

# Social Services

## DIPLOMA — FIRST NATIONS OPTION

### Why take the Social Services diploma — First Nations option?

Our program is designed to prepare aboriginal students or those with strong ties to aboriginal communities, to work with First Nations people to enhance their self-reliance both on and off reserves. Working from a Stó:lō perspective, as a graduate of the First Nations option, you will work with individuals, families, groups and communities on issues that affect aboriginal people. Those issues may include child welfare, substance abuse, family violence, wellness issues, and economic development.

As First Nations people assume more responsibility for their child welfare, health care, and education services, the demand will grow for First Nations social service workers, namely graduates of this program, to provide services to the community in a culturally appropriate fashion.

This 62-credit program will provide you with direct employment-related skills while at the same time giving you up to one and a half years of credit towards your Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree at UFV. If you are interested in becoming a professional social worker, this program will allow you to develop skills and seek employment as a First Nations social service worker before you embark on a professional degree.

Given the nature of employment in this field, we expect this program will be of interest to mature students who will bring their wealth of life experience with them. Prior learning assessment will be available to determine if those life experiences may be equated to an academic credit.



*“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.

# Social Work and Human Services



*“UFV’s Chilliwack campus and its Aboriginal Resource Centre became my home away from home. I am so pleased that I chose this particular program and I feel very lucky to have learned from Aboriginal instructors who actually participated in writing our text books.”*

— LESLEE PICTON,  
Social Services diploma – First Nations option, graduate 2006.

## WHAT TYPE OF CAREER CAN I EXPECT?

This diploma program will prepare you for a wide variety of careers in many different fields. Some examples that you’ll be qualified for once you’ve earned your diploma include community service worker, teacher’s aide, social work assistant, mental health worker, family support worker, and seniors’ support worker. You might also find work in agencies such as aboriginal counselling services, aboriginal friendship centres, alcohol and drug treatment centres, aboriginal court services, other aboriginal agencies, and settings in health care, correctional services, employment services, family services, and education. Many graduates find jobs through their fieldwork placements, which are carefully selected for their employment potential. However, completion of the program does not guarantee that you will find the job of your choice immediately upon graduation.

## WHY TAKE THIS PROGRAM AT UFV?

You have ambitious career goals. We realize that. The Social Services diploma with a First Nations option can be tailored to suit your future education plans. Not only will the program provide you with employment-related skills, it will also give you the opportunity to earn up to 54 credits towards your Bachelor of Social Work at UFV.

Throughout this program, the main goal is to provide you with the specific skills and knowledge needed to work with First Nations communities on issues of concern to First Nations people. At the same time, you’ll acquire skills and knowledge to work with non-First Nations individuals, groups, and communities.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO GET IN?

You’ll need your B.C. secondary school graduation or equivalent (ABE Provincial, Advanced, or GED). If you’re a mature student and have at least three university-transfer credits that apply to the program, then you do not require a high school transcript. To qualify for the program you must:

- be physically and emotionally prepared to undertake this program of studies
- be willing to undergo a criminal record check
- meet the prerequisite for CMNS 155 (e.g., Composition Placement Test 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.

Your suitability for the program will be assessed by a point rating system. Points are awarded for past academic education, related work or volunteer experience (social services or other), your demonstrated writing ability, two reference letters, a personal statement, and how well you do during a group interview. The group interview generally consists of four to six students and two Social Work department members. You will have an opportunity to discuss your career goals and your knowledge of the field. You must also demonstrate appropriate interpersonal and life skills. 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.

## WHAT TYPE OF COURSES WILL I TAKE?

This is a suggested outline for your studies; however, you can take courses in any order as long as the prerequisites for each course are met.

### FIRST YEAR/SEMESTER I

COURSE #	TITLE
CMNS 155	Communications for Human Services
<i>or</i> ENGL 105	The Reading and Writing of Prose
FNST 101	Stó:lō Nation Development
SOWK 110	Introduction to Social Work and Human Services

### FIRST YEAR/SEMESTER II

COURSE #	TITLE
ANTH 111	First Nations in BC: Traditional Cultures
<i>or</i> ANTH 112	Aboriginal Peoples in BC: Contemporary Issues
PSYC 101	Intro to Psychology I
HSER 120	Intro to Interpersonal Communications

### SECOND YEAR/SEMESTER III

COURSE #	TITLE
HSER 129	Practicum Seminar
HSER 200	Counselling Skills
SOC 101	Intro to Sociology
<i>Elective</i>	<i>Group B — see Electives in the Social Services diploma section of the online UFV calendar</i>

### SECOND YEAR/SEMESTER IV

COURSE #	TITLE
HSER 130	Practicum I
SOWK 210	Intro to Social Welfare
FNST 102	Stó:lō Traditional Ways of Healing and Helping

### THIRD YEAR/SEMESTER V (SUMMER)

COURSE #	TITLE
HSER 229	Practicum II Seminar

### THIRD YEAR/SEMESTER VI

COURSE #	TITLE
FNST 201	Aboriginal Communications: Stó:lō World View
HSER 230	Practicum II
<i>Elective</i>	<i>Group A — data manipulation requirement; see Electives in the Social Services diploma section of the online UFV calendar</i>

### THIRD YEAR/SEMESTER VII

COURSE #	TITLE
FNST 202	Stó:lō Social Structure
HSER 250	Integration of Social Services Theory and Practice
CMNS 251	Professional Report Writing

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

Check out our online calendar at [www.ufv.ca/calendar](http://www.ufv.ca/calendar) or our website at [www.ufv.ca/swhs](http://www.ufv.ca/swhs). Make sure you read the information about the Social Services diploma — First Nations option 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 on or transmit it through the Internet at [www.pas.bc.ca](http://www.pas.bc.ca). If you plan to start in the Fall semester, deadline for submissions is Jan. 31. Applications received after this date will be considered if there is still room in the program.

## I'M NOT SURE IF I WANT TO EARN MY DIPLOMA. CAN I TAKE SOME COURSES ANYWAY?

Of course. If you wish to take some of the courses without enrolling in the program, or before you formally apply, you may register for any courses for which you meet the prerequisites. It's important to note, however, that program students are given priority for courses.

## 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](http://www.ufv.ca/plar) or contact Susan Brown, Assessment Services Coordinator, PLAR at 604.851.6342 or [susan.brown@ufv.ca](mailto:susan.brown@ufv.ca).

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

It's best to check out our online calendar at [www.ufv.ca/calendar](http://www.ufv.ca/calendar) and go to the Fees and Other Costs section. Keep in mind that textbooks and additional supplies will cost more. It's worth a visit to 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](http://www.ufv.ca/fineaid/budget).

## ONCE I COMPLETE MY DIPLOMA, WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS FOR FUTURE STUDY?

As a graduate with the First Nations option, you may be able to ladder up to 54 credits towards UFV's Bachelor of Social Work degree. If you are intending to apply for your BSW, you must complete a human development course such as PSYC 250 or SOWK 225 and an introductory statistics course like PSYC 110 or MATH 104. You can ask for more information from the School of Social Work and Human Services regarding other BSW entrance requirements. Other related courses that might interest you include Family Dynamics (SOWK 283), Human Development (SOWK 225), Social Work Practice with Groups (SOWK 301), and Substance Misuse Issues (SOWK 394).

## WHAT SORT OF SUPPORT WILL I GET?

For more information about support and student services at UFV, visit [www.ufv.ca/student-services](http://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. You can also enjoy the services of S'olh Shxwłèlì — the Aboriginal Resource Centre. Aboriginal students from Stó:lō territory, as well as from other territories, are an important part of UFV's student population. S'olh Shxwłèlì means "our places" in Halq'emeylem. Cultural activities, which are open to all students, include luncheons, circle meetings, Elder visits and gatherings, workshops, and many other events both on- and off-campus. You can find out more by contacting UFV's Aboriginal Access Coordinator Shirley Hardman, by phone at 604-702-2615 or by email at [shirley.hardman@ufv.ca](mailto:shirley.hardman@ufv.ca).

## SOUNDS GOOD. WHAT DO I DO NOW?

Visit [www.ufv.ca/advising/prospective/enroll](http://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 604-702-2623 or 604-864-4631 or visit [www.ufv.ca/swhs](http://www.ufv.ca/swhs).

## CAN I SPEAK WITH SOMEONE ABOUT MY OPTIONS?

Absolutely! We want to hear from you. If you're unsure of your direction, contact Student Services at 1-888-504-7441 to arrange a tour, attend a Becoming a Student info session, connect with an educational advisor, or arrange for career counselling.

Also, feel free to contact the School of Social Work and Human Services directly by calling 1-888-504-7441, local 4631, or 604-702 2623 or 604-864-4631 or visit [www.ufv.ca/swhs](http://www.ufv.ca/swhs).



The information contained in this document is subject to change. Please refer to [www.ufv.ca/swhs](http://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](http://www.ufv.ca).

© 2009 UFV, SW.SSd.fno\_SEP09

