

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

**EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT PROGRAM – INDIGENOUS FOCUS**

**Certified by Red River College**

Updated: August 18, 2020

**Overview**

This 10-month training program is delivered by Urban Circle Training Centre Inc. 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.

**NOTE: Due to the uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 Pandemic situation:**

- **This program will be offered through blended learning, a combination of in-class, on-line, and off-site learning opportunities and,**
- **This program is offered one time this academic year at the following time:  
September 2020 to June 2021 (10 months)**

**Life Skills/Cultural Component**

Urban Circle utilizes the philosophy of the Medicine Wheel in all aspects of training delivery. This is a holistic approach which encompasses the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual aspects of human experience. The Medicine Wheel teaches us the interconnectedness of these four aspects and the ways in which they can bring about balance and wellness.

- \* **Due to the current COVID 19 restrictions we are moving to a blended learning format. Learning experiences will be in-class, online, and offsite as conditions allow.**

We follow a holistic model of adult learning. This is based on many cultural components and the Life Skills components. Depending on COVID 19 restrictions, learners will have the opportunity to participate and build our learning community through:

- Sharing Circles
- Elder traditional teachings and support
- Naming ceremony
- Medicine picking
- Feast
- Other teachings

The Life Skills Curriculum enhances students' personal and professional goals, assists them to become effective problem solvers, empowers them to set realistic obtainable goals and to gain the confidence required to become effective members of their family, workplace and community. Through lessons and exercises students learn effective communication skills, conflict resolution, anger management, stress, time management and the importance of teamwork. Taking responsibility and being accountable for the self is the basic goal of the life skills curriculum.

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

<b>Required Courses</b>	<b>Instructional Hours</b>
Academic Writing Skills	36
Basic Computer Applications	18
Inclusive Education	36
Educational Assistant Roles & Responsibilities	36
Managing Student Behavior	30
Portfolio Development	30
Communication & Partnerships	36
Characteristics of Learners	33
Supporting the Learning Environment	36
Observation & Documentation	36
Professionalism	36
Instructional Technology	33
Exceptional Students	33
ELA Content & Practice	30
Math Content & Practice	30
Activities for Daily Living Workshop for EAs	24
Practicum	300
Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Training	15
WEVAS	12
Emergency First Aid/CPR C	8
<b><i>Additional Workshops May Include:</i></b>	
Introduction to American Sign Language	8
Mental Health Awareness for EAs	8
FASD Workshop	16

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

### **Life Skills/Cultural Component**

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 Life Skills Curriculum helps develop personal and professional goals, assists students 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 oneself is a basic goal of the life skills curriculum.

### **Academic Writing Skills (36 hours)**

This course instructs the techniques and processes for educational assistants to produce accurate documentation in written communication skills using a variety of genre. The intent of this course is to provide educational assistants with the skills to support students in the writing process. The course should improve the educational assistant's written communication with teachers.

### **Basic Computer Applications (18 hours)**

The purpose of this course is to increase fundamental knowledge and skills using a current Windows operating system. Being able to competently use technology should enable educational assistants to assist teachers and support students more effectively.

### **Inclusive Education (36 hours)**

This course examines the evolution of inclusive education in the public school system with an emphasis on the supportive services available to students in an inclusive classroom setting. The majority of educational assistants working in Manitoba schools are employed to support students receiving inclusive education services, and this course supplies background information that assists them to contribute to meaningful discussions about students who have exceptionalities.

### **Educational Assistant Roles & Responsibilities (36 hours)**

This course familiarizes students with the school system and how to most effectively operate within the system. Emphasis is placed on the educational assistant roles and responsibilities in the classroom and within the educational support system.

### **Managing Student Behaviour (30 hours)**

Management of student behaviour is a major concern for teachers and educational assistants because of its importance in establishing a positive learning environment. This course provides information and strategies on how educational assistants can contribute to an effective behaviour management approach.

### **Portfolio Development (30 hours)**

This course will provide students an opportunity to complete a self-assessment of their knowledge, skills and competencies in the Educational Assistant field. The objective of this course is to equip students to realize their full potential and maximize their learning in the certificate program, as well as prepare them for life-long learning.

### **Communication & Partnerships (36 hours)**

This course provides an overview of communication skills and strategies that foster effective team functioning as well as a rationale for effective communication and collaborative teamwork.

### **Characteristics of Learners (33 hours)**

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

### **Supporting the Learning Environment (36 hours)**

This course provides an overview of how the learning environment influences learning outcomes and the ways that Educational Assistants support students. The main function of an Educational Assistant in a classroom is to provide support for students and teachers so that students can achieve the outcomes that have been identified for them in their program.

### **Observation & Documentation (36 hours)**

This course provides an overview of the reasons for student assessment and evaluation with a focus on how the educational assistant can assist in student observation, record keeping and reporting to the teacher.

### **Professionalism (36 hours)**

This course explores aspects of professional conduct and ethical practices as they relate to working with students, teachers, the school, and the community.

### **Instructional Technology (33 hours)**

This course utilizes a hands-on approach to familiarizing students with the varied ways in which technology can be utilized as an instructional tool. This course will focus on curriculum support and assistive/augmentative technology.

### **Exceptional Students (33 hours)**

This course provides information about specific student exceptionalities, how certain characteristics may affect the learning process of students and strategies that can be utilized by educational assistants working with students who experience these challenges. It provides an emphasis on making the educational assistant's work more effective in the supporting role with teachers in assisting students to work toward achieving the outcomes that have been identified in their program.

**ELA Content & Practice (30 hours)**

This course focuses on academic content and practical strategies that can be utilized by Educational Assistants when supporting student learning in the content area of English Language Arts.

**Math Content & Practice (30 hours)**

This course focuses on building encouragement, positive attitudes, confidence and academic content, practice and strategy application that can be utilized by educational assistants when supporting student learning in Mathematics.

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

This course provides the educational assistant student 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 Awareness for Educational Assistants (8 hours)**

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

**FASD Workshop (16 hours)**

This workshop introduces educational assistant students to the definitions, descriptions, and vocabulary related to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Students develop an understanding of the signs and symptoms of common secondary disabilities and learn to promote the development of protective factors for individuals who are affected by FASD in the classroom.