

# Aboriginal Culture & Language

## DIPLOMA

### Why consider the ACLS diploma?

The Aboriginal Culture and Language Support (ACLS) diploma program is designed to provide you with the knowledge, skills, and perspectives required for employment as an Aboriginal support worker. As an Aboriginal support worker, your unique understanding of and sensitivity to the values, beliefs, and needs of students' Aboriginal communities and heritage, as well as the needs of the education system, will make you a valuable asset to the schools in which you work.

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There are about 5,000 Aboriginal students in kindergarten to Grade 12 in the eastern Fraser Valley region, and all of them will appreciate the commitment and knowledge of an ACLS graduate. Educators in British Columbia recognize the contribution that Aboriginal support workers make in enhancing educational experiences, as well as liaising with Aboriginal youth and their families.

#### WHO IS THE ACLS DIPLOMA PROGRAM FOR?

This 62-credit, two-year program is culturally relevant and responsive to the needs of the Aboriginal community. It is designed to meet the requirements of people currently employed or seeking employment in K-12 Aboriginal education, both in public and First Nation-operated band schools as Aboriginal support workers.



*“Ey Swayel — Good day.  
Come to UFV and learn  
first-hand about the local  
Sto:lo First Nation people.”*

— GWEN POINT,  
UFV instructor

# Aboriginal Culture & Language Support



*“UFV’s ACLS diploma program offers us the perfect opportunity to further our education. The courses within this diploma program provide the knowledge and skills we need to encourage and support Aboriginal students in school.”*

— EVA FRICK, TERRY PAUL, TRACY POINT, ACLS students, 2007/08

## HOW CAN THIS DIPLOMA FIT INTO MY ONGOING EDUCATION?

The ACLS diploma program can ladder into the Developmental Standard Term certificate (DSTC), which is a 90-credit teaching certificate designed by the local Halq’eméylem language authority in partnership with Simon Fraser University. It is approved by the B.C. College of Teachers as a certification requirement to teach this Aboriginal language in elementary schools.

Once you’ve earned your ACLS diploma, you have several options if you wish to continue your education. If you choose to ladder into the DSTC, you can continue your studies and complete your Bachelor of Education degree through Simon Fraser. Alternatively, you may choose to pursue a degree at UFV in general studies, social work, or arts.

## WHY SHOULD I STUDY FOR MY ACLS DIPLOMA AT UFV?

UFV is the only post-secondary institution in B.C.’s Lower Mainland to offer a diploma program specifically for Aboriginal support workers.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO GET IN?

You will need to have your B.C. secondary school Dogwood diploma or equivalent (ABE Provincial, Advanced), or be a mature student who has completed at least two of the Arts courses from the UFV ACLS course outline: HSER 120, HSER 200, ENG 105, ENG 170, HIST 103, MATH 105, or a lab science course. You must also complete the prerequisites for UFV MATH 105 and UFV ENGL 105.

You must be at least 19 by October 31 of your first year and participate in a group interview. You will also be assessed for your physical and emotional preparedness to undertake this program of studies.

The personal suitability of applicants will be assessed using a point rating system. Points are awarded for your past academic education, all previous work or volunteer experience (education or other), your demonstrated writing ability, your reference letters, personal statement, and the group interview.

We will also consider:

- your willingness to undergo a criminal records check,
- your suitability for working with Aboriginal youth in an educational setting, and
- your ability to substantiate strong ties to an Aboriginal community.

## PROGRAM OUTLINE

### YEAR ONE/SEMESTER I

COURSE #	TITLE
HALQ 101	Halq'eméylem Language
HSER 120	Intro to Interpersonal Communications
ENGL 105	Reading and Writing of Prose
HIST 103	Sto:lo History
FNST 101	First Nation Development

### YEAR ONE/SEMESTER II

COURSE #	TITLE
HALQ 102	Halq'eméylem Language
HSER 200	Counselling Skills
MATH 105	Math for the Elementary Teacher
ENGL 170	Literature in Context — First Nations
EDUC 290	Intro to Aboriginal Culture and Language Education

### YEAR TWO/SEMESTER III

COURSE #	TITLE
HALQ 201	Halq'eméylem Lanugage
FNST 275/ EDUC 275	Contemporary Issues and Policies in Aboriginal Education
EDUC 291	Intermediate Studies in Aboriginal Culture and Language Studies
FNST 201	Sto:lo Communication and World View
<i>Elective</i>	<i>Lab science elective*</i>

\* Students should choose a lab science course that is transferable to the program they wish to pursue. Please consult with an educational advisor.

### YEAR TWO/SEMESTER IV

COURSE #	TITLE
HALQ 202	Halq'eméylem Language
FNST 202	Sto:lo Social Structure
HSER 192	Supporting Learner Development
FNST 230	Aboriginal Culture and Language Practicum

## WHO WILL BE TEACHING ME?

Our instructors bring a variety of academic and professional backgrounds, including education and social work. First Nations Studies courses may be taught by Gwen Point, who has a joint appointment with Social Work and Human Services and History. Other instructors have implicit knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal world views. Halq'eméylem language courses are certified by the Halq'eméylem Language Authority and are recognized by the B.C. College of Teachers.

## ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

You will be required to maintain a program GPA of 2.0 (C average) for practicum placement and graduation. All FNST courses must be completed with a grade of C or better. Students who are not making satisfactory progress may be required to withdraw from the program. Unsatisfactory progress can include:

- being placed on academic warning for inappropriate classroom conduct
- failing two or more courses in one semester
- failing a required course twice
- failing a practicum based course: EDUC 290, EDUC 291, FNST 230
- failing to maintain a 2.0 program GPA.

Your acceptance into the program does not guarantee a practicum placement. Placement into the practicum will be at the discretion of the instructor.

You will be individually assessed during your third semester to determine your readiness for the practicum, in terms of skills, attitudes, and knowledge. The ability to pass a criminal-record check is a prerequisite for most placements and a professional appearance is necessary. Transportation for all practica is the student's responsibility.

## HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

In addition to tuition, your costs include books, supplies, housing, meals, transportation, and personal expenses. On average, full-time ACLS students pay \$4,000 tuition each academic year. Books and supplies average \$500 a year. Prospective students are encouraged to make an appointment with Aboriginal Access Services staff to discuss funding options. It's also 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 at [www.ufv.ca/fineaid/budget](http://www.ufv.ca/fineaid/budget).

## WHEN SHOULD I APPLY?

Apply at any time. Admission to the program is continuous and on-going. Specific requirements are published on the UFV website.

## WHAT KIND OF ASSISTANCE IS THERE TO HELP ME ADJUST?

Please visit Student Services at [www.ufv.ca/studentsservices](http://www.ufv.ca/studentsservices) to learn about the broad range of services designed to help you learn about and adjust to the university environment. UFV's Aboriginal Access Services provides support for Aboriginal (Métis, status, and non-status) students. Aboriginal students are encouraged to look into services at S'olh Shxwléli, UFV's Aboriginal Resource Centre. On the Chilliwack campus it is located in Building G, Room 120, and on the Abbotsford campus, it is in Rooms A219A and A221. Call 604-557-4069 in Abbotsford, or in Chilliwack call 604-795-2835.

## SOUNDS GOOD. WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

Apply immediately through Aboriginal Access Services. Call 604-557-4069 in Abbotsford and for Chilliwack call 604-795-2835, or toll-free at 1-888-504-7441. You can also 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. Aboriginal Access Services encourages Aboriginal students to self-identify so that you may benefit from supportive programs and services. To self-identify, use the form found at [www.ufv.ca/arc/Self-identification](http://www.ufv.ca/arc/Self-identification). Forms are also available at Aboriginal Access Services.

## 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.



The information contained in this document is subject to change. Please refer to [www.ufv.ca/acls](http://www.ufv.ca/acls) for up-to-date information. UFV reserves the right to cancel courses and programs.



## About UFV

The University of the Fraser Valley is a fully accredited, public post-secondary institution that enrolls more than 11,000 students per year and is larger than half the universities in Canada. But we're also known for small classes, personal attention, and a focus on teaching. Nestled in the beautiful Fraser Valley just east of Vancouver, British Columbia, UFV has campuses in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Mission, and regional centres in Hope and Agassiz.

We offer 13 bachelor's degrees, one master's degree, and more than 80 certificate and diploma programs. Many of our programs "ladder" into one another, allowing you to keep your options open by earning a one-year certificate and/or a two-year diploma on the way to completing a full degree. Our Continuing Studies and academic upgrading offerings make learning a lifelong experience.

UFV is large enough to offer variety and small enough to offer you personal attention and flexible learning options. Our small class sizes and teaching focus mean that you get to know your instructors and learn in a hands-on environment. Many of our programs also offer a Co-operative Education (Co-op) option, combining study with supervised, professional, paid, off-campus work experience. Our thriving International programming makes for a culturally diverse student community and great opportunities to study abroad.

