

**URBAN CIRCLE TRAINING CENTRE INC.
RED RIVER COLLEGE**

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT PROGRAM – ABORIGINAL FOCUS
Certified by Red River College

Updated March 2, 2015

OVERVIEW:

This 10-month training program is delivered by Urban Circle Adult Learning Centre in a culturally relevant context. The Educational Assistant Program – Aboriginal Focus is certified by Red River College and is being delivered in partnership with local school divisions who are committed to provide practicum placements and learning support for potential educational assistants. The curriculum will include training in all educational assistant job classifications. Graduates of this program will receive training designed to assist students with learning disabilities, as well as those who display behaviors difficulties. After graduation, opportunities for employment and advanced education (Bachelor of Education) are excellent.

****Note: A final grade of C+ (65%) is required in each course to successfully complete the program****

REQUIRED COURSES	INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS
Life Skills/Cultural Component	312
Learning Theory	33
Curriculum & Instruction	45
Special Needs I	40
Special Needs II	60
Behaviour Management	40
Communication & Collaboration	33
Professionalism & Ethics	20
Classroom Support	45
Assessment & Observation	36
Instructional Technology	48
Writing Theory	21
Activities for Daily Living Workshop for EAs	24
Practicum	300
Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Training	15
WEVAS	12
Emergency First Aid/CPR C	8
 <i>Additional Workshops May Include:</i>	
Introduction to American Sign Language	8
Mental Health First Aid for Youth	16

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Life Skills/Cultural Component (312 hours)

Urban Circle utilizes the philosophy of the Medicine Wheel in all aspects of learning. This is a holistic approach which includes the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual elements of human experience. The Medicine Wheel teaches students about the interconnectedness of these four elements and how they can bring about balance and wellness in life.

The Sharing Circle and Healing Circle are central to program delivery. Here students and staff develop the trust and mutual respect necessary to begin personal healing. These circles are most intense during “shield” week where students and staff share their life experience with the class. This week culminates in a Sweat Ceremony with an Elder.

The Life Skills Curriculum helps develop student personal and professional goals, assists them to become effective problem solvers, and empowers them to become effective members of their family, workplace and community. Through innovative lessons students learn effective communication, conflict resolution, anger management, stress, time management and teamwork skills. Taking responsibility and being accountable for the self is a basic goal of the life skills curriculum.

Learning Theory (33 hours)

This course examines the learning process for all students. Topics include stages of development, learning styles, learning theory, influences on learning, and theories of intelligence.

Curriculum & Instruction (45 hours)

This course focuses on academic content and practical strategies that can be used by educational assistants to support student learning in the English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science classroom.

Special Needs I (40 hours)

This course is an in-depth examination of concepts related to the history, social values, legislation, terminology, and current state of special education in Manitoba Schools.

Special Needs II (60 hours)

This course is an in-depth examination of the daily work of the educational assistant with the education team and in educational environments. Learning will be focused on providing the educational needs of exceptional students, as well as exploring the day to day requirements for exceptional students. Students will learn procedures involved in special needs student mobility, diet, daily living, safety, communication, emergency procedures, and medication.

Behaviour Management (40 hours)

This course provides information and strategies educational assistants use in order to support an effective behavior management approach. Supporting the teacher in providing behavioral and social support to students is a main role of educational assistants. Therefore, it is important for educational assistants to have skills to effectively manage student behavior and social interaction of students.

Communication & Collaboration (33 hours)

This course provides an overview of communication skills and strategies that foster effective and cooperative team work in the public school setting.

Professionalism & Ethics (20 hours)

This course explores guidelines surrounding professional conduct and ethical practices as they relate to interacting with students. Specific topics include confidentiality, student records, and the demands placed on educational assistants by teachers and parents.

Classroom Support (45 hours)

In this course students will learn how to provide academic support for students and assist teachers so that students can achieve the learning outcomes identified in their educational programs. Students will also provide information and practice in providing tutorial support for students.

Assessment & Observation (36 hours)

This course provides an overview of assessment and evaluation practices with a focus on the role of the educational assistant in student observation, record keeping, and reporting to the teacher.

Instructional Technology (48 hours)

In this course students will learn to use a variety of computer application programs, as well as ways in which technology can be used as an instructional tool. This will enable them to assist the classroom teacher.

Writing Theory (21 hours)

This introductory course develops the writing skills students need to communicate in the environment educational assistants. Specific topics include a review of the essential grammar skills necessary to support beginning writers, the writing process, research writing, and accurate documentation.

Activities for Daily Living Workshop for Educational Assistants (24 hours)

This elective course provides the learner with the knowledge and skills to assist students with physical limitations and /or disabilities perform activities of daily living in an educational setting. Topics include: body mechanics, mobility, hygiene, grooming and transfers. This course includes both theory (classroom) and hands on (lab) components.

Practicum (300 hours)

This course provides practical experience through interaction with students and staff in an approved educational setting. It provides the student with an opportunity to shadow and observe experienced educational assistants, to have student contact time and to participate in tutoring activities with students while supporting classroom teachers. At the practicum site, educational assistant candidates are expected to participate as fully as possible in the delivery of support services. This includes working cooperatively as an active team member, sharing responsibilities for carrying out prescribed duties, demonstrating self-initiative, attending required meetings and contributing new ideas and approaches appropriate to the placement. Educational assistants are under the supervision of the site supervisor or designate for the entire duration of the placement period.

Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training (15 hours)

The Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training is a safe, non-harmful behavior management system designed to aid educational assistants to manage disruptive and assaultive people, even during the most violent moments.

Working Effectively with Violent & Aggressive States-WEVAS (12 hours)

Learn to recognize challenging behavior and develop the skills that focus on your response. Improve your communication skills to help the student return to a safe learning state.

Additional Workshops May Include:**Introduction to American Sign Language (8 hours)**

This course introduces educational assistant students to American Sign Language (ASL) communication skills and culture.

Mental Health First Aid – Youth (16 hours)

Learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health issues in youth, to provide initial help and to guide youth toward appropriate support.