

Social Service Worker - Indigenous Specialization (Thunder Bay)

Section B.110

9/18/2020

Ontario College Diploma (2 Years - 5 Semesters) (1223)

705.759.6700 : 1.800.461.2260 : www.saultcollege.ca : Sault Ste. Marie, ON, Canada



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Social Service Worker - Indigenous Specialization program is for anyone who is interested in gaining the skills of a social service worker as you advocate for social justice in both Aboriginal and mainstream organizations to help empower individuals, families, and communities. You will be equipped with the enhanced knowledge needed to provide all clients - both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginals alike, the support they need to overcome barriers they may face in their lives.

With a strong foundation in core social service worker skills, the program infuses an Aboriginal worldview throughout the curriculum. Whether you are Aboriginal or not, this impactful program will prepare you to become a skilled social service worker, practise within a culturally competent approach, and demonstrate an increased knowledge of Aboriginal issues and interventions. You will be eligible to register with the College of Social Work and Social Service Workers after completing the program.

If you are a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and currently unemployed, you may qualify for second career funding for this program! To learn more about your options and how to get started, contact us at studentrecruitment@saultcollege.ca.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

A graduate of the Social Service Worker Indigenous Specialization Program at Sault College will reliably demonstrate the ability to:

1. develop respectful and collaborative professional and interpersonal relationships that adhere to professional, legal, and ethical standards aligned to social service work.
2. record information accurately and communicate effectively in written, digital, verbal and non-verbal ways, in adherence to privacy and freedom of information legislation, in accordance with professional and workplace standards.
3. integrate a practice framework within a service delivery continuum, addressing the needs of individuals, families and communities at micro, mezzo, macro and global levels, and work with them in achieving their goals.
4. plan and implement accessible and responsive programs and services, recognizing the diverse needs and experiences of individuals, groups, families and communities, and meeting these needs.
5. examine current social policy, relevant legislation, and political, social, historical, and/or economic systems and their impacts for individuals and communities when delivering services to the user/client.
6. develop strategies and approaches that support individual clients, groups, families and communities in building the capacity for self-advocacy, while affirming their dignity and self-worth.
7. work from an anti-oppressive, strengths-based practice, recognizing the capacity for resilience and

growth of individuals and communities when responding to the diverse needs of marginalized or vulnerable populations to act as allies and advocates.

8. develop strategies and approaches to implement and maintain holistic self-care as a member of a human service profession.

9. work with individuals, groups, families and their communities to ensure that service provider strategies promote social and economic justice, and challenge patterns of oppression, discrimination and harassment, and sexual violence with clients, coworkers and communities.

10. develop the capacity to work with the Indigenous individual, families, groups and communities while respecting their inherent rights to self-determine, and to identify and address systemic barriers that produce ill-effects, developing appropriate responses using approaches such as trauma informed care practice.

11. respectfully collaborate with Indigenous individuals, families and communities to facilitate change considering the historical impact of legislation and social systems on the Indigenous Canadian culture and experience.

12. integrate culturally appropriate strategies and Indigenous methods of healing practices to help empower individuals and communities to solution build within an aboriginal worldview and context.

ADMISSIONS

MINIMUM ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Ontario Secondary School diploma with Grade 12 English (C) ENG4C, or mature student status.

A mature student is someone who is 19 years of age or older by the first day of College and has not graduated from high school. You can still apply to the program and you have two options:

- You can pay \$25 to write the Canadian Academic Achievement Test (CAAT) for Math and/or English requirements only or
- You can take Academic Upgrading for free to get your high school equivalency for Grade 12 English (college level).

If you have graduated from high school but haven't been to school in a while, you are an adult learner. You still may want to consider free Academic Upgrading offered on campus to re-fresh your skills before the start of your program.

CAREER PATHS

As a Social Service Worker - Indigenous Specialization (SSW-IS) graduate you may find employment a variety of private, governmental, and Indigenous Specific programs in areas of mental health, education, addictions, outreach, family services and social welfare.

As a graduate of the program you would bring the core skills required of a social service worker professional with a level of cultural competence to provide culturally appropriate services.

MANDATORY FEES

Domestic	International
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Tuition	Ancillary	Tuition	Ancillary
\$2,648.20	\$745.00	N/A	N/A

These fees are for the 2020-2021 academic year (year 1 of study) and are subject to change. Please visit your Student Portal to view your Schedule of Fees.

CLINICAL/LAB OR FIELD PLACEMENTS

Apply What You Learn

In the second year of this program, you will be able to gain valuable work experience and apply the things you learn in class by visiting and working in agencies, treatment centres, youth facilities, women`s drop-in centres, and other places where you can apply the skills you learn while studying with us. You will participate in a total of 550 hours of field placement in social service work settings during your second year.

You will need to complete and bring in certain forms at least one week before being scheduled to start your field work. Information regarding the requirements you will need will be sent to you once you are accepted into the program.

Mandatory Field Placement Requirements

You will need to do a police records search as soon as possible as you will be working with vulnerable persons during your placements. There is a cost to having this done and this can take a few weeks to months to complete. If you have criminal records please contact 705.759.2554 ext. 2560 for further discussion to determine whether a criminal record will affect the fieldwork requirement. Current Tetanus-diphtheria First Aid Certificate and CPR Level C WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System)

Recommended: Hep-B Vaccination is encouraged Current Influenza immunization encouraged

There is a cost to taking some of these tests, and you will have to pay for these. Finally, you will need to have a G.P.A. of 2.0 or higher in order to be considered for placement.

EDUCATIONAL PATHS

Professional Designation

As a graduate of the Social Service Worker-Indigenous Specialization program you will be eligible for registration with the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (OCSWSSW) <http://www.ocswssw.org/en/default.htm> , subject to applicable fees and membership requirements. The OCSWSSW is a professional regulatory body which recognizes and regulates the social work and social service work profession, creating standards of practice and a professional designation for anyone with the designation of social worker or social service worker.

Employment Opportunities

Upon graduation, you will bring a unique voice to your career that reflects a distinct set of knowledge and skills, demonstrating competence in the social services workers skill areas with a specialized focus on issues affecting Aboriginal people. You may find jobs in private, governmental and First Nation programs in areas such as mental health, education, youth detention, addictions, outreach, family services and social welfare with individuals, families and communities.

Further Education

Past graduates of the program have gone on to university in areas of social work, sociology, community development, teaching as well as specialized in addictions or Anishinaabemowin & Indigenous Studies. Each university may differ on which credits transfer and are eligible for advanced credit. You are encouraged to research your university of choice to determine if current articulation agreements are in place or how that university recognizes college credits.

As a graduate, you will also have the option of earning a three year Child & Youth Care Diploma in only two academic years. This dual diploma option is available according to a predetermined educational map that provides you with one full year of advanced standing in the CYC program at Sault College.

OTHER INFORMATION

This program is delivered off campus in Thunder Bay, ON.

Please Note: This is the new program name and program number for students entering the program in September 2019. It was formerly called Social Services Worker - Native Specialization - Program 1218.

For more information contact Program Coordinator Michelle Proulx at 705.759.2554, ext 2449 or email michelle.proulx@saultcollege.ca.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

SEMESTER 1

CMM110-3 College Communication Skills
NSW101-3 Foundations for Balanced Practice
NSW105-3 Fieldwork Placement 1A
NSW106-1 Fieldwork Seminar 1A
NSW107-3 The Parallel Worlds of Mental Health
PSY120-3 Lifespan Development

Select one of the following:

GEN110: Student Selected General Education

SEMESTER 2

NSW104-3 Canadian Social Welfare and Indigenous Social Policies
NSW114-3 Understanding Indigenous Wellness in Canada
NSW116-1 Fieldwork Seminar 1B
NSW120-4 Fieldwork Placement 1B
NSW125-4 Working with Families
NSW111-3 Human Behaviour and Social Environment

SEMESTER 3

NSW100-3 Addictions: Individuals, Family and Community
NSW203-3 Essential Skills for Social Services
NSW217-2 Groups for a Multicultural Practice I
NSW250-3 Fieldwork Placement for Social Services II A
NSW253-1 Fieldwork Seminar for Social Services II A
SSW126-3 Introduction to Trauma Informed Care
GEN100-3 Global Citizenship

SEMESTER 4

CMM235-3 S.S.W. Documentation and Record Keeping
NSW135-3 Introduction to Anishinaabemowin
NSW214-4 Incorporating Indigenous Healing Methods into Practice
NSW227-2 Groups for a Multicultural Practice II
NSW251-4 Fieldwork Placement for Social Services II B
NSW254-1 Fieldwork Seminar II B

SEMESTER 5

NSW102-4 Capacity Building for Communities
NSW221-3 Crisis Intervention
NSW252-4 Fieldwork Placement II C
NSW255-1 Fieldwork Seminar II C

Course Descriptions

Semester 1

College Communication Skills (CMM110) (3 credits)

This course is designed to help students develop the skills necessary to communicate effectively in their programs and at the college level. Students will think critically to capture the meaning of messages and respond appropriately; produce coherent, clear paragraphs and essays; and purposively research and responsibly integrate credible sources into their own writing. Emphasis is placed on the writing process, from planning to revising, while providing opportunities to explore various modes of communication.

Foundations for Balanced Practice (NSW101) (3 credits)

The belief in the need for balance in work and personal life is at the core of this course. Students will learn to assess strengths and limitations from individual and community perspectives. Alternative outlooks on problem solving, self-concept and growth will be explored. The teachings of the Sacred Tree will provide a basis for course work.

Fieldwork Placement 1A (NSW105) (3 credits)

The opportunity to apply acquired skills and to be exposed to the working environment is critical to the successful completion of a balanced education. Students in the Social Service Worker - Native Specialization Program will gain an awareness of the skills required and challenges evident in the field of social services. The placement experience should be marked by self-initiative and active participation on the part of students.

Fieldwork Seminar 1A (NSW106) (1 credits)

Fieldwork Seminar 1A provides the students with an opportunity to meet as a group to share their fieldwork experience. This course is designed to integrate students' increased awareness and understanding of professional self, workplace expectations, ethics and professionalism. In addition, each seminar group will become adept at processing experiences in a concise and effective manner. This is accomplished under the guidance of their primary instructor.

The Parallel Worlds of Mental Health (NSW107) (3 credits)

Effective social service work in this area provides knowledgeable guidance and support for individuals and families. Students will gain an education on the multiple aspects and perspectives involved with this population. Parallel worlds of mental health include formal and informal systems, personal and professional realities and multi-cultural components. The course will inform students on mental disorders, available medications and alternative paths. Canadian Mental Health policy and legislation will also be explored.

Lifespan Development (PSY120) (3 credits)

The purpose of this lifespan development course is to examine the interrelationship of the biopsychosocial aspects of ages and stages from birth to late adulthood. Developmental psychology is the study of the processes that shape human development. The goals of studying life span development are description, explanation and optimization of human development throughout a persons entire life. Students will study the interaction between cultural, social and historical impacts and biological maturation to gain a holistic understanding of human development. In addition, to studying human development in a systematic way, students will gain a personal understanding of their own lives in the context of lifespan development.

Student Selected General Education (GEN110) (3 credits)

For Transfer Credit Purposes only.

Semester 2

Canadian Social Welfare and Indigenous Social Policies (NSW104) (3 credits)

This course will provide an introduction to Canadian social welfare and policies, and Aboriginal Social Policies. Focus at the micro, mezzo and macro levels of Social Service Work are guided directly by social policies. In examining the evolution, devolution and consequences of social policies on the general Canadian population and specifically the Aboriginal population, students gain key pieces of understanding social issues in the context of larger structural pieces. This course will examine `a distinctly Aboriginal perspective on understanding social relations, challenging conventional analysis for...failure to take into account Aboriginal world views and experiences.` (Wotherspoon and Satzewich, xxii, 2000) Critical analyses of historical and current legislation, social policies and practices, related to child welfare, education, health care and criminal justice in Canada will begin development of skills necessary for effective practice.

Understanding Indigenous Wellness in Canada (NSW114) (3 credits)

This course will provide students with an in-depth examination of Aboriginal history, worldview and culture in Canada. By exploring pre-contact and colonial history students will gain an understanding of the experiences and impacts on Aboriginal wellness and identity. Students will also discover how wellness is impacted as they explore contemporary issues relating to Aboriginal and government relations, such as policies rights and responsibilities.

Fieldwork Seminar 1B (NSW116) (1 credits)

Fieldwork Seminar 1B provides the students with an opportunity to meet as a group to share their fieldwork experience. This course is designed to integrate students` increased awareness and understanding of professional self, workplace expectations, ethics and professionalism. In addition, each seminar group will become adept at processing experiences in a concise and effective manner. This is accomplished under the guidance of their primary instructor.

Fieldwork Placement 1B (NSW120) (4 credits)

The opportunity to apply acquired skills and to be exposed to the working environment is critical to the successful completion of a balanced education. Students in the Social Service Worker - Native Specialization Program will gain an awareness of the skills required and challenges evident in the field of social services. The placement experience should be marked by self-initiative and active participation on the part of students.

Working with Families (NSW125) (4 credits)

This course will examine the family system and methods for approaching family life cycle dilemmas through a strength based and holistic approach. As a family moves through the family life cycle they will face many development challenges, however, some families will also be faced with more intense challenges, such as abuse. Students will examine the aspects of abuse in the family and recognize the role

of advocacy, intervention and prevention by understanding the impacts, patterns and services of abuse within families. In addition students will explore the challenges imposed on the First Nation family system since European contact by learning how the family balanced life through a system of collective responsibilities. In consideration of the diversity of the modern family and the diverse challenges the family system encounters students will discover how the family system can move through family system dilemmas and identify resources that contribute to individual and collective wellness.

Human Behaviour and Social Environment (NSW111) (3 credits)

A paradigm is a combination of concepts, values, assumptions, and practices that represent a way of understanding and relating to the world around us. This course will provide students the opportunity to examine and compare both traditional and alternative paradigms to inspect the correlation of human behaviour and the social environment. Students explore their understanding of the person in the environment to develop an increased awareness of multiculturalism and diversity. Through this examination, students become exposed to the complex aspects of individual, family, community and global relations.

Semester 3

Addictions: Individuals, Family and Community (NSW100) (3 credits)

An addiction interferes with the healthy lifestyle of an individual, their family and their community. Students will gain an understanding of the impact of addictions on the physical, social, mental, spiritual and emotional aspects related to the consequences of addictive behaviours with theoretical and practical applications.

Essential Skills for Social Services (NSW203) (3 credits)

This course covers the fundamental phases and skills required in helping processes. Self-awareness and ethical decision-making contribute to the evolution of a personalized helping style. Integrating knowledge and theory into action during practical self-appraisals, role plays and practice-oriented assignments form the core of this course.

Groups for a Multicultural Practice I (NSW217) (2 credits)

The field of social work focuses on the person in the environment. Social Services Workers will consistently use skills related to group dynamics in their work with clients, colleagues and communities. This course will cover the various types of groups and techniques necessary to work effectively with groups. The unique considerations for work with multicultural groups will be addressed. Students will gain an understanding of the differences between the concepts of professional groups and circles.

Fieldwork Placement for Social Services II A (NSW250) (3 credits)

Fieldwork Placement II builds on the orientation process of Fieldwork Placement I. During the final semester students will apply their acquired skills and knowledge in the placement setting by contributing as an active member of the organization. The placement experience will rely on the student's increased initiative and self-awareness of a professional helper. Students will demonstrate their core social service worker skills and apply the concepts of the Seven Grandfathers and the Medicine Wheel into their framework of practice.

Fieldwork Seminar for Social Services II A (NSW253) (1 credits)

Fieldwork Seminar II A provides the students with an opportunity to meet as a group to share their fieldwork experience. This course promotes the incorporation of self-initiative and personal responsibility to the workplace and ultimately, the community. In addition, each seminar group will become adept at processing experiences in a concise and effective manner. This is accomplished under the guidance of their primary instructor.

Introduction to Trauma Informed Care (SSW126) (3 credits)

Social Service Work practice involves working with marginalized individuals, families, groups and communities on micro, mezzo and macro levels in a range of roles and within a variety of organizational and community contexts. The experience of trauma is not uncommon in the lives of those that SSW?s support, and in the communities that SSW?s strive to support and create positive change within. This course is introductory and will introduce the description and scope of trauma and its impact on individuals, families and communities. Subsequent courses will build on the foundational knowledge.

Global Citizenship (GEN100) (3 credits)

The world we are living in is one in which local, national and international issues are interwoven, and the need for us to understand the impact these issues can have on our lives has never been greater! Using a socio-cultural, political and environmental lens, students will view how the world is changing and how to become active agents of change from the local to international level. Important issues such as social injustice, poverty, environmental protection, resource scarcity, sustainability, and health will be addressed. Global citizenship is an opportunity to `Be the Change`. This course meets the Civic Life and Social and Cultural Understanding General Education themes.

Semester 4

S.S.W. Documentation and Record Keeping (CMM235) (3 credits)

Record keeping is essential to social service work practice, and reflects professional values and legal and ethical obligations. Documentation supports professional observations, assessment and intervention strategies, and promotes integrated care and delivery of services that address client goals. In this course, students critically approach client interactions and produce documentation that is objective, culturally safe, and client centred. Emphasis is placed on research and applied writing skills reflective of the SSW profession, workplace practices, and legal frameworks relevant to Ontario. Through documentation, students further develop their professional skills and competence in strengths-based, anti-oppressive practice.

Introduction to Anishinaabemowin (NSW135) (3 credits)

This course will introduce students to Anishinaabemowin, one of the oldest languages in North America that was originally passed down orally from elders to younger generations. Students will learn the basic skills of listening, speaking, writing and reading introductory words and phrases. Through practical application students will also learn the connection language has to spirituality, stories, songs and oral traditions. Concepts of the Medicine Wheel and the Seven Grandfather teachers will guide students to be able to use basic words and phrases that reflect the Anishinaabe good life, values and beliefs, and traditions. This is an introductory course and prior knowledge of the Anishinaabe language is not required.

Incorporating Indigenous Healing Methods into Practice (NSW214) (4 credits)

Through an experiential learning approach, students will explore how to incorporate Aboriginal healing methods in social service work practice. Throughout the semester, students will be exposed to different traditional healing methods within Aboriginal cultures including the use of medicines, ceremonies, sharing circles, and traditional healers to achieve spiritual, mental, physical and emotional balance. This course involves hands on experience with medicines and instruction on how to use traditional teachings with clients.

Groups for a Multicultural Practice II (NSW227) (2 credits)

The field of social work focuses on the person in the environment. Social Services Workers will consistently use skills related to group dynamics in their work with clients, colleagues and communities. This course will cover the various types of groups and techniques necessary to work effectively with groups. The unique considerations for work with multicultural groups will be addressed. Students will gain an understanding of the differences between the concepts of professional groups and circles.

Fieldwork Placement for Social Services II B (NSW251) (4 credits)

Fieldwork Placement II builds on the orientation process of Fieldwork Placement I. During the final

semester students will apply their acquired skills and knowledge in the placement setting by contributing as an active member of the organization. The placement experience will rely on the student's increased initiative and self-awareness as a professional helper. Students will demonstrate their core social service worker skills and apply the concepts of the Seven Grandfathers and the Medicine Wheel into their framework of practice.

Fieldwork Seminar II B (NSW254) (1 credits)

Fieldwork Seminar II B provides the students with an opportunity to meet as a group to share their fieldwork experience. This course promotes the incorporation of self-initiative and personal responsibility to the workplace and ultimately, the community. In addition, each seminar group will become adept at processing experiences in a concise and effective manner. This is accomplished under the guidance of their primary instructor.

Semester 5

Capacity Building for Communities (NSW102) (4 credits)

The concept of community is intrinsically tied to the Native cultural identity. Collective identity can be empowering or the target of oppression. Community organizers work to help communities build or regain capacity to change and/or grow. Capacity involves attaining knowledge and skills to build and change. Mastering these skills creates a sense of empowerment. Belief in the ability to accomplish change is essential to capacity building.

Crisis Intervention (NSW221) (3 credits)

Informed and confident contact is the most effective way to serve clients in crises. In this course, students will be introduced to the theory and application of crisis intervention as a problem-solving approach to crisis resolution. The crisis intervention mode will be applied within the framework of various crises.

Fieldwork Placement II C (NSW252) (4 credits)

Fieldwork placement II builds on the orientation process of Fieldwork Placement I. During the final semester students will apply their acquired skills and knowledge in the placement setting by contributing as an active member of the organization. The placement experience will rely on the student's increased initiative and self-awareness as a professional helper. Students will demonstrate their core social service worker skills and apply the concepts of the Seven Grandfathers and the Medicine Wheel into their framework of practice.

Fieldwork Seminar II C (NSW255) (1 credits)

Fieldwork Seminar II C provides the students with an opportunity to meet as a group to share their fieldwork experience. This course promotes the incorporation of self-initiative and personal responsibility to the workplace and ultimately, the community. In addition, each seminar group will become adept at processing experiences in a concise and effective manner. This is accomplished under the guidance of their primary instructor.