PROSPECTIVE SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS
RED DEER COLLEGE – SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES
UPDATED FEBRUARY 2019

The mission of the Social Work Program at RDC is to graduate ethical and compassionate social workers committed to anti-oppressive practice and social justice. The program prepares students for employment as social workers, and provides a foundation for further post-secondary education through the introduction and integration of practice skills, theoretical knowledge, and the application of social work ethics and values.

Often, students can start in Open Studies or another RDC program (i.e. Bachelor of Arts) and complete many courses that will count for credit in the Social Work program. This gives students the opportunity to explore the program, or, complete courses before being formally accepted. Completion of these courses can result in a lighter course load in the Social Work Diploma program, but it will not cut down on the Social Work Diploma completion time (the Social Work Diploma is a 2 year program).

Please pay attention to the admission requirements (located our website: http://rdc.ab.ca/programs/academic-calendar/social-work-diploma) as there are many non-academic requirements for Social Work. Every student will need to have a successful interview with the Social Work department to gain admission. Prior to being granted an interview, there are specific non-academic requirements students need to complete. Students need to have a minimum of 100 volunteer hours, references, and complete a personal profile. More information can be found in the above link, or on Page 2 of this guide.

Completion of any or all of these courses does not guarantee admission into the Social Work Diploma program.
ADMISSION INFORMATION

Please refer to the Academic Calendar for More Information:
http://rdc.ab.ca/programs/academic-calendar/social-work-diploma

Admission Requirements:
1. High School Diploma with no mark below 50% in:
   a. ELA 30-1 or ELA 30-2
   b. Social Studies 30-1

OR
2. Mature Student: You must be 19 years of age or older, out of high school at least one full year before the program starts, and have minimum mark of 50% in ELA 30-1 or ELA 30-2

OR
a minimum score of 80 on the Reading component, 86 on the Sentence component and 5 on the written essay component of the College Board Placement Test.

Social Work Package Requirements:

Once it has been determined that you have met (or will meet) the academic requirements above, you will be mailed a package which details the following requirements:

- a personal profile questionnaire;
- three confidential reference request forms, and one needs to be completed by a direct volunteer or employment supervisor;
- a minimum of 100 volunteer or work hours completed at one agency site.

All students are required to complete the Social Work package. This means completing the personal profile questionnaire, completing/confirming volunteer or work hours, and ensuring that the three confidential references are directly forwarded to the College in order to have a complete admissions package.

Once your completed package is received by the College, you will be contacted by the Social Work Department for an interview; an interview with a Social Work faculty member is required as part of admission to the Program.

Interview Information for Fall 2020 admission:

If your completed Social Work package is received by February 15, 2020, you will be invited for an interview. The interview will be scheduled before April 30. You will be notified of the decision about your admission by mid-May.

If your completed Social Work package is received between February 16 and April 15, you may be invited for an interview in May, if space remains in the program. You will be notified of the decision after mid-May.

Any completed Social Work packages received after April 16 might be invited for interviews in June if space remains.

*A completed package includes: 100 volunteer hours; completed personal profile, and three confidential references.*
Volunteer / Work Hours:
A minimum of 100 hours of volunteer experience is required as part of the Social Work Application Process. It is required that these be completed in a human or social service agency/organization or in a healthcare environment. Clients/patients must be disadvantaged or marginalized in some way. The volunteering must include direct client or patient contact as your primary function (rather than office work, cooking, etc.) and deal with the client’s psycho-social wellbeing.

Opportunities can often be found in helping agencies, outreach organizations, schools, hospitals, crisis lines, programs for at-risk youth, women’s shelters, long-term care facilities, agencies for people with addictions, homelessness, mental illness, and who are mentally challenged. We do not accept hours completed as part of high school coop program, fundraising, sports coaching, daycare, babysitting, office/administrative work, and bible or church group and activities.

Work-related experience can also be used in lieu of volunteer experience. Please check with our department to ensure it is applicable.

It is required that the hours be completed at one organization, as one confidential reference is required from the direct volunteer or employment supervisor. Volunteer hours must also be current.

Other Information:

While not an admission requirement for the program, applicants are advised that they will be required to provide a Police Information Check and Vulnerable Sector Check to most agencies where they will be placed for practicum experiences. The existence of a criminal record may prevent practicum placement, program completion, and professional licensure and therefore affect future employment prospects. It is the decision of each agency or institution to accept or reject a student for placement or observation experience based on the results of the criminal record check. Students should be prepared for approximately $50 to $75 in extra expense to acquire these documents.

For more information on the program/application process, see the Social Work Department’s Webpage:

http://rdc.ab.ca/programs/academic-departments/school-arts-and-sciences/social-work/social-work

For information on the Application process, contact the Social Work program at:
Phone: 403-342-3304
E-Mail: socialwork@rdc.ab.ca

To see the Social Work program in-depth, please click here to access the Social Work Planning Guide.
RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR PROSPECTIVE SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS

Below is a schedule of recommended courses that students can complete outside of Social Work (in Open Studies, Bachelor of Arts, or other programs), as well as a schedule that shows one way these courses can be scheduled. There are 10 courses that can be completed outside of the Social Work diploma for credit, but most students will only complete up to a maximum of 9.

- 6 credits (2 courses) of English or Communication Options (see note 1 below)
  - ENGL 219 and ENGL 220 recommended
- Open Option (see note 2 below)
- PSYC 260
- PSYC 261
- Developmental Psychology Option: 1 of PSYC 353, 355 or 357
  - Second year course. Requires completion of PSYC 260 and PSYC 261
- SOCI 260
- SOCI 261
- SOWK 204 (take section “O”)
- SOWK 207 (take section “O”)

Completion of these courses will not guarantee admission into the program, you still need to meet all admission requirements and have a successful interview.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL TERM</th>
<th>WINTER TERM</th>
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<tr>
<td>English or Communication Option – ENGL 219 recommended (see note 1 below)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 260</td>
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1. Students in the Social Work program will need to complete 2 courses (6 credits) in English or Communication courses. **Students interested in pursuing a degree are recommended to take university transferable English courses (i.e. ENGL 219/ENGL 220).** High School English 30-1 (or equivalent) is required to take these courses.

   Students who do not have English 30-1 can take COMM 150 in the Fall and COMM 250 in the Winter (while these courses WILL work for Social Work diploma requirements, they are not university transferable courses).

   If you do not have English 30-1, but would like to take ENGL 219 please talk with an Advising & Recruiting Specialist (contact info on last page). You can take the appropriate upgrading courses at Red Deer College to attain the English 30-1 equivalency.

2. Examples of available Arts & Science Options for the 2019-2020 academic year can be viewed here: [https://rdc.ab.ca/node/80375/attachment](https://rdc.ab.ca/node/80375/attachment) (you are not limited to only these options, these are just some examples)
HOW TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

School of Arts & Sciences
Advising & Recruiting
Room 2203
artscienceinfo@rdc.ab.ca
403-342-3585 (select option 1)
www.rdc.ab.ca/artsandsciences

Social Work Department
Phone: 403-342-3304
E-Mail: socialwork@rdc.ab.ca

Alberta Transfer Guide
http://transferalberta.alberta.ca

PLEASE NOTE:

This planning guide is designed to help you choose courses at RDC to help you plan for admission into the RDC Social Work Diploma program. The recommendations in this guide are based off current RDC program requirements.

You are responsible for ensuring that your registration is completed, and that your course choices comply with the program to which you have been admitted to, or are seeking admission into.

You are cautioned that any changes to your courses, your major, or your transfer destination may adversely affect your transferable credit or admission requirements for future programs. Consult with the student advisor (above) if you have any questions.

Students in university transfer programs are strongly advised to refer to the calendar of the university that they wish to attend, and should contact appropriate university departments as required.