

**OPEN STUDIES
TO SOCIAL WORK**
SCHOOL OF COMMUNITY, WELLNESS AND HEALTH

UPDATED: APRIL 2022

You are responsible for ensuring that your registration is complete and appropriate and that your course choices comply with the program to which you have been admitted at Red Deer Polytechnic and/or to the university to which you wish to transfer (if applicable). You are cautioned that any changes to your courses, your major or your transfer destination may adversely affect your transferable credit (if applicable), admission requirements for future programs, or eligibility to graduate from Red Deer Polytechnic. Please consult with an Advisor if you have any questions.

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

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- See the [Academic Calendar](#) for admission requirements.
- Open studies provides you with an opportunity to:
 - Explore topics of interest to help you determine which program is right for you.
 - Start taking courses that count towards another program, prior to being admitted to your goal program.
 - Take upgrading courses, if needed, in addition to post-secondary level courses.
 - Take any course for which you have the pre-requisites, and which are not restricted to a specific program.
 - Note that students who complete post-secondary level studies prior to entering the Social Work Diploma program are better prepared to succeed academically and this is taken in to account in the interview process.
- Check the admission requirements for your goal program in the [Academic Calendar](#).

WHAT IS THIS GUIDE?

- This is an Academic Planning Guide, prepared by the Student Connect Centre to help you register for courses towards your desired program.
- If you are transferring to another institution to complete your degree, we strongly advise that you read the Academic Calendar of your destination institution for full information.

WHAT IS A TERM? TERMS ARE THE PERIOD IN WHICH YOUR STUDIES TAKE PLACE. AT RDP, WE OFFER FOUR TERMS.

- **Fall** term (September through December)
- **Winter** term (January through April)
- **Spring** term (May through June): Spring term is an optional, condensed term. Course offerings are limited.
- **Summer** term (July through August): Summer term is an optional, condensed term. Course offerings are very limited.

HOW MANY COURSES SHOULD I TAKE A TERM?

- For Fall or Winter, the maximum course load is:
 - 5 post-secondary courses
 - OR 2 upgrading courses and 2 post-secondary courses
 - OR 1 upgrading course and 3 post-secondary courses
 - OR 3 upgrading courses
- For Spring or Summer, the maximum course load is:
 - 2 courses, regardless of whether they are upgrading or post-secondary level.
- We encourage you to find the best course load for you to be successful in your courses and your program! Open Studies is very flexible and you can choose a course load that matches your goals and the demands of your life.
- When determining your course load keep your funding in mind, if applicable. For course load requirements for funding purposes, please visit www.rdpolytech.ca/psfunding.

WHAT IF I COMPLETED COURSES AT ANOTHER POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION?

Once you are admitted to RDP, you can then apply to have your post-secondary courses assessed for transfer credit through our [Recognition of Prior Learning Office](#). Complete an [RPL application form](#) and provide the Polytechnic Assessors with any and all transcripts, course outlines/descriptions, or other documentation necessary to support your application.

NOTE: To qualify for a Red Deer Polytechnic program credential, students must complete at least 50% of the credit requirements for the credential through enrolment in RDP courses.

REGISTRATION AND PROGRAM AUDIT

- Refer to the **Registration** tab on your Loop account to view **Registration Tips and Tricks** for information on:
 - Registering in classes
 - Waitlisting
 - Checking Prerequisites and Corequisites
 - Courses listed as **prerequisites** must be completed before you start the course in question.
 - Courses listed as **co-requisites** must be taken at the same time as the course in question.
 - Viewing Your Schedule
 - And much more!

SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCE

REQUIREMENT	PREREQUISITE(S)	COMMENTS	COMPLETED
YEAR 1 COURSES			
SOWK 204	Ethics in Social Work Practice	Winter only	
SOWK 207	Introduction to Social Welfare	Fall only	
ENGL 219 or COMM 150	Essay Writing and Critical Reading OR College and Workplace Writing	ENGL 30-1 is required for ENGL 219	ENGL 219 is recommended if you have ELA 30-1. ENGL 219 is required for students planning to proceed into a degree after completing the diploma.

PSYC 260	Principles of Psychology I			
SOCI 260	Introductory Sociology			
ENGL 220 or COMM 250	Literary Analysis OR Business and Workplace Writing	- Pre-req for ENGL 220 is ENGL 219 - Pre-req for COMM 250 is ELA 30-1 or COMM 150	ENGL 220 is required for students planning to proceed into a degree after completing the diploma.	
PSYC 261	Principles of Psychology II	PSYC 260		
SOCI 261	Canadian Society	SOCI 260		
Developmental PSYC: PSYC 353, 355 or 357	Childhood OR Adolescence OR Adulthood and Aging	PSYC 260 and 261	Due to the pre-requisites, most students will have to wait until Spring to take this course, or wait and complete it as part of the Social Work Diploma	
Elective*			See Note 1	

NOTE 1: ELECTIVES

Any 3-credit RDP course (excluding upgrading courses) can be used as an elective. The day after you register for your elective, you can check your Grad Tracker and it will indicate if it is acceptable.

For students planning to go on to complete a degree, choose an elective that transfers to the University of Calgary – please refer to [Transfer Alberta](#) for confirmation.

NOTE 2: ENGLISH/COMMUNICATIONS REQUIREMENTS

ELA 30-1 is not required for admission to the program (ELA 30-2 or an entrance test will suffice), however, students who are considering continuing on to complete a Social Work degree will need to take ENGL 219/ENGL 220, which require ELA 30-1 as a pre-requisite.

If you are missing ELA 30-1 and are considering completing a degree, please contact the Student Connect Centre to discuss upgrading options.

ADMISSION INFORMATION

- It is your responsibility to ensure that you have read and understood the admission requirements for your goal program. The Social Work Diploma program has both [academic admission requirements](#) as well as [additional requirements](#).
- Completion of any courses listed in this guide may help to reduce the course load once you are admitted to your goal program, however it will not shorten the length of the program.
- Completion of any courses in Open Studies DOES NOT guarantee admission into your goal program, although it can improve your interview score.
- Applications open on October 1, 2022 for Fall 2023. You are encouraged to apply to your goal program as early as possible.

CONTACT INFORMATION AND HELPFUL RESOURCES

Red Deer Polytechnic Student Connect Centre	studentconnect@rdpolytech.ca www.rdpolytech.ca/SCC 403.342.3254
Red Deer Polytechnic website	rdpolytech.ca
Transfer Alberta Guide	transferalberta.alberta.ca