

**NORTHERN LIGHTS COLLEGE
REGISTRAR'S OFFICE
PROGRAM INFORMATION AND COMPLETION GUIDE**

Program Name: Education Assistant
Credential/Certification: Diploma in Education Assistant
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Program Description:

The Diploma in Education Assistant prepares learners to support children and youth with diverse abilities in British Columbia K-12 classroom settings. This credential is grounded in the principles of positive, person-centred support and holistic development of individual potential. The importance of making personal connections to knowledge, content, and ways of being are reflected in course design, enabling Education Assistants (EAs) to support children and youth to become connected, competent, caring, and autonomous individuals.

The Diploma in Education Assistant comprises 20 courses, blending theoretical, practical, and experiential learning while supporting students as they continue to develop an Integrative Learning Portfolio.

Admission Requirements:

A. Standard Admission Requirements Are As Follows:

1. Completion of a Northern Lights College Application Form and payment of the related fee.

2. Copy of government issued picture ID with current full legal name.

3a. Students from countries that practice Standard Written English must have official transcripts demonstrating successful completion of one of the following English courses with a "C" or higher: English Studies 12, English 12, English Literature 12, English 12 First Peoples, English 050, English 099, or an equivalent course.

OR

3b. Any university-level English course with a "C" grade or higher.

OR

3c. Completion of the NLC Writing Assessment with 100-level course placement.

4. Submission of Program Questionnaire (included in Application Package on website).
5. Comprehensive letter stating the applicant's background, interest, and goals for pursuing the Education Assistant Diploma.
6. Two current letters of reference written and dated within a year of application, attesting to the candidate's knowledge, skills and attitudes as a fit for the EA profession. One must be from a recent employer and one must be a personal reference from a non-family member.
7. Current assurance of good health from a physician (see form included in Application Package on website).
8. Valid Solicitor General Schedule B Criminal Record Check (CRC) (works with "children" or works with "children and vulnerable adults"). Students who have completed a valid Schedule B CRC (works with "children" or works with "children and vulnerable adults") for another organization may share their results with Northern Lights College by completing the Sharing Form. Please see NLC's Criminal Record Check procedures for instructions on how to complete a CRC.

B. Students Who Received Their Secondary Education in a Language other than English:

1. In lieu of Item A3 above, domestic and international students who received their secondary education in French or in a language other than Standard Written English require minimum IELTS Academic scores of 6.0 overall with no band less than 6.0.

C. Dual Credit Students:

1. In lieu of Item A3 above, dual credit students may submit secondary school transcripts indicating successful completion of English 11 and enrollment in an acceptable Grade-12-level English course with an interim grade of "C" or higher.

D. Current NLC Education Assistant Certificate Students:

1. Current NLC Education Assistant Certificate students in good standing are required to complete an Education Assistant Diploma application and to submit a Letter of Intent to continue their studies in the Education Assistant Diploma.

Post-Admission Notes:

CRCs must be renewed if they expire before the Education Assistant Diploma is completed. Students are obligated to report any Schedule B criminal convictions that occur after they authorize a CRC but are still enrolled in NLC's Education Assistant program. Failure to do so may result in a requirement to withdraw from the program.

Length of Program: (weeks and total hours)

Full-time: The minimum possible time to complete under ideal conditions is 16 months.

Part-time: Three or more years, depending on course offerings. 810 theory course hours + 290 practica hours = 1100 total hours

Program Intake: (start/finish dates)

September; January; or May

Available Seats:

Based on capacity

Application Deadline:

May 1 for September courses,
October 1 for January courses,
February 1 for May/July courses.

Career Prospects:

Qualified Education Assistants are employed in public and independent (private) schools around the province. Graduates of the Northern Lights College Education Assistant program may seek a variety of positions in elementary and secondary education settings, including Special Needs Support Worker, Personal Care Attendant, Settlement Workers in Schools and Playground and/or School Supervision Monitor. Education Assistants may be employed at any grade level, from kindergarten to high school graduation, to provide support to children with varying levels of special needs or they may provide general support in the delivery of educational programs to a number of children.

Prospective students are encouraged to research employment prospects for Education Assistants in their local community and school districts prior to applying to the program.

Affiliations/Partnerships:

1. Le Collège Éducacentre
2. School District 60
3. Justice Institute of British Columbia: NLC's EA Diploma graduates are eligible for direct admission into the JIBC's Advanced Specialty Certificate in Community Care Licensing. Advanced standing is granted for HDEC 104: Human Development 2, provided HDEC 104 is chosen as the General elective.
4. Douglas College: NLC's EA Diploma graduates are invited to seek Chair advice on potential advanced standing in Douglas College's Behaviour Intervention Certificate.

Location:

The entire program is offered regularly through a blended model of online delivery, including asynchronous and synchronous modes of delivery.

Students complete practica within their own communities provided options exist for acceptable placements. Students unable to locate suitable practicum placements in their own community may need to relocate to another community for one or more of the practicum courses.

Face-to-face offerings may be available within the Northern Lights College region depending on student interest and project funding.

Additional Requirements/Supplies: (fees, supplies, materials)

- Instructional-related fees
- Textbooks and/or course packages
- Access to high speed internet
- A computer with a webcam

Eligibility for Canada Student Loans: (Yes or No)

Yes

Required Minimum Grade: (overall and/or minimum within a course)

Minimum of "C" in each course

Residency Requirement: (percentage of courses which must be taken at NLC)

Five courses comprising a minimum of 15 credits and one practicum

Required Courses: (list courses required to complete credential and total hours for each course)

Foundation Requirements (18 credits; 270 hours):

HDEC 100: Essential Skills for Human Service Workers (3 credits; 45 hours)

HDEC 101: Human Development 1 (3 credits; 45 hours)

HDEC 103: Guiding and Caring (3 credits; 45 hours)

HDEC 121: Interpersonal Communications (3 credits; 45 hours)

ENGL 100: Academic Writing (3 credits, 45 hours); OR

FRAN 100: Français Académique (3 credits, 45 hours) [Educacentre only]

FNST 100: Aboriginal Peoples of Canada (3 credits, 45 hours)

Specialty Requirements (21 credits; 315 hours):

EDAS 141A: Education Assistant Foundations (3 credits; 45 hours)

EDAS 142A: Special Needs (3 credits; 45 hours)

EDAS 143: Personal Care (3 credits; 45 hours)

EDAS 144: Curriculum Foundations (3 credits; 45 hours)

EDAS 145: Social Foundations of Special Education (3 credits; 45 hours)

EDAS 146: Understanding Learning Challenges (3 credits; 45 hours)

EDAS 148: Exploring Diversity (3 credits; 45 hours)

Practicum Requirements (7 credits; 290 hours):

EDAS 152: Practicum 1 (3 credits; 130 hours); OR

APS 120: Pratique réflexive 1 (3 credits; 130 hours; Educacentre only)

EDAS 153: Practicum 2 (4 credits; 160 hours); OR

APS 121: Pratique réflexive 2 (4 credits; 160 hours; Educacentre only)

Specialty Electives (minimum 12 credits; 180 hours) - Students must choose at least 4 courses from the list below:

EDAS 240: Language Development and Disorders (3 credits; 45 hours)

EDAS 241: Autism Spectrum Disorder (3 credits; 45 hours)

EDAS 242: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (3 credits; 45 hours)

EDAS 243: Supporting Children's Mental Health (3 credits; 45 hours)

EDAS 244: High School Literacy and Numeracy (3 credits; 45 hours)

Open Elective (minimum 3 credits; 45 hours) - students must choose one additional course among the Specialty Electives above, or any 3 credit University Arts and Sciences course, or any one of the following:

ECEC 201: Building Professional Family Partnerships (3 credits; 45 hours)

HDEC 104: Human Development II (3 credits; 45 hours)

HDEC 102: Health, Safety and Nutrition (3 credits; 45 hours)

ECEC 203: Current Perspectives on Practice (3 credits; 45 hours)

ECED 203A: Development 3 Infants and Toddlers (3 credits; 45 hours)

FRPC 200: Roots and Principles of Family Resource Programs in Canada (3 credits; 45 hours)

EDUC 100: Questions and Issues in Education (3 credits; 45 hours)

EDUC 220: Introduction to Educational Psychology (3 credits; 45 hours)

EDUC 230: Introduction to Educational Philosophies (3 credits; 45 hours)

EDUC 240: Social Issues in Education (3 credits; 45 hours)

WGST 100: Women and Gender Studies (3 credits; 45 hours)

MGMT 303: Non-Profit Management (3 credits; 45 hours)

PSYC 224: Organizational Behavior (3 credits; 45 hours)

Additional Notes:

1. Diploma in Education Assistant students who want to maximize course substitutions toward NLC's Social Services Worker Diploma are advised to take HDEC 104 or ECEC 201 as an Open Elective. Course substitutions will be granted as follows provided HDEC courses were completed within six years with a minimum grade of C+: HDEC 100, HDEC 101, HDEC 103, HDEC 104, and HDEC 121 = SSWD 110, PSYC 211, and SSWD 215. Alternatively, HDEC 100, HDEC 101, and HDEC 103 = SSWD 110 and SSWD 215; ECEC 201 = PSYC 235 or SOCI 204.

3. Diploma in Education Assistant students who have previously completed NLC's ECEC Diploma with ECED 210: Practicum - Diverse Abilities will be granted a course substitution for EDAS 148: Exploring Diversity.

4. Diploma in Education Assistant students who seek advanced standing in the JIBC's Advanced Specialty Certificate in Community Care Licensing must take HDEC 104 as a General Elective. Consult the NLC program Chairs for more information.

5. Diploma in Education Assistant students who plan to apply to Douglas College's Behaviour Intervention Certificate must take ECEC 201 as a General Elective. Consult the NLC program Chairs for more information.