

## Program Completion Requirements

To earn the diploma, students must:

- complete all required courses, and maintain a min. “C” cumulative grade point average;
- complete all requirements for program completion within a five-year period.

## Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is available to students demonstrating financial need. Please visit [www.viu.ca/financialaid](http://www.viu.ca/financialaid)

## Further Information

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

## How to Apply

Students can apply online at [ApplyBC.ca](http://ApplyBC.ca) or obtain an Application for Admission form, which is available from regional secondary schools, or from Vancouver Island University Registration Centres at the Nanaimo, Duncan, Powell River or Parksville/Qualicum campuses.

## About Vancouver Island University

Vancouver Island University is a comprehensive post-secondary institution located on beautiful Vancouver Island, in 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 16,000 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 V9R 5S5

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.*

*Produced by Strategic Marketing*

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# Social Services Diploma

## 2-year Diploma Program



empathetic  
collaborative  
social justice  
diversity  
anti-oppressive  
inclusive ethnicity  
world view



VANCOUVER ISLAND  
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of  
Health & Human Services

The program provides advanced-level training for working in the social services field and is available on a full-time or a part-time basis. The program includes the following components:

- courses in addictions and mental health, conflict resolution, social work practice, families, interpersonal communication skills, social policy and special topics;
- elective courses drawn from a wide-ranging selection of elective options in many different disciplines relevant to the human services field.

The program uses workplace-based projects and assignments to help students integrate and apply classroom learning in practice.

Students who successfully complete the program will receive a Vancouver Island University (VIU) diploma. Completion of the program also earns credit towards the Bachelor of Arts in Child and Youth Care degree and the Bachelor of Social Work degree, both available at VIU.

Students may also complete some courses towards the diploma at the Cowichan campus.

## Career Opportunities

Graduates of the diploma program will gain skills to prepare them for work in a broad range of social services positions, including supervisory/administrative roles and more specialized direct service roles with community agencies, private service providers, and some government services.

## Admission Requirements

- Graduation from a BC secondary school, or equivalent\*
- English 12 with a min. "C" grade, or equivalent
- Interview (optional)
- Volunteer or paid employment in the human services field
- Resume and two current letters of reference
- Submit a Personal Statement

\*See an Advisor for information on equivalencies.

## Notes on Admission

- Students who have completed Human Services training (e.g., Child and Youth Care or School and Community Support Worker) at VIU, or elsewhere, or have completed one or more years of University-level courses, may be granted entrance into year two of the program which allows entrance to both Year 1 and 2 courses in the diploma program. For further information, please contact the program Chair.
- Individuals who have gained knowledge and skills, through considerable experience in the field and through non-formal learning, may wish to explore Prior Learning Assessment towards credit.

- A criminal record check is required prior to practicum placements; a criminal record may limit practicum possibilities and work opportunities in the human services field.

## Start Date and Application Deadline

Students start every September. Applications are accepted between October 2 to March 31.

## Program Outline

### YEAR 1

SOCW 200A Intro to Social Work Practice  
SOCW 200B Intro to Social Welfare in Canada  
SOCW 211 Family Studies  
SOCW 252 Interpersonal Communication Skills  
CRIM 290 Alternative Conflict Resolution in Criminal Justice Systems  
CYC 165 Introductions to Group Work in Child & Youth Care Practice  
PSYC 121 Developmental Psychology I or CYC 111 Child Development  
PSYC 122 Developmental Psychology II or CYC 112 Adolescent Development  
English 115 and English 125 or equivalent

### YEAR 2

SOCW 270 Mental Health and Addictions  
SOCW 280 Methods in Social Work Practice  
SOCW 281/282 Practicum I and II  
HHS 276 Trauma and Resiliency Across the Lifespan  
Choose 15 credits from the following list:  
FNAT 101; FNAT 102; FNAT 203; FNAT 204; HIST 113;  
HIST 208; HIST 210; HIST 231; HHS 263; HHS 275;  
MEDI 112; MEDI 200; WOST 200; WOST 210; CYC 362;  
CRIM 200; GLST 210; PHIL 112; POLI 200; POLI 201; POLI 221;  
POLI 245; POLI 260; SOCI 111; SOCI 112

## Notes

- Practicum courses are usually taken as a block between April and June (210 hours).
- Students planning to apply for the B.S.W. program at Vancouver Island University must review the program requirements in the on-line Calendar:  
<https://calendar.viu.ca/human-services/bachelor-social-work>