered on Saturdays in Chilliwack. Others are only offered in Abbotsford (e.g., HSER 127, 190, 192, and 195).

CAN I GET ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE GAINED IN MY LIFE SO FAR?

Yes. UFV offers Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR), a flexible assessment process that evaluates your experiential learning (what you already know and can do) for post-secondary credit. Experiential learning includes independent study, volunteer activities, non-credit courses, workplace learning, and military service. To find out more, check out the PLAR website at www.ufv.ca/plar or contact Susan Brown, Assessment Services Coordinator, PLAR at 604.851.6342 or susan.brown@ufv.ca.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

It's best to check out the UFV calendar at www.ufv.ca/calendar for tuition fees. You also need to budget extra money for books and supplies. See the Fees and Other Costs section of our calendar. Some employers are willing to sponsor their employees and you should check with your employer before registering.

It's also a good idea to visit the UFV Financial Aid and Awards office, which facilitates the disbursement each year of about \$12 million in federal and provincial student loans, grants, bursaries, scholarships, and awards to UFV students. A helpful budget planning worksheet is available online at www.ufv.ca/fineaid/budget.

WHAT SORT OF SUPPORT WILL I GET?

For more information about support and student services at UFV, visit www.ufv.ca/student-services and learn about the broad range of services designed to help you learn about and adjust to the university environment.

SOUNDS GOOD. WHAT DO I DO NOW?

Visit www.ufv.ca/advising/prospective/enroll for a step-by-step process to becoming a UFV student. Have specific questions? Contact the school of Social Work and Human Services directly by calling 604-864-4631 or visit our website at www.ufv.ca/swhs.

CAN I SPEAK WITH SOMEONE ABOUT MY OPTIONS?

We want to hear from you. If you're unsure of your direction, contact Student Services at 1-888-504-7441 to connect with an educational advisor, or arrange for career counselling. Also, feel free to contact the school of Social Work and Human Services directly at 604-702-2623 or 604-864-4631 or via www.ufv.ca/swhs.



The information contained in this document is subject to change. Please refer to www.ufv.ca/swhs for up-to-date information. UFV reserves the right to cancel courses and programs.



About UFV

Nestled in the beautiful Fraser Valley just east of Vancouver, in B.C., UFV is a fully accredited, public university that enrolls more than 11,000 students each year. UFV has campuses in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Mission and regional centres in Hope and Agassiz, and a growing presence in Chandigarh, India.

UFV is committed to exceptional post-secondary instruction and a nurturing learning environment. We are large enough to offer variety, yet small enough to offer the personal attention that our students need to thrive. Our small class sizes and focus on teaching allow our students to get to know their instructors and learn in a hands-on setting.

We offer more than 80 programs, including 13 bachelor's degrees, a master's degree, and more than a dozen trades and technology programs. We believe that anyone who wants to go to university should be given the chance, so our admission policies are flexible, and we provide university prep courses and high school completion options. There are many options for learning: full-time, in class, online, as part of a structured program or one tailored specifically to your interests.

Many of our programs "ladder" into one another, allowing students to keep their options open. Our international programming makes for a culturally diverse student body and great opportunities to study abroad, while our continuing studies offerings make learning a lifelong experience.

UFV is recognized nationally for student success, an excellent learning environment, creative integration of programming, and our work with our local communities.

Get to know us better at www.ufv.ca.

