

# SOCIAL SERVICES WORKER - INDIGENOUS SPECIALIZATION (SSIS)

Come and join us in this journey where you will transcend into a professional Social Service Worker, with Indigenous Specialization. You will learn Social Service Worker skills, ethics, theory, Anishnabek/Indigenous Teachings and have access to Elders and Knowledge Keepers. You will have much opportunity to practice your skills while be guided through the process. As you grow and transcend in the program, you will be well prepared to serve your communities in a good way.

## Impact the lives of Indigenous individuals and communities

This interactive program delivers a client-centered approach that is culturally relevant. The Anishnabek/Indigenous perspective is embedded in the program and will prepare you to become effective social services workers within all levels of practice in the human services field. Through theory-based and hands-on practice sessions, you'll learn to demonstrate consistent ethical, legal, and professional responsibility while adhering to social work values and principles. Case studies, presentations, practice sessions, guest speakers, supervised social service fieldwork, and access to Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and culturally relevant support and teachings will ensure you are job-ready.

The Indigenous specialization will set you apart in the social services field, providing you with enhanced knowledge and the wisdom to help create a culturally safe environment for clients and the community.

## Program highlights

- Learn interprofessional skills in Social Service Work from an Anishnabek/Indigenous holistic perspective
- Gain experience in the field with two extensive field placements within community organizations
- Be eligible to register with the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers
- Be qualified as a Registered Social Service Worker in Ontario after graduation
- Graduates have the skills and knowledge to work effectively in all communities with an extended knowledge of Anishnabek/Indigenous communities
- Option to earn a second diploma in another community services program in just one year when you graduate

## Program of study for 2025-26 Academic Year

Semester 1		Credits
ENG 1002	College Communications	3
PSY 1010	Principles of Psychology	3
WES 1002	Anishnabek/Indigenous Social Services I	3
WES 1010	Professional Com/ Giigadowin I	3
WES 1111	SWPractice/Oshkaabewis I	4
WES 1251	Ethics	3
One General Education Course. <sup>1</sup>		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>22</b>

### Semester 2

ENG 1242	Speaking/Writing Comm. Services I	3
WES 1211	SWPractice/Oshkaabewis II	4
IND 1000	Indigenous Perspectives	3
WES 1241	Professional Com/Giigadowin II	3
WES 1295	Field Work I	2
One General Education course. <sup>1</sup>		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>18</b>

### Semester 3

WES 1003	Anishnabek/Indigenous Family & Community Dynamics	3
WES 1004	Anishnabek/Indigenous Social Services II	3
WES 1063	Anishnabek/Indigenous Social Work Practice III	4
WES 2053	Community Development	3
WES 2320	Group Dynamics	3
One General Education course. <sup>1</sup>		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>19</b>

### Semester 4

WES 2491	Field Work II	20
<b>Credits</b>		<b>20</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>79</b>

<sup>1</sup> For more information regarding General Education courses, click here (<https://cambriancollege.ca/general-education-electives/>).

## Admission requirements

or graduates of the new curriculum (OSS): Ontario Secondary School Diploma (30 credits) or equivalent or mature student status, including:

- Any grade 12 English (C) or (U)

## Additional admission requirements

To participate in field placements, students will need Synergy Basic clearance including: First Aid, CPR, CPIC Vulnerable Sector Check, WHIMIS, AODA, Workplace Health & Safety, Workplace Violence & Prevention, and a WSIB Student Agreement

- Additional medical clearance may be required for some placement sites which support vulnerable populations, including MMR, TB Step 1 and 2, Varicella, Tetanus/ Diphtheria (Td), Pertussis, Polio, and Hepatitis B.

Synergy will provide a list of requirements, and there is a cost associated with this. It will also take approximately 6 to 8 weeks to complete this process. See the Field Placement manual for more information.

## Program delivery

### 2025-2026

#### Fall term start

SEMESTER 1: Fall 2025  
SEMESTER 2: Winter 2026  
SEMESTER 3: Fall 2026  
SEMESTER 4: Winter 2027

## Specific program pathways

### College or university degree opportunities

If you are a graduate of this program, you may continue your studies at a college or university, and you may receive credit(s) for your prior college education. Refer to Cambrian's college and university agreement (<https://cambriancollege.ca/supports-services/articulation-agreements/universities-in-canada/>) details for further information.

## Employment opportunities

Graduates may seek employment for casework and counselling positions within:

- First Nations
- Indigenous sector and communities
- Long term care and older adult services
- Residential services and treatment centres
- Children, youth, family, and Elders services
- Women's and LGBTQ2S+ services
- Justice and victims services
- Health, mental health, and addiction services
- Immigration and refugee services
- Employment and education programs
- Government

## Contacts

**Program Chair: Sherry Mongeau**

Program Coordinator, Linda Gervais

705-566-8101, ext 7924

[sherry.mongeau@cambriancollege.ca](mailto:sherry.mongeau@cambriancollege.ca)

### INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS

[mailboxadmissions@cambriancollege.ca](mailto:mailboxadmissions@cambriancollege.ca)