

SOCIAL WORK DIPLOMA
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](#)

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 program or proceed into a degree, we strongly advise that you read the Academic Calendar of your destination institution for full information.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Students must complete all courses with a minimum grade of 'D' and a minimum grade point average (GPA) of **2.00 (C average)**.
- Note that a higher GPA is typically required in order to transfer.

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 limited.

HOW MANY COURSES SHOULD I TAKE A TERM?

- The maximum number of courses you can take in the Fall or Winter terms is 6 courses and 2 courses in the Spring (optional).
- To complete your program in two years, you would need to take the maximum number of courses per term (5 courses in the Fall and 5 courses in the Winter), or 10 course per year. Some students will complete 10 courses in a year by taking 4 courses in the Fall, 4 courses in the Winter, and 2 courses in the Spring (or a combination thereof).
- We encourage you to find the best course load for you to be successful in your courses and your program!
- 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 HAPPENS IF I TAKE LESS THAN THE RECOMMENDED COURSE LOAD?

- You may need an extra term or year to complete your program.

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](#). To have your courses assessed, complete an [RPL application form](#), provide the Polytechnic Assessors with any and all transcripts, course outlines/descriptions, or other documentation necessary to support your PLAR 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!
- You can also see for yourself exactly which criteria each course will meet, by using Grad Tracker. To access this, log in to the Loop and select Online Services→Student Services→Grad Tracker.

GRADUATION CHECKLIST (UNOFFICIAL)

REQUIREMENT		PREREQUISITE(S)	COMMENTS	COMPLETED
YEAR 1 COURSES				
SOWK 201	Social Work Practice I	Co-req: SOWK 204 and SOWK 214	Fall only	
SOWK 204	Ethics in Social Work Practice		Fall only – the Winter section is for Open Studies students only.	
SOWK 212	Preparation for Practice	Co-req: SOWK 201, SOWK 204, and SOWK 214	Fall only	
SOWK 214	Reconciliation Social Work		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 meet the pre-requisite. ENGL 219 is required for degree-bound students.	
PSYC 260	Principles of Psychology I			
SOWK 202	Social Work Practice II	SOWK 201	Winter only	
SOWK 207	Introduction to Social Welfare		Winter only – the Fall section is for Open Studies students only.	
SOWK 209	Field Work I	Pre-req: SOWK 212 Pre or Co-req: SOWK 202	Winter or Spring	
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 recommended. ENGL 220 is required for degree-bound students.	
PSYC 261	Principles of Psychology II	PSYC 260		
YEAR 2 COURSES				
SOWK 301	Social Work Practice with Families	SOWK 202	Fall only	
SOWK 307	Social Policy	SOWK 207 and SOWK 214	Fall only	
SOWK 308	Field Work II	All 1 st year SOWK classes	Fall or Winter	
SOWK 315	Social Work Research		Fall only	
SOCI 261	Canadian Society	SOCI 260	Fall only	
SOWK 304	Social Work Practice: Groups and Communities	SOWK 202	Winter only	
SOWK 306	Leadership in Social Work	SOWK 202 and SOWK 207	Winter only	
SOWK 309	Field Work III	SOWK 308	Winter only	
SOWK 312	Current Trends and Issues	SOWK 307, SOWK 315	Winter only	
Developmental PSYC: PSYC 353, 355 or 357	Childhood OR Adolescence OR Adulthood and Aging	PSYC 260 and 261	Fall or Winter	
Elective			*See note 1	

YEAR 1 RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE

FIRST TERM	SECOND TERM
SOWK 201	SOWK 202
SOWK 204	SOWK 207
SOWK 212	SOWK 209
SOWK 214	SOCI 260
ENGL 219 or COMM 150	ENGL 220 or COMM 250
PSYC 260	PSYC 261

YEAR 2 RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE

FIRST TERM	SECOND TERM
SOWK 301	SOWK 304
SOWK 307	SOWK 306
SOWK 308	SOWK 309
SOWK 315	SOWK 312
SOCI 261	Developmental PSYC: PSYC 353 or 357* Can be taken in Fall instead
	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 and see this [elective guide](#) for some suggestions.

NOTE 2: SPRING TERM

In order to lighten your course load throughout the term, you have the option to take classes in the Spring term. ENGL, COMM, PSYC and SOCI, Electives and some Field Work placements (209 and 309) are often available in the Spring.

WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

This program includes three Fieldwork placements (SOWK 209, 308 and 309) in which students are placed in a human or social services setting where they will apply their in-class learning in a supervised practicum setting. This represents 720 hours in total of practical experience that will increase employability and the ability to succeed in the workplace upon graduation.

TRANSFER INFORMATION

University of Calgary – Bachelor of Social Work	University of Calgary Website
Requirements	Completion of RDP Social Work Diploma 8 University Transferrable Courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ENGL 219• ENGL 220• PSYC 260• PSYC 261• PSYC 353, 355 or 357• SOCI 260• SOCI 261• Elective – ensure the course you choose will transfer to the University of Calgary
Competitive Admission	GPA will generally be calculated using the most recent coursework to a maximum of 30 credits. Estimated GPA +2.3 Essay, Resume and References will also be taken into consideration.

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