

First Nations University of Canada

First Nations University of Canada:

History and Campuses

History

In May 1976, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations entered into a federation agreement with the University of Regina, creating First Nations University of Canada (formerly Saskatchewan Indian Federated College).

The Agreement provides for an independently administered university-college. Its mission: to serve the academic, cultural and spiritual needs of First Nations' students. First Nations University of Canada accepts non-First Nations' students. The Chiefs of Saskatchewan appoint the University's Board of Governors. Programs are academically integrated with the University of Regina, and the University does follow general university regulations respecting admissions and the development of new programs. Most of First Nations University of Canada's programs are fully accredited through the University of Regina. The University has over 60 full-time faculty and offers students a unique First Nations' curriculum.

The First Nations University of Canada offers degree and certificate programs in a variety of faculties and disciplines. The Bachelor of Arts in Indian Studies was approved in 1976, and in 1977, programs were added in Indian Art, Indian Languages, Indian Education, and Indian Social Work. Indian Management and Administration classes began in 1978, while Indian Communication Arts, Indian Health Careers, and the Special Case Masters programs were established in the early 1980s. In 1987 the Department of Science was founded; the School of Business and Public Administration came into being in 1989, and in 1995, an MBA with a concentration in Indigenous Management was developed in partnership with the College of Commerce, University of Saskatchewan. In 2001, the Master of Aboriginal Social Work program was launched and in 2002, the Environmental Health and Science Degree program received accreditation from the Board of Certification for Public Health Inspectors.

Since 1983, First Nations University of Canada has entered into over twenty-five agreements with Indigenous peoples' institutions in Canada, South and Central America, and Asia. The University also signed agreements with academic institutions in Siberia (Russia), Inner Mongolia (China), and Tanzania (Africa).

From less than a dozen students in 1976, the University's enrollment has surpassed 1,600 students, one quarter of whom come from outside Saskatchewan and represent every province and territory in Canada. The College has campuses in Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert. With liaison offices at the Regina campus and La Ronge, the Northern Campus serves Aboriginal communities across Canada.

The First Nations University of Canada is a member of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) since 1994.

Our Campuses

The First Nations University of Canada offers its university programs and services on three campuses—Northern Campus (Prince Albert), Regina Campus (Main), Saskatoon Campus, and in communities across Saskatchewan and Canada.

The University provides through each campus: registration, academic advising, student support services, library services, student lounges, as well as cultural and traditional advising services (through the Elders). Each campus also houses a campus student association.

In 2002, the First Nations University of Canada became the university to host the Indigenous Peoples Health Research Centre (IPHRC), which is a partnership between the University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan and First Nations University of Canada. IPHRC has an office located on each campus.

Northern Campus

In 1992, a northern operations centre was opened to provide easier access to the university's academic programs for First Nation students living in the north. And, in 1996, Northern Campus, located in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan formally opened its doors as the University's third campus.

In 2002, the Northern Campus moved into a newly renovated, expanded site in downtown Prince Albert (1301 Central Avenue). The Northern Campus in Prince Albert offers a wide range of arts and science, administration, human justice and other programs.

Northern Campus is the main centre of the Department of Community Development and Health Studies, which coordinates the delivery of community-based programs across Saskatchewan and Canada. The Northern Campus offers a degree nursing program (Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan), a Health Sciences Access Program, and a post-RN primary care program for Nursing in First Nations. Sub-offices for program administration and delivery are maintained in La Ronge and Regina.

In 1995, the National School of Dental Therapy came under the management of the University. It is considered a part of Northern Campus, however its location is 710-15th Avenue East, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. NSDT offers a two-year dental therapist program that trains dental therapists to provide preventive, emergency, restorative and public health dentistry in First Nation and northern communities across Canada. The NSDT is the only school of Dental Therapy in North America.

Regina Campus

The First Nations University of Canada was established in 1976, when the federated agreement was signed between the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the University of Regina for the creation of the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (former name). The main campus of the university is located in Regina.

The Regina (main) Campus houses the Executive offices and corporate administrative departments, as well as the following Academic Departments: English, Indian Communication Arts, Indian Education, Indian Fine Arts, Indian Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, Indigenous Studies, School of Business and Public Administration, Science, as well as the Department of International and Special Indigenous Projects. The Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Program (ACAP) and Cooperative Education is also coordinated out of the Regina Campus.

Saskatoon Campus

The Saskatoon Campus was established in 1976, when the university was created. In fact the university, through its Saskatoon Campus, began offering the Indian Social Work program, which was transferred in from the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre, where it had been offered since 1974. The Campus was originally located on the University of Saskatchewan Campus in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

In 1994, the Saskatoon Campus moved into the building it occupies today at 710 Duke Street and offers the following programs: Indian Social Work, Masters of Aboriginal Social Work, Indigenous Studies, and a Diploma of Associate in Administration. In addition to these programs, the Saskatoon Campus has the ability to offer a range of certificate programs, and plans to expand its offerings in the future.