The Developmental Services Worker supports individuals who have a range of physical, cognitive or developmental abilities. The role of the graduate has expanded considerably in order to implement the concepts of inclusion to support individuals to be full citizens empowered to live out their dreams. If you’re interested in a career working with individuals with disabilities, the Developmental Services Worker program is for you. This rewarding and challenging two-year course, will provide plenty of opportunity for academic achievement, as well as personal and professional satisfaction. In addition to classroom instruction, you can look forward to field placements with the five major agencies in Thunder Bay, as well as with both Boards of Education.

The Developmental Services Worker program at Confederation College provided me with skills to support people in achieving their goals in life regardless of their challenges. The hands-on experience from placement was a great opportunity to practice what I learned. The professors encouraged me to follow my passion for person-centred planning and I’m now part of the team at Community Living Thunder Bay, making a difference in people’s lives. I truly believe everyone has unique skills and abilities and I enjoy supporting them to share those gifts with others.

Trisha Modeland / Community Living Thunder Bay / 2011
Developmental Services Worker

Admission Requirements

• Ontario Secondary School Diploma (or equivalent) with courses from the College (C), University (U), University/College (U/C), or Open (O) preparation levels with Grade 12 English (C/U) Level.

• or successful completion of the Mature Student Assessment.

• or successful completion of the General Education Development Test (GED).

• or appropriate credits from the Academic and Career Entrance program (ACE).

Applicants not meeting these admission requirements are encouraged to consider the College Access or General Arts and Science Certificate or Diploma programs; students who successfully complete one of these programs would be eligible to apply to programs in the Community Services area.

Program Requirements

• Standard First Aid and CPR Level C.

• Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Training completed within the first semester.

• Immunizations and TB Skin Test up to date.

• Physical demands (possess the physical capability to lift and support people).

• Criminal record check (vulnerable persons).

Employment Opportunities

You may expect to find employment in a variety of settings providing services for individuals with a disability. The roles include the following: developmental services professionals providing direct care (agencies and families), student support professional, employment support professional, Advocate, Instructor Therapists (Autism Intervention program).

There are expanded opportunities as individuals with disabilities are further included into the mainstream of society. The program has high employment statistics, with careers available across Canada.

Following graduation from this course, you may find employment with several agencies in Thunder Bay and the region, including Wesway, Options northwest Personal Support Services, City of Thunder Bay Recreation & Culture Division Inclusion Services, Superior Greenstone Association for Community Living, Avenue II Community Services Thunder Bay, Brain Injury Services of Northwestern Ontario, Community Living Thunder Bay, Autism Intervention program, Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board and Lakehead Public Schools.

First Semester

CS 007 Persuasive Writing
DS 127 Developmental Disabilities
DS 131 Ethics and Professionalism
DS 238 Teaching Strategies
DS 341 Health Promotion
PY 063 Child Development

Second Semester

CS 223 Communications for Community Services
DS 232 Field Placement I
DS 234 Applied Behavioural Analysis
DS 236 Trends and Issues in Developmental Services
DS 349 Augmentative Communication and Assistive Technology

Third Semester

DS 133 Pharmacology
DS 343 Behavioural Support Strategies
DS 345 Dual Diagnosis
DS 347 Person Directed Planning
SS 116 Social Welfare
GE General Education Elective

Fourth Semester

DS 129 Intervention Strategies
DS 452 Field Placement II
DS 456 Counselling Skills
DS 460 Community Development
GE General Education Elective

For information, please contact:

Terry Lowey
Program Coordinator
(807) 475-6326 | lowey@confederationc.on.ca

NOTE: Content subject to change. Visit the program website for the most current information.