

ASSAULTED WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S COUNSELLOR/ADVOCATE PROGRAM (C137)

PROGRAM NAME	Assaulted Women's and Children's Counsellor/Advocate	TUITION	\$3,741.00 *
COURSE CODE	C137	ADDITIONAL COST	
SCHOOL	School of Social and Community Services		
CENTRE	Community Services and Early Childhood		
LOCATION	St. James Campus		
DURATION	2 years (4 semesters)		
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING	Field Placement		
STARTING MONTH	September		
CREDENTIAL	Ontario College Diploma		
YEAR OF STUDY	2020-2021		
METHOD OF STUDY	FT		
APPLY TO	Ontario Colleges ¹		

The **Assaulted Women's and Children's Counsellor/Advocate** program provides students with a feminist analysis of the political and counselling issues related to gender-based violence experienced primarily by self-identified women, children, trans and non-binary survivors. It trains students to be agents for change in their work of community education, political action and law reform. It prepares students to provide anti-oppressive counselling for survivors who have experienced or are experiencing gender-based violence.

Note: Some of our student placement partners require students in this program to have a police reference check completed before their field placement. These reference checks, which can take up to four months, are done to protect the clientele of these agencies, who are considered "vulnerable persons" under the law. The fees for the reference checks vary and must be paid by the student. Students are responsible for ensuring that the check covers appropriateness for "individuals being employed and/or volunteering who will be working with vulnerable person(s)." Students who are unable to provide a clear police reference check may find that their choice of placements is limited.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Field Placement

YOUR FIELD STUDY OPTIONS

Field education plays an important role in this program by preparing students to work with those affected by gender-based violence including not only those directly impacted, but the communities within which they live and work. This often includes those who identify as trans and non-binary, and other disenfranchised populations.

In year one, students will spend 250 hours with a non-profit community partner (Mondays and Tuesdays, January – April) and will typically engage in introductory activities, such as shadowing staff, conducting outreach, fundraising and special events, and learning about how programs and services are developed. First-year placements vary and can include sites that focus on public education, food banks, drop-ins and political action work, but are generally not frontline positions.

In second year, students will build on that experience by engaging in more direct 1-to-1 survivor counselling, group facilitation, case management, and advocacy. Placements begin in September and continue through to the end of April for a minimum of 500 hours. Students will often do this placement at emergency shelters, rape crisis centres, youth services, health providers and other agencies who provide frontline support.

The agencies used by the program for field placements are very similar to those employing our graduates. In many instances, employers hire graduates because of contact and experience with them through the fieldwork placement. Most agencies are within Toronto, while some agencies, located in other communities such as Brampton, St. Catharines, London, Hamilton, Barrie, Pickering and Oshawa, provide students who live in those communities with placement opportunities.

PROGRAM STANDARDS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

1. Apply a feminist analysis in all areas of their work in the field of violence against women and children.
2. Provide ongoing supportive counselling.
3. Provide individual advocacy and political advocacy services
4. Facilitate groups for women and children.

5. Demonstrate knowledge of existing services for women.
6. Cope with high stress work demands and develop strategies for personal survival on the job.
7. Develop and deliver prevention programs.
8. Organize fundraising and write applications and proposals for grants.
9. Utilize the media and organize community response to violence against women and children.
10. Become familiar with pertinent legislation and understand the process of formulating social policy.

REQUIRED COURSES

SEMESTER 1

Code	Course Name
GSSC1107	Introduction to Feminism and Social Justice Movements
COUN1020	Introduction to Feminist Counselling
COUN1014	Group Process I
COMM1007	College English
PSY1054	Child and Youth Development
WOMN1034	Gender, Race and Class: The Structure of Privilege and Oppression
WOMN1035	Integrative Seminar I
WOMN1048	Technology & Gender: Digital Relations

SEMESTER 2

Code	Course Name
COUN1011	Gender Based Violence I
COUN1026	Child Witness
COMM1034	Professional Communications I
GSSC1023	Psychology of Sex and Gender
WOMN1014	Fieldwork Seminar I
WOMN1037	Integrative Seminar II
WOMN1016	Field Placement I
GNED	General Education Elective

SEMESTER 3

Code	Course Name
COUN2014	Survivors of Sexual Violence I
COUN1013	Feminist Counselling & Advocacy
WOMN2029	Feminist Political Action and Community Development I
COUN2015	Group Process II
WOMN2017	Fieldwork Seminar II
WOMN2026	Field Placement II
WOMN2030	Integrative Seminar III

SEMESTER 4

Code	Course Name
COUN2013	Children Experiencing Violence
COUN2016	Survivors of Sexual Violence II
WOMN2032	Feminist Political Action and Community Development II
COUN2017	Group Process III
WOMN2022	Fieldwork Seminar III
WOMN2034	Field Placement III
WOMN2033	Integrative Seminar IV
GNED	General Education Elective

YOUR CAREER

AWCCA graduates work in a variety of settings, including women's transition and interval houses, rape crisis centres, women's health centres, settlement services, community centres and victim/witness programs.

FUTURE STUDY OPTIONS

Graduates of the AWCCA program are eligible to apply for advanced standing in degree programs at York University in Toronto³; Thompson Rivers University in British Columbia⁴; Royal Roads University in Victoria, B.C.⁵; Athabasca University⁶ (online) and the University of Victoria⁷ in the B.A. Health and Community in the School of Public Health and Social Policy. Graduates may apply for fast-track entry in a related George Brown College program in a reduced time in Social Service Worker (Fast-Track)⁸, Child and Youth Care (Fast-Track)⁹ or Community Worker (Fast-Track)¹⁰ programs. Graduates are also eligible for the Early Childhood Fast Track Program (C130)¹¹. See georgebrown.ca/transferguide.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are selected on the basis of their academic achievement, including the required courses, and any other selection criteria outlined below.

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma or equivalent**
- Grade 12 English (C or U)
- Mandatory information session
- Questionnaire

** MATURE STUDENT STATUS (19 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AND NO OSSD)

Mature Students may take the Admissions Assessment for English¹², OR may consider upgrading to achieve the credit (s) needed in English¹³.

Please note that George Brown is committed to ensuring that applicants will succeed in their program of choice and meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission to the program. Applicants may be required to have grades higher than the minimum requirements stated.

COURSE EXEMPTIONS

College or university credits may qualify you for course exemptions. Please visit georgebrown.ca/transferguide for more information.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Visit the International Admissions¹⁴ page for more information.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Some of our student placement partners require students in this program to have a police reference check¹⁵ completed before their field placement. These reference checks, which can take several weeks, are done to protect the clientele of these agencies, who are considered “vulnerable persons” under the law.

BRIDGING - ADVANCED STANDING

The AWCCA program has an individualized Direct Entry to Second Year Option for eligible students who have undergraduate degrees or diplomas. Please visit the Assaulted Women’s and Children’s Counsellor Advocate Direct Entry to Second Year Option page at georgebrown.ca/c137/direct-entry-to-second-year/

Meet some of our graduates and learn more about what to expect from the Assaulted Women’s and Children’s Counsellor/Advocate program.

Stacey Johnson (Graduate 2008, Assaulted Women’s and Children’s Counsellor Advocate)

Lindsay McAllister, Residential Program Manager, H.E.R. Place – Timmins and Area Women in Crisis



“Prior to discovering the AWCCA program, I knew that I wanted to gain more hands-on experience working with women and as a counsellor. I was excited to learn it was based in feminist analysis with an Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression

lens. I learned so much about myself, my own privilege and oppression as well as how I can be an ally. I am now working the job of my dreams, managing a culturally sensitive women’s shelter for Indigenous and all women in Northern Ontario. From that perspective, I can also say that I look for women who have graduated from this program to work in the field of ending violence against women, over others who graduated from the SSW program. Courses like Survivors of Sexual Violence, Feminist Counselling, Working with Abused Women and Child Witness really set this program apart from others designed to lead to work in this field. The experience I gained via my student placements made me employable straight out of school. This course literally changed my life, personally and professionally; I know it will do the same for future graduates.”

Jennifer Leworthy, B.A., E.C.E. (Graduate, Assaulted Women’s and Children’s Counsellor/Advocate); AWCCA Crisis Intervention Counsellor, Halton Women’s Place

“I entered this program not knowing what to expect, but knowing what I wanted to learn from it and do when I graduated. The incredibly knowledgeable and supportive program faculty prepared me beyond my expectations. I now have the job of my dreams and I am confident in my skills as a Crisis Intervention Counsellor at a shelter for abused women and their children. There is never a day that I don’t look forward to going to work. I have the program and the teachers to thank for this!”

CONTACT US

Call the Assaulted Women’s and Children’s Counsellor/Advocate program office at 416-415-5000, ext. 2323 or email awcca@georgebrown.ca.

**Assaulted Women’s and Children’s
Counsellor/Advocate Program Coordinator**

Anna Willats: 416-415-5000, ext. 3643

Email: awillats@georgebrown.ca

For more information about George Brown College, call the Contact Centre at 416-415-2000 (TTY 1-877-515-5559) or long distance 1-800-265-2002.

VISIT OUR CAMPUS

Book a campus tour¹⁶ or explore our virtual tour.¹⁷

LINKS REFERENCE

- ¹<https://collegeapply.ontariocolleges.ca/?collegeCode=GBTC&programCode=C137&lang=en>
- ²<http://www.georgebrown.ca/international/futurestudents/tuitionfees/>
- ³<https://www.yorku.ca/index.html>
- ⁴<https://www.tru.ca/>
- ⁵<http://www.royalroads.ca/>
- ⁶<http://www.athabascau.ca/>
- ⁷<https://www.uvic.ca/>
- ⁸<http://www.georgebrown.ca/programs/social-service-worker-program-fast-track-c135/>
- ⁹<http://www.georgebrown.ca/programs/child-and-youth-care-program-fast-track-c143/>
- ¹⁰<http://www.georgebrown.ca/programs/community-worker-program-fast-track-c131/>
- ¹¹<http://www.georgebrown.ca/programs/early-childhood-education-program-fast-track-c130/>
- ¹²<http://www.georgebrown.ca/assessment/admi-pre/>
- ¹³<http://www.georgebrown.ca/upgrading-credits/english-diploma/>
- ¹⁴<http://www.georgebrown.ca/international/futurestudents/howtoapply/>
- ¹⁵http://www.georgebrown.ca/preplacement/record_check/
- ¹⁶<http://www.georgebrown.ca/tours/>
- ¹⁷<https://vt.georgebrown.ca/>

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