

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This **diploma** program focuses on preparing graduates for a career as an Education Assistant. This program provides graduates with a solid theoretical and practical skill-based foundation enabling them to assist students who have been identified as having exceptional educational needs and/or having developmental disabilities. As a team member you will provide behavioral support, learning assistance, personal care while facilitating inclusion, open communication and social interaction.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- You will work to promote and model positive and pro-social behaviour with learners, peers, supervisors, and members of an educational team.
- You will be able to work under the direction of teachers, administrators, and other educational and healthcare professionals.
- You will be able to assist in the development and implementation of individualized or group communication skills.
- You will be able to provide behavioral, learning, life-skills development, and work experience support.
- You will be able to assist in the modification and adaptation of curriculum to meet the individual learning needs of students.
- You will be able to attend to and provide personal support to students who require assistance with toileting, positioning, diapering, mobility, feeding, grooming, and dressing.
- You will be able to assist with behavioral management, personal development, and other therapeutic strategies while under the supervision of professionals.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- High school graduate or mature student status (British Columbia 19 years or older)
- Completion of: grade 12 English or an equivalent with a minimum grade of C.
- 2 reference letters
- Criminal record check
- Immunization report

PROGRAM DURATION

Total instructional hours	940
Work experience hours	180
Total program length (wks)	47

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- Successful completion of all program courses.
- Successful completion of work experience.

Industry Certifications

- Standard First Aid – CPR

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

This program prepares graduates for careers in elementary/middle/high schools, before and after school programs, preschools, and life-skills training programs, as tutors, home support, and as assistants for children and adolescents with special needs.

PROGRAM BREAKDOWN

Course No.	Course Name	Hrs.
ACAP100	Academics Prep	10
COMM100	Interpersonal Communication	50
EDUA110	Foundations of Educational Support	50
EDUA120	Inclusion	50
EDUA130	Child & Adolescent Development	50
EDUA140	Child & Adolescent Psychology	50
EDUA150	Universal Design of Learning	35
EDUA160	Assistive Technologies	50
EDUA170	Autism Spectrum Disorder	60
EDUA180	Fostering Positive Behavior	50
EDUA190	Communication & Language Development	50
EDUA200	Exceptional Learners	60
EDUA210	Supporting Personal Care	75
EDUA220	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	50
EDUA230	Provincial Outreach for Autism & Related Disorders	30
EDAP100	Work Experience I (practicum)	80
EDAP200	Work Experience II (practicum)	100
SAFE100	Workplace Safety & First Aid	20
CARS100	Career Planning	20

Program structure is subject to change. Course sequencing may vary. Some courses may have prerequisites. Course descriptions are listed below.

ACAP100 Academics Prep

This course will introduce students to a variety of student centric learning strategies and techniques. Students will learn goal setting, planning and time management, problem solving, writing skills, computer skills, and the effective use of information technologies.

COMM100 Interpersonal Communication

Effective interpersonal communication is fundamental to avoiding misunderstandings, conflict, and stereotyping. This course is designed to increase a student’s understanding and implementation of effective communication behaviors in the workplace.

EDUA110 Foundations of Educational Support

In this course students will be introduced to the goals of public education in British Columbia and the structure and functioning of school boards. Within this context students will explore the roles, responsibilities, and scope of practice of education assistants within K-12 school settings, the classroom, collaborative educational teams, and the communities they serve. Students will become familiar with the theory and principles of learning and how they apply to educational practice and instructional planning.

EDUA120 Inclusion

Inclusive practice relies on knowledge, skills, understanding, resources and attitudes. In this course students will examine the role of equality and diversity in the classroom, how inclusive education environments foster learning, and the role of an education assistant. Students will examine positive ways of including students of all needs and abilities in the regular classroom by assisting in identifying, developing, and implementing strategies to create an inclusive classroom and facilitate learning regardless of exceptionality.

EDUA130 Child & Adolescent Development

In this course students will be introduced to human development from conception through childhood to adolescence. Emphasis will be

placed on childhood and adolescent as relating to the biological, cognitive, and socio-cultural characteristics of development and the needs of children and adolescents through each stage of growth.

EDUA140 Child & Adolescent Psychology

In this course students will be introduced to human psychological development from conception to adolescence. Emphasis will be placed on children and adolescents as relating to the psychosocial cognitive, emotional, and socio-cultural characteristics of development and the needs of children and adolescents through each stage of growth and development.

EDUA150 Universal Design of Learning

Individual cognitive and physical differences present both learners and those who are in a position to support them with a wide variety of challenges. By applying the principles of Universal Design for Learning, practitioners are provided with a toolset that allows them to create learning experiences that are specifically designed to meet the individual needs across a diverse group of students

EDUA160 Assistive Technologies

This course will provide students with hands-on opportunities to learn about assistive hardware and software technologies as they are applied to teaching, learning, and the integration of students with diverse needs. A variety of assistive technologies will be discussed and demonstrated. Students will learn to apply a process for problem solving and for the selection of appropriate tools to meet individual student needs. Students will learn to integrate assistive technologies into their instructional planning.

EDUA170 Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism spectrum disorder is a developmental disorder usually appearing in the first two years of life that affects communication and behavior. In this course students will explore the characteristics and manifestations of autism spectrum disorders. They will examine current research on best practices for supporting students in a variety of educational settings. Students will study effective instructional practices, assessment practices, positive behavior supports, and strategies and materials that enhance learning, communication, and social skills. Students will also explore how a diagnosis of autism impacts the family network and how to effectively work with these families.

EDUA180 Fostering Positive Behavior

In this course students will study the principles of 'positive behavior support' and its role in student learning, and student and classroom management. They will explore their own value and belief systems and their attitudes toward and in relation to their role as an education assistant in supporting students with challenging behaviours. Students will learn how to observe and accurately record their observations across a variety of settings. Using functional assessment practices students will use their observations to develop behavior support plans.

EDUA190 Communication & Language Development

Communication and language development addresses all of the different ways we understand and communicate. Being able to speak properly is an indicator of fine motor development and serves as a window to cognitive development. This course will provide students with a descriptive framework for the study of language development. Students will examine the biology of speech/language production and development, components of the language system, and the fundamental stages and processes of speech/language development. Emphasis will be placed on pre to middle school. With this foundation students will then examine the development of speech and language across a spectrum of socio-cultural contexts, and in special populations including second language learners and those with disabilities and impairments.

EDUA200 Exceptional Learners

This course examines children with exceptionalities by exploring the psychological, cognitive, social, and physical differences that students with diverse needs bring to learning situations. Students will examine the unique difficulties they face, the developmental consequences of various exceptionalities, and the interventions available to accommodate them effectively. Students will also learn how to identify, assess, plan for, implement, and assist in teaching these learners effectively.

EDUA210 Supporting Personal Care

This course is designed to provide students with a foundation in physical management skills and specialized health care procedures for students with disabilities. Students will learn proper lifting, carrying, transferring, handling and positioning procedures in addition to healthcare related skills such as eating and feeding techniques, catheterization procedures, and how to assist and teach those with disabilities proper toilet training, urine collection, and effective colostomy management practices.

EDUA220 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Children with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) demonstrate a significant array of neurocognitive impairments including deficits in intelligence, attention, processing speed, executive functions, language functions, visual-spatial abilities, memory, and academic achievement. Each student with FASD generally presents with an individual set of learning difficulties, disabilities, behavioral characteristics and special need issues. In this course students will learn to identify these needs, and address challenges by assessing them in an educational context and developing and implementing learning strategies in the form of individual educational development plans.

EDUA230 Provincial Outreach for Autism & Related Disorders

In this course students will explore the most current understanding of evidence-based practices for assisting students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in a K-12 school-setting. This course will include practical activities, demonstrations, coaching and application exercises.

EDAP100 Work Experience I

This work experience practicum will provide students with the opportunity to apply theory to practice in an elementary setting. Students will observe, assist, and work with younger children requiring learning, behavioral, and/or physical support under the guidance and supervision of professional staff. To encourage self-reflection, self-evaluation, and the sharing of common experiences students will post to an online journal on a daily basis and in response to discussion topics to an online discussion forum.

EDAP200 Work Experience II

This work experience practicum will provide students with the opportunity to apply theory to practice in a middle or high school setting. To encourage self-reflection, self-evaluation, and the sharing of common experiences students will post to an online

journal on a daily basis and in response to discussion topics to an online discussion forum.

SAFE100 Workplace Safety & First Aid

Students will be introduced to basic workplace safety necessary for employment and will learn to provide first aid procedures (Standard First Aid Level C), perform CPR, and use an automated external defibrillator (AED).

CARS100 Career Planning

This course focuses on providing students with interviewing skills and the tools and techniques to develop, enhance and maintain a positive goal-oriented portfolio of professional career information using available technologies, while also focusing on how to effectively manage their online profiles to create employment opportunities.

Additional Information

Delivery

The program is delivered in English. The program may employ on-site or distance delivery. Work Experience will be delivered on ground in the lower BC mainland.

Assessment

A final grade of 60% is required to a course unless otherwise indicated on a course outline. Assessment will consist of exams, written assignments, presentations, and projects. Final course grades will be given as percentages. Students will be provided with a written evaluation on a regular basis and at least once before 30% of the hours of instruction have been provided.

Textbooks

Textbooks are listed on each course outline and maybe in an electronic or hardcopy format. Students do not have to purchase textbooks from the College.

Equipment

Computers/software are provided at the College. No other equipment is required.

For distance delivery it will be the responsibility of the student to make sure the necessary hardware/software are available and compatible to complete the program such as Internet connection, up to date web browsers and video conferencing equipment.

Program

From time to time the College may make modifications to course sequencing (class or practicum) and content in order to accommodate program updates. Changes will be effective when made.

Other

For proof of English Language Proficiency please refer to the *Student Handbook*.

Student Name (Print: first, last)

Student Signature

Date

This program has been approved by the
Private Training Institution Branch, British Columbia.
