



## School and Community Support Worker Certificate Program

### Start Date and Application Deadline

VIU offers flexible delivery methods and schedules.

The Nanaimo campus offers a fully face to face program. For details on the Nanaimo program, please visit [viu.ca/scsw](http://viu.ca/scsw).

The Powell River campus offers a blended delivery suitable for students outside the Nanaimo geographic area who require greater flexibility. Blended delivery program details are available here: [pr.viu.ca/humanservices](http://pr.viu.ca/humanservices).

For program availability and application dates please visit the Program Availability List at [viu.ca/pal](http://viu.ca/pal)

### Special Expenses

Travel and accommodation expenses may be required for practicum completion. All fees and other costs are subject to change without prior notice.

### Graduation Requirements

To be eligible for a School and Community Support Worker Certificate, students must:

- Have successfully completed all of the required program courses and maintained a "C" average in all courses required for the credential
- Achieve a passing grade in the practicum courses
- Complete all program requirements within 5 years

### Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is available to students demonstrating financial need. Applications should be made eight to ten weeks prior to the start of your program. Please visit [viu.ca/financialaid](http://viu.ca/financialaid) for information.

### Further Information

The Vancouver Island University Calendar is available online. Visit our website at [viu.ca/programs](http://viu.ca/programs)

### How to Apply

Students can apply online at [applybc.ca](http://applybc.ca) or obtain an *Application for Admission* form, available from regional secondary schools, or from Vancouver Island University Registration Centres at the Nanaimo, Duncan, Powell River or Parksville-Qualicum campuses. When the Registration Centre confirms that you have been admitted, you will be advised of when and how to register and pay for your courses.

### About Vancouver Island University

Vancouver Island University is a comprehensive post-secondary institution located on beautiful Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Our main campus is located in Nanaimo, and we have regional campuses in Duncan and Powell River, and a campus centre in Parksville. More than 14,000 full-time and part-time students are enrolled in academic, applied, career/technical, vocational, trades, and developmental programs leading to certificates, diplomas and degrees.

Vancouver Island University  
900 Fifth Street  
Nanaimo, BC  
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Switchboard: (250) 753-3245 | Toll-free: 1-888-920-2221  
Advising: (250) 740-6410  
Financial Aid & Awards: (250) 740-6423  
Registration Tel: (250) 740-6400 | Fax: (250) 740-6479

[viu.ca](http://viu.ca)

*The information contained in this guide is accurate at the time of printing. Vancouver Island University reserves the right to make such changes as necessary, including cancellation and adjustment of courses.*

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This program prepares graduates for a rewarding career working with and caring for people with challenging mental, physical or emotional conditions. It includes both theoretical studies and practical applications for working with people of all ages who have disabilities. You will learn how to support people in community programs, residential programs, and in schools as education assistants.

Students participate in hands-on training during two separate practica, one in a school and one in a community setting.

### Career Opportunities

Opportunities include working in community settings with people who have disabilities and as educational assistants in the public and private school system. There are numerous jobs for qualified graduates as community support workers, educational assistants and residential support workers.

### Admission Requirements

- Graduation from a BC secondary school, or equivalent\*.
- English 12 with a min. "C" grade, or equivalent.
- Two letters of reference.
- Resume and covering letter.

\* See an Advisor for information on equivalencies.

### Recommendations for Admission

- Volunteer or paid experience working with people who are mentally, physically, or behaviourally challenged.

### Notes on Admission

- Practicum will require a criminal record check prior to placement. Students are advised that a criminal record may limit their practicum possibilities and their work opportunities in the Human Services field.
- Students will be individually assessed as to their readiness for the practica in terms of skills, knowledge, and personal suitability. Placement into a practicum will be at the discretion of the program Chair.
- For admission to the program, applicants will be assessed on past academic achievement, related volunteer/paid employment and writing skills.

### Program Outline

- SCSW 110 Foundations for Practice
- SCSW 120 Citizenship and Human Rights
- SCSW 130 Teaching and Learning Strategies
- SCSW 140 Understanding & Supporting Behaviour Across the Lifespan
- SCSW 150 Applied Professional Practice I
- SCSW 160 Applied Professional Practice II
- SCSW 170 Challenging Conditions
- SCSW 180 Practicum: School-Based (135 hours)
- SCSW 190 Practicum: Community-Based (135 hours)
- CYC 152 Interpersonal Communication Skills

Elective\*

One of:

- ENGL 115 University Writing and Research
- ENGL 125 Literature and Culture
- ENGL 135 Literature and Criticism
- LBST 111 Ways of Knowing 1\*\*

The elective may be taken in any semester.

\*Students may choose any academic course to fulfil this requirement. Students should choose courses that will assist in understanding people and their environments.

\*\* Ways of Knowing 1 will meet both the English and elective requirements.

### Transfer Credit (from other institutions)

Vancouver Island University recognizes the academic knowledge and achievement of students who have undertaken post-secondary studies at other colleges, institutes, or universities. Credit is assigned on the basis of an official transcript, course outlines, and other supporting documentation. Transfer students must meet all of Vancouver Island University's admission requirements.

### Student Transfer into Other Programs

Students who complete the School and Community Support Worker certificate will be able to bridge into other VIU diplomas and degrees such as:

- Disability Studies diploma
- Social Services diploma
- Bachelor of Social Work degree
- Bachelor of Education

