

9. Student Success Services

9.1 First Nations University of Canada Student Success Services Staff

9.1.1 Regina

Director

Larry Gauthier

Executive Assistant

Lisa Kruszelnicki

Recruitment Officer

Vacant

Co-ordinator, Co-op Education

Debra Murray

Location:

Main Floor

Tel: 306-790-5950 Ext. 3100

Fax: 306-790-5996

9.1.2 Prince Albert

Counsellors

Alice Bignell, Student Counsellor, Regular Programs

Jackie Nixon, Senior Student Counsellor, Health Science

Lorie Whiteman, Student Counsellor, Health Sciences

Student Success Coordinator

Tracy Wilson

9.1.3 Saskatoon

Academic Advisors

Brenda Knight

Chester Knight

Elders

Walter Linklater

Maria Linklater

Academic Advisors

Delores Lafontaine

J. Tom Twist

Elders

Velma Goodfeather

Ken Goodwill

Isadore Pelletier

Career Development Counsellor

Vacant

Student Wellness Coordinator

Jan Cyr-Missens

Administrative Assistant

Cary Petit-Homme

Elders

Vicki Wilson

Howard Walker

Office

Tel: 306-765-3333 ext. 7000

Fax: 306-764-3511

Student Success Services Coordinator

Burton O'Soup

Administrative Assistant

Trena Johnson

Office:

Tel: 306-931-1800 ext. 5100

Fax: 306-665-0175

9.2 Academic Support Services

9.2.1 Academic Advising

First Nations University of Canada students should contact the Academic Advisors on their campus to make appointments for advising. New students should contact the Student Success Services office to meet an advisor as their first step after they have received a letter of admission.

The Advisor's task is to explain program requirements and options for study. Although most advisors will assist students with course selection, students should prepare for their appointment by; reviewing requirements for their chosen degree program in the relevant faculty section; looking at course descriptions that appear to meet those requirements; checking pre-requisites, and making a list of those courses that most interest them. Advance appointments are recommended.

Students are responsible for ensuring the requirements for their program are met. Academic advising is mandatory for all 1st and 2nd year students. 3rd and 4th year students may access advising as required. At any point, students may request a copy of their academic programs.

9.2.2 Co-operative Education Program

Please refer to special projects section of this calendar.

9.2.3 Orientation

In the Fall of 2004, the First Nations University of Canada introduced a comprehensive Orientation Program on each campus. The Orientation Program welcomes new students to the First Nations University of Canada and provides them with valuable information on university life and surroundings, academic expectations and community resources. Studies have shown that students who attend orientation programs are not only better prepared for their first year of studies, they are also more likely to succeed in their program of study.

9.2.4 Academic Seminars

Student Success Services has developed academic seminars designed to increase student success. Critical skills are essential for success in academia. The current seminars include: Note Taking, Critical Thinking, Critical Reading, Critical Writing, Time Management, Stress Management, Goal Setting, Research Skills, and Exam Preparation. Please check with the Student Success Services office or your counsellor/academic advisor for dates and times.

9.2.5 Student Transition and Retention (STAR) Program

In the Fall of 2002, the STAR Program was introduced to improve first-year student success on the Regina and Saskatoon Campuses. In the STAR program, first-year students form a “cohort” (a working group) and are enrolled, as a collective, in a prescribed program of study where they take the same courses together and are provided with a wide range of student support activities and services. For all students, successful completion of the STAR Program means they have gained the basic skills and knowledge necessary to help them reach their academic goals as a university student. For more information about this exciting new first-year program, please contact the First Nations University of Canada Student Success Services office. Northern Campus offers a comparable program in the NHSAP.

9.2.6 First-Year Services Courses

The following courses activate key factors supporting academic success at the First Nations University of Canada. Course outlines are available at the Student Success Services office.

RDWT-120

Developmental English

3:3-0

Practice in fundamental reading skills and in the writing of grammatically correct sentences and coherent paragraphs. This course carries no credit towards degree programs.

RDWT-121

Introduction to English

3:3-0

A preparation for the reading, writing, and analytical thinking required for first year university English courses in particular and for university courses in general. This course carries no credit towards degree programs.

INDG 104

Introduction to Indigenous Higher Learning

3:3:1

This course utilizes a collection of writings designed to help First Nations students understand themselves through an Indigenous world-view in the context of university life. This course assists students in developing attitudes and aptitudes necessary for academic and future life success through principles of critical thinking and learning.

AMTH-001 Mathematics I

3:3-2

An introduction to algebra, this course is the first of two courses required to meet the algebra requirement of courses at the First Nations University of Canada/University of Regina. This course is not a pre-requisite for any university level mathematics course. Prerequisite: None.

AMTH-002 Mathematics II

3:3-2

A continuation of Mathematics I, this course meets the algebra requirement of courses at the First Nations University of Canada/University of Regina. Prerequisite: AMTH-001.

AMTH-003 Mathematics III

3:3-2

This course meets the geometry and trigonometry requirement of courses at the First Nations University of Canada/University of Regina. Pre- or Corequisite: Algebra 30, Math B30, or AMTH-002

9.2.5.2 Placement Testing

The First Nations University of Canada offers placement testing in English and Mathematics which is administered through Student Success Services.

9.2.7 Tutoring

One-on-one and group tutoring are available to First Nations University of Canada students free of charge. To use this service, students must demonstrate a need for assistance in required classes. "Need" is defined as requiring additional help to achieve a passing grade in a class. Students must prove commitment to achieving success by regularly attending classes and completing all assignments. Student Success Services reserves the right to follow up on class attendance and assignment completion with instructors. Tutoring is limited to two (2) hours per subject per week. Students should request tutoring as soon as problems arise. Please contact your Academic Advisor for more details.

Northern Campus:

Currently, group tutoring on the Northern Campus is available upon request. Please contact the Student Services Coordinator for more information.

The Northern Campus anatomy and physiology students will be required to attend tutoring until midterm, at which point they will be re-evaluated. Tutoring time is not necessarily limited to 2 hours per week.

9.2.8 Writing Centre

The Writing Centre provides a place for students to bring their essay assignments from any class and at any stage of development. However, the Centre's focus is not to proofread and edit papers, rather, the goal is to provide students with strategies that will result in an effectively developed and written paper. For more information on the Writing Centre, please contact the Student Success Services Office.

9.3 Student Ambassador Program

The Student Ambassador Program is one component of the First Nations University of Canada's recruitment strategy. First Nations University of Canada students are hired and given training as recruiting officers. Ambassadors travel to First Nations and Aboriginal communities as well as urban high schools.

They will:

- participate in career fairs
- deliver presentations outlining the University's academic programs
- outline entrance requirements and application procedures
- acknowledge academic and non-academic support programs

First Nations University of Canada

By highlighting the benefits of attending the First Nations University of Canada, Student Ambassadors will encourage prospective students to enroll.

9.4 Study Space

Study space is made available for students on each campus. Students are asked to respect the rules of these designated areas. Please contact the Student Success Services office for campus locations.

9.5 Student Handbooks

First Nations University of Canada Student handbooks are available for students at the end of August of each year. These handbooks contain valuable information on programs and services available for students. The handbook also includes a calendar which is an effective tool in time management. Please contact the Student Success Services Office on your campus for copies.

9.6 Elders

The First Nations University of Canada's holistic approach to post-secondary education begins with the Elders, whose presence, wisdom, and counsel are the mainstay not only for students but also for the University as a whole. Their knowledge of First Nations' traditions, culture, and spirituality creates a unique support service. Consultation with the Elders takes place in an atmosphere of trust and respect. The Elders use humour, prayer and sweetgrass to assist those in need. This tradition helps restore an individual's self-confidence and peace of mind, which in turn, helps the learning process. The Elders' presence among all who study or work at the University is our strength, and that strength enables students, faculty and staff to walk the trails of Mother Earth. The Elders reinforce our respect for, and understanding of, the Creator's role in our lives.

At the Regina Campus, the Elders are Velma Goodfeather, Ken Goodwill, and Isadore Pelletier; at the Saskatoon Campus, the Elders are Walter Linklater and Maria Linklater, while in Prince Albert, the Elders are Vicki Wilson and Howard Walker. Numerous other visiting Elders contribute to the First Nations' holistic and cultural approach to learning at First Nations University of Canada throughout the academic year.

9.7 Cultural Workshops

Student Success Services offer cultural workshops on First Nations' culture and traditions. Elders assist in facilitating workshops such as monthly pipe ceremonies, storytelling, drumming, singing, and the use of tobacco. These workshops are available to all interested participants. Check with your Student Success Services office for more details on cultural workshops and ceremonies.

9.8 Student Wellness

The Student Wellness program provides personal support services to students and families, such as assessment and referral services in the prevention, identification and treatment of personal problems that may affect their academic performance. Also, coordinating various student activities and events that encourages and supports a sense of community.

This program utilizes a holistic approach by referring to the Medicine Wheel. The purpose of this self-care approach is to learn to use the Medicine Wheel in our daily lives to create healing, and to guide our decisions and actions toward balance and harmony.

All First Nations University of Canada students are welcome to make an appointment with the Student Wellness Coordinator who is located in the Student Success Services office on the Regina campus.

9.9 Student Association

Each campus has a Student Association. Students are encouraged to become involved in student activities. For more information, please contact your Academic Advisor.