Confederation
COLLEGE

Indigenous Community Advocacy - Naadaamaagewin
2024-25 Program Handbook

Indigenous Community Advocacy – Naadaamaagewin Program Handbook

Table of Contents

Coordinator Welcome

Welcome to Confederation College and the Indigenous Community Advocacy – Naadaamaagewin program!

Program Overview:

This program is a two-year transformative journey aimed at empowering individuals committed to championing Indigenous justice and self-determination. This program profoundly emphasizes Indigenous law and advocacy, fostering a deep understanding of Indigenous knowledge systems and ethical frameworks.

Through an immersive curriculum, students amplify voices within Indigenous communities to raise awareness and enhance their capacity for self-governance. By centering Indigenous well-being and nationhood, graduates emerge equipped with the tools to craft innovative solutions for community challenges.

This program equips students with the skills to navigate complex political, social, and cultural landscapes, fostering meaningful dialogue on Indigenous and Canadian relations. Graduates are poised to initiate advocacy campaigns and lead community-based projects that contribute to the ongoing journey of truth and reconciliation. Join us in shaping a future where Indigenous communities thrive with autonomy and dignity.

We look forward to helping you achieve your career goals!

 Serena Dykstra

Coordinator, Indigenous Community Advocacy – Naadaamaagewin

Coordinator Contact Information

Serena Dykstra

Office: SHU C220

Tel: (807) 473-3775

Email: sdykstr5@confederationcollege.ca

1. Introduction

We want you to be successful in this program. You have chosen it for good reason, and we are excited to work with you to help you succeed.

We designed this handbook to help you understand the expectations of this program, the policies of the college, and the resources available to you.

We work hard to make sure the information in this handbook is accurate. If any changes occur through this school year, you will be notified by email. Be sure to check that you are reading the handbook for the year we are in.

This handbook is specific to your program, but there are other general college policies that you also need to be familiar with.

These can be found

- On the [College website](#)
- In the [New Student Guidebook](#)
- In the [SUCCI Student Handbook](#)

The SUCCI Student Handbook provides details regarding Student Services, Safety and Security, Student Rights and Responsibilities and more.

It is the responsibility of each student to review and comply with the content in this handbook.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the content in this handbook, please contact:

Program Coordinator: Serena Dykstra

Email address: sdykstr5@confederationcollege.ca

Student Success Advisor: Tony Wood

Email address: tony.wood@confederationcollege.ca

[Student Success Advisors - Contact Information | Confederation College](#)

We wish you all the best in your studies!

2. Program Credential and Courses

[Indigenous Community Advocacy – Naadaamaagewin](#)

Explanation of credential and courses.

2-Year Ontario College Diploma Program

Students in this two-year College Diploma program take six (6) courses in Semesters 1 to 3. In Semester 4, students will take one (1) course in addition to participating in an internship placement.

The standard sequence of courses for the Indigenous Community Advocacy – Naadaamaagewin Program are as follows:

Semester 1		Semester 2	
CS 050	College Writing	LV 204	Introduction to Advocacy
LV 112	Comparative Governance Systems	LV 210	Indigenous Knowledge and Ethics
LV 113	Indigenous Identity and Worldview	LV 214	Aboriginal Law II
LV 114	Aboriginal Law I	LV 390	Community Project
LV 213	Community Development and Research Processes	GE	General Elective
Choose one of the following:		GE	General Elective
LV 100	History of Indigenous Canadian Relations		
OL 843	History of Indigenous Canadian Relations		

Semester 3		Semester 4	
LV 300	Advanced Advocacy Seminar	LV 407	Placement
LV 310	Indigenous Women: Issues & Advocacy	LV 401	Advocacy and Capacity
LV 315	Indigenous People: Land & Environment		
LV 340	Mediation & Negotiation in Indigenous Communities		
LV 408	Indigenous Justice and Alternatives		
GE	General Elective		
GE	General Elective		

DegreeWorks

DegreeWorks is an assessment tool to assist you in tracking your progress throughout your program. Think of it as your virtual academic advisor when you aren't sure what courses you have to take or if you want to take another program when you're finished with the first one!

With DegreeWorks, you can see:
- Courses you have completed
- Courses in progress
- Courses still required
- Grades for each course you have completed
- Pre-requisites for future classes
- Additional classes you have taken outside of the program
- Transfer credits
- Overall and Program GPA

The "What If" feature allows you to select a different program so you can see the coursework required for that program. It will display courses you already have that satisfy course requirements for the program as well as what courses you still need to take.

You can access DegreeWorks in the Launchpad in myCampus portal.

Note: Some courses require pre-requisites to be completed before registering. Please make sure you have completed the applicable pre-requisite courses to avoid problems with the course material and/or with your transcript.

Indigenous Community Advocacy – Naadaamaagewin Diploma Planner

Course Planner Checklist   Name:_____   Student # _____

Full-Time Program Requirements	✓ have (Grade)	X need
SEMESTER 1		
CS 050 – College Writing		
LV 112 – Comparative Governance Systems		
LV 113 – Indigenous Identity and Worldview		
LV 114 – Aboriginal Law I		
LV 213 – Community Development and Research Processes		
One of the following: LV 100 – History of Indigenous Canadian Relations OR OL 843 – History of Indigenous Canadian Relations		
SEMESTER 2		
LV 204 – Introduction to Advocay		
LV 210 – Indigenous Knowledge and Ethics		
LV 214 – Aboriginal Law II		
LV 390 – Community Project		
GE – General Elective		
GE – General Elective		

Full-Time Program Requirements	✓ have (Grade)	X need
SEMESTER 3		
LV 300 – Advanced Advocacy Seminar		
LV 310 – Indigenous Women: Issues & Advocacy		
LV 315 – Indigenous People: Land & Environment		
LV 340 – Mediation & Negotiation in Indigenous Communities		
LV 408 – Indigenous Justice and Alternatives		
GE – General Elective		
SEMESTER 4		
LV 407 – Placement		
LV 401 – Advocacy and Capacity		

*Note: Please check [DegreeWorks](#) for the most recent version of your programs' courses.

3. Class Guidelines

Our goal at Confederation College is to create open, inclusive, and respectful learning environments for everyone – students, professors, and staff.

In order to maintain this kind of learning environment, we have created policies and procedures that outline the rights and responsibilities of students and professors.

Policies regarding Academic and Personal conduct are on the College website ([link provided](#)) and also on page 11 of this handbook. We expect all students to review and follow these policies.

Policies below are specific to the Indigenous Community Advocacy – Naadaamaagewin program.

General Class Structure

On the first day or two of a class your professors will inform you of specific class rules and provide you with a course outline. This outline will describe the course, outline your assignments, explain the grading system, and provide a class schedule with important dates and deadlines. Usually, this information is posted in Blackboard, so refer to it often to avoid missing any deadlines.

Distance Education students will be contacted by DE staff for an orientation and to share program specific requirements for students who attend online.

Professors will use your college email address and/or Blackboard as a means of communication.

It is your responsibility to check your college email regularly.

4. Program Expectations

Attendance / Participation / Missed Tests & Assignments

- Success is directly related to attendance. It is expected that you will attend all classes.

- Absences for legitimate and documentable reasons do occur BUT **your professors need to be made aware – either prior to, or immediately following the absence.** Waiting to contact a professor for multiple weeks or months is not acceptable.

- If you are absent from class, you must find out what you missed from your classmates or professor. Your professor will not come to you or re-teach the material.

- Legitimate and documentable reasons for missing class need to be discussed in advance with your professor. Examples include the following:
  - Illness or Medical Emergency:
    - If you are sick or experience a medical emergency, you should inform your professor as soon as possible, preferably before the class.

- o Court summons, jury duty:
    A court summons or jury duty notice serves as documentation.

  - o Death of family member:
    Documented through discussion with your Professor.

- Unacceptable reasons for missing class include the following:
  - o Procrastination or poor time management
  - o Sleeping in
  - o Trips
  - o Work

- If you miss a test/exam/quiz without a legitimate reason, you may receive a grade of zero (0).

- Some courses allow a comprehensive test to replace one missed test grade of zero (0). Some courses do NOT allow this. Consult your professor to determine if this is an option.

- If you miss an in-class assignment or activity (ones that are given and completed within the scheduled class time) without a legitimate reason, you will receive a grade of zero (0).

- Assignments, projects, essays, etc. (given as "homework" with a due date) are due on the assigned date. For most courses, late submissions will be penalized in the following manner:

  - o Deduction of 10% of the grade per day.

- You CANNOT submit a semester's worth of work at the end of the semester. Assessments are continuous throughout the semester.

- The last day of the semester is the final day to submit work. Beyond that date, work will not be accepted unless otherwise approved by the professor.

- Assignments are to be submitted in the manner prescribed by your professor. For example, some professors require assignments to be submitted via hard copy while others will accept electronic attachments. Follow the submission instructions provided by your professor. Professors are NOT required to print off your papers or projects, etc. This is YOUR responsibility.

- Distance Education students must contact the DE department for testing instructions. This includes approved testing centres, proctors and specific program requirements.

Teamwork

A significant amount of group work is required in this program. Individual students are expected to be full participants in, and contributors to, each group-based project/assignment within the program coursework.

Individual students who fail to meet this expectation, without documented extenuating circumstances may receive a failing grade in the project/assignment. Guidelines will be provided outlining the requirements of group work by individual faculty members. Expectations will vary among faculty and students are expected to ask questions if they are not clear.

Grading

In most cases, alpha grade assignments are based on the following numeric grade ranges. This is the college minimum standard. Certain courses may require a higher passing grade. Refer to course outlines for specific course evaluation information.

Alpha Grade	Percentage Attained
A	80-100
B	70-79.9
C	60-69.9
D	50-59.9
F	Less than 50

In most cases, transcripts will include both alpha and numeric grades. Grade point average calculations are based on the weight of the alpha character.

The standard in most courses is fifty percent (50D). Some courses require students to achieve higher than a 50D in order to succeed in the course and proceed in their program. For those courses, the course outline will specify the progression requirements.

The grade point average is a weighted average. It is calculated as follows:

- Each course is designated as having a set number of instructional hours (course hours), that is the total number of hours within which the course learning requirements may be achieved, regardless of variations in delivery. The number of grade points per course is determined by multiplying the set number of course hours by the numeric grade points earned in that course. The resulting number is referred to as Quality Points.

- The Quality Points are divided by the total number of set credit hours for the courses with grades having an alphanumeric grade.

$$\frac{\text{Quality Points}}{\text{Total Credit Hours}} = \text{Grade Point Average (GPA)}$$

Academic Standing is determined by the grade point average earned in a semester:

- First Class Standing is achieved when a student has a grade point average of 3.5 or higher in an approved post-secondary program.

- Good Standing is achieved when a student has a grade point average of 2.00 or higher.

- Academic Intervention occurs when a student has a grade point average between 1.99 and 1.25.

- Academic Probation occurs when a student's term GPA is below 1.25. Students must reach out to the Program Coordinator, Regional Director, or Student Success Advisor to seek guidance.

- Academic Dishonesty occurs when a student has engaged in serious or repeated acts of academic dishonesty. The student shall receive a final course grade of F (0) and may be withdrawn from the course or program.

To be eligible for graduation, a student must successfully complete all program requirements with a minimum grade point average of 2.00.

Course Evaluation and Grading Policy Ch5-s1-01 can be found on the **Academic Policies webpage**.

Professionalism and In-class Behaviour

- **Conduct yourself as a professional.** This includes your emails and interactions in the classroom and labs with faculty and classmates. Address your colleagues and teachers with respect both online and in-person.

- **Bring a drink or small snack to class if you need.** Dispose of your own garbage.

- **Turn off your cell phone in class**. If you must answer a call, leave the classroom quietly so you do not disturb the class. Tell your professor before class if you are expecting a call that you will have to answer.

- **Focus on what's happening in class.** Talking to classmates while the professor is speaking is considered disrespectful and disruptive.

- **Arrive on time to class.** If you are late, enter the classroom as quietly and discreetly as possible. Some teachers require students to wait for a break to enter the class if they are late. If you need to leave the class early, try to leave at a break and explain to your professor why you need to leave.

- **Ask for help when you need it.** We have many supports available to all students to help them be successful.

- **Participate during the class.** Students are encouraged to pay attention, take notes, participate in classroom.

- **Ask for permission before recording lectures.** Because of the disclosures that occur in many class discussions, professors have the ability to deny this request.

Additional expectations:

- **Have reasonable expectations regarding email/telephone response times.** Messages sent at late hours or on weekends will not be responded to until appropriate working hours.

- **Leave clear messages.** When leaving messages for professors, always (and clearly) include your full name, contact information, and specific class, as well as your question or concern.

- **Keep track of appointments.** If you schedule a meeting outside of class time with your professor, be sure to add it to your calendar and attend. If you cannot make an appointment, contact your professor beforehand to let him/her know you will not be showing up.

- **Know the start date and end date of each semester, as well as dates for any holidays or breaks.** (All relevant dates are identified in your SUCCI Student Handbook.) Early departure at the semester's end, early departure or late return at Student Success Week, or other scheduled vacation during the academic semester is not considered as an 'extraordinary circumstance.' You will NOT be granted permission to write tests or exams earlier or later to accommodate this.

5. Academic Policies

Students should familiarize themselves with the following College policies:

Charter of Students' Rights & Responsibilities: Ch5-s5-03

Course Evaluation and Grading Policy: Ch5-s1-01

Student Code of Conduct: Ch5-s5-02

Academic Integrity: Ch5-s5-01 (Sign-off Required, see page 14)

Use of Electronic Devices in Class: Ch5-s5-06

Academic Appeal Policy: Ch5-s1-02

A complete list of Confederation College Policies and Procedures can be found on the website, or accessed through the link below:

[Link to main Academic Policies and Procedures webpage](#)

Academic Integrity

Purpose: Academic integrity is central to the mission of Confederation College. Commitment to academic integrity supports the mutual respect and learning that our community values. The Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure reflect these values.

Scope: Applies to all students and staff to guide behavior and support learning.

Academic Integrity: Having academic integrity means acting fairly and honestly when engaging in academic activities. By having and applying an Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure, Confederation College ensures graduates complete their studies fairly and honestly through hard work and dedication, and thus are well-prepared for their future careers.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty: A violation of academic integrity. Academic dishonesty takes the form of any kind of cheating in academic work, including taking credit for the work of others without crediting them, misrepresenting one's own work, fabricating information, and facilitating academic dishonesty by others.

Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Plagiarism: representing the words or ideas of someone else as one's own including copy and pasting from internet, as well as failing to attribute any of the following: quotations, paraphrases, or borrowed information.
- Unauthorized use of artificial intelligence: utilizing AI and specifically foundational models to create writing, computer code, or images from minimal human prompting and presenting that work as one's own is an academic offense. There will be times when you are able to utilize generative artificial intelligence for productive and ethical academic use, but these instances will be guided and introduced by your faculty as part of your learning.
- Cheating: using or attempting to use unauthorized information or materials in any academic exercise; copying from one's own or someone else's work; representing someone else's work as one's own; or violating rules and policies governing examinations, such as bringing pre-written work into an in-class examination or talking during examination or accessing information via the internet.
- Fabrication: inventing or falsifying data, citations, or information.
- Facilitating academic dishonesty: intentionally helping or trying to help someone else commit an act of academic dishonesty.

Consequences: Violations may result in failing grades, suspension, or expulsion. Violation may also entail being recorded in the online tracking tool.

Procedure for Students:

- Read and become familiar with College policy and faculty expectations regarding academic integrity, as stated in the course outline.

- Seek clarification of principles and practices of academic integrity from the faculty and/or other academic resources, such as librarians, tutors, or the writing center, before completing assignments or attempting examinations.

- Cooperate with faculty if issues of Academic Dishonesty arise.

Academic Integrity Sign-off

Sign-off shows acknowledgment of your commitment to uphold academic integrity and understanding of the consequences for academic dishonesty, including specific examples provided.

I, _____, (print name) have read and understand the

Academic Integrity information and policy contained in the Indigenous Community Advocacy –

Naadaamaagewin program handbook.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

6. Resources and Support Services

Writing Centre
https://www.confederationcollege.ca/department/tutoring/writing-centre

Student Success Centre
https://www.confederationcollege.ca/department/student-success-centre

Degree Works
https://degreeworks.confederationcollege.ca:8002/

Academic Date Calendar
https://www.confederationcollege.ca/department/admissions/registration-services

Program Pathways
https://www.confederationcollege.ca/program/aboriginal-community-advocacy/pathways

7. Contact Information

Program Coordinator:	**Serena Dykstra**	
Faculty:	Serena Dykstra	Email: sdykstr5@confederationcollege.ca
	Bruce Beardy	Email: Bruce.Beardy@confederationcollege.ca
Student Success Advisor:	**Tony Wood**	
	Ph: 807-475-6216	Email: tony.wood@confederatoncollege.ca
Dean:	**Shane Strickland**	
	Ph: 807-473-3825	Email: dstrickl@confederationc.on.ca
Associate Dean:	**Tania Pynn**	
	Ph: 807-475-6456	Email: tpynn@confederationc.on.ca
Distance Education:		Email: de@confederationcollege.ca