

**BACHELOR OF ARTS –SOCIOLOGY
DEGREE COMPLETION WITH ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY
RED DEER POLYTECHNIC- SCHOOL OF ARTS AND CULTURE**

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](#)
- Red Deer Polytechnic (RDP) and Athabasca University (AU) have partnered together to offer a pathway allowing learners in Central Alberta to complete a 4-year Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree majoring in Sociology. Learners will start their degree at RDP, and transfer to AU where they will complete, and graduate, with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Sociology.
- AU is an online, fully accredited institution, offering Central Alberta learners opportunity and flexibility to complete a degree without having to relocate.
- The information in this guide provides details regarding the 120 credit (4-year) degree program offered by AU. Generally speaking, a university level course is equivalent to 3 credits, so learners will complete 40 courses over the duration of their degree to reach the required 120 credits to graduate.
- Of those 120 credits, **a minimum of 30 credits (10 courses) must be completed directly with AU.** Learners can transfer up to 90 credits (30 courses) of coursework from RDP. This means a learner may potentially complete up to three-years of full-time study at RDP and use those credits towards the AU Sociology program.
- In completing your degree through AU, you will at some point need to take 30 credits (10 courses) online through AU, which means that you can choose to take those 30 credits in your final year of study **or** incorporate them throughout the next two years.
- Admission into AU's BA in Sociology program is non-competitive.

WHAT IS THIS GUIDE?

- This is an Academic Planning Guide, prepared by the Student Connect Centre to help you register for courses towards a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology at Athabasca University.

- Please note that the first two years of a BA is generally transferable to any post-secondary institution in Alberta, but there will be notable differences. If you would like to transfer to a post-secondary outside of Athabasca University, please ensure that you are consulting with that institution about their admission requirements and transfer policies. If you are interested in transferring to U of A or U of C, please refer to the respective [Academic Planning Guides](#) for those transfer programs.

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.
- **At Athabasca, students are not restricted to a Fall or Winter intake. They offer year-round admission for undergraduate courses and programs.** Applications must be received by the 10th of the month prior to start (so August 10th to start in September). See page 3 for details.

HOW MANY COURSES SHOULD I TAKE A TERM?

- The maximum number of courses you can take in the Fall or Winter terms is 5 courses and 2 courses in the Spring (optional).
- To complete your program in four 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! However, we encourage you to check the course load requirements for your destination university and degree.
- When determining your course load keep your funding in mind. If you decide to transfer to Athabasca University, students (both full-time and part-time) can apply for financial assistance through their local provincial funding agency.

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](#). Once admitted to RDP you can 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: A minimum of 30 credits (10 courses) must be completed directly with AU. Learners can transfer up to 90 credits (30 courses) of coursework from RDP.

RDP REGISTRATION

- 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!
- After you have completed your registration, if you would like an advisor to review your registration please submit a [Registration Review Form](#).

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO AU

We recommend that you consider applying to AU in the Winter term (March) of your 2nd year of study at RDP.

1. **Request an AU General Application Form (GAF):** AU has provided RDP with a special GAF specific to the AU/RDP BA Partnership. The GAF can be requested by contacting studentconnect@rdpolytech.ca.
2. **Complete and submit your AU GAF:** Once you have completed the GAF, you can submit it to AU by e-mail or postal mail. We recommend you complete the GAF electronically and e-mail the form to partnership@athabascau.ca.
3. **Pay your General Application fee to AU:** If you submit the GAF via e-mail, you can request that partnership@athabascau.ca connect with you once the application is received to arrange payment via credit card or e-transfer.
4. **Deadline:** Generally speaking, there is no application deadline to start with AU, but we recommend that you apply by May if you are planning on taking Fall term courses at RDC in your third year. However, deadlines may exist if you will be applying for funding from AU. [Visit this page](#) to learn more.
5. **Arrange to have your transcript(s) sent to AU.** This can be done through your Loop. If you have questions about this, please contact student.records@rdpolytech.ca.
6. Once your admission is processed, AU will provide you with access to *myAU login* and information about their Degree-Audit system (**DegreeWorks***).

**DegreeWorks is a tool that tracks your progress towards graduation at AU. You will use this tool to see how your RDP courses fit into the degree (as well as any other transfer courses you may have). You will also be able to see what requirements are unmet, which will allow you to plan for your degree completion.*

7. Once admitted to AU, go ahead with registration in your AU courses! If you have questions about how to register in AU courses, please contact the Advisors at AU.

HOW TO TAKE RDP COURSES WHILE ADMITTED TO AU

1. If you intend to take courses at RDP, after you have been admitted to AU, please let us know at studentconnect@rdpolytech.ca. We will work with our Office of the Registrar to update your registration profile at RDP.
2. You can register in RDP courses in the same way that you had previously (through Online Services->Student Services->Registration in your Loop). If you require assistance with this, please contact the RDP Student Connect Centre.

3. **For AU to recognize these RDP courses, you must complete a Letter of Permission (LOP) request to AU.** This form is found in your *myAU* account. More information on the Letter of Permission process can be found here: <http://calendar.athabasca.ca/undergrad/current/adm-reg-eval/lop-out.php>
4. After you submit your LOP request, you will receive notice from AU indicating whether the course will be accepted, and what transfer credit may be awarded upon completion of these courses. *You can use DegreeWorks to track your **Letter of Permission (LOP)** requests.*
5. Once you complete said RDP courses, you must arrange for RDP to send your transcripts to AU. Transfer credit will not officially be applied to your AU account until this has been done.

FUNDING

You will be eligible to apply for student funding. If you will be applying for student loans, you will designate a primary institution each year that you apply for loans. Your primary institution is the one that you will be taking the majority of courses from.

For example, if you are admitted to AU, but you will be taking a majority of courses at RDP, then RDP would be your primary institution. These funding situations are unique to each learner, and ultimately depends on how you choose to put your schedule together once admitted into AU.

For Funding Questions, please visit the websites below and contact:

- RDP: [Student Connect Centre \(studentconnect@rdpolytech.ca\)](mailto:studentconnect@rdpolytech.ca)
- AU: [Student Financial Aid \(sfa@athabasca.ca\)](mailto:sfa@athabasca.ca)

GRADUATION CHECKLIST RDP/AU BA SOCIOLOGY (UNOFFICIAL)

This checklist provides you with an overview of the requirements for [Athabasca University's Bachelor of Arts Sociology Major](#). Keep in mind that you must complete a minimum of 10 courses (30 credits) with Athabasca University. **Do not take more than 90 credits (30 courses) through RDP!**

- JR = Junior Courses ("200 Level" at RDP). Maximum 45 credits (15 courses) of Junior Credit allowed
- SR = Senior Courses ("300" or "400" Level at RDP). Program requires 18 credits at the 400 level which must include a minimum of 12 credits (4 courses) within the major.

AU REQUIREMENT	RDP COURSE	COMMENTS	COMPLETED
Major Core: SOCI 287	SOCI 260	Minimum of 45 credits required in major. 21 credits of required SOCI courses. 24 credits of SOCI Electives, (Up to 9 credits from any WGST or LBST course)	
Major Core: SOCI 288	SOCI 261 Prerequisite: SOCI 260		
Major Core: SOCI 301	SOCI 310		
Major Core: SOSC 366	SOCI 312		
Major Core: SOCI 335	SOCI 332		
Major Core: SOCI 337	SOCI 333		
Major Core: SOCI 381	No RDP Equivalent		
Major Elective: 300 – 400 Level	300 level SOCI		
Major Elective: 300 – 400 Level	300 level SOCI		
Major Elective: 300 – 400 Level	300 level SOCI		
Major Elective: 300 – 400 Level	300 level SOCI		
Major Elective: 400 Level	400 level SOCI – Take with AU		
Major Elective: 400 Level	400 level SOCI – Take with AU		
Major Elective: 400 Level	400 level SOCI – Take with AU		
Major Elective: 400 Level	400 level SOCI – Take with AU		
English Writing Requirement	ENGL 219 (Required)	Min 18 credits required in Humanities.	
Humanities			
Humanities			
Humanities			
Humanities			
Science		Min 6 credits required in Science.	
Science			
Humanities/Social Science Requirement			
Humanities/Social Science Requirement			
Humanities/Social Science Requirement			
Humanities/Social Science Requirement			
Humanities/Social Science Requirement			
Humanities/Social Science Requirement			
Humanities/Social Science Requirement			
Humanities/Social Science Requirement			
Humanities/Social Science Requirement			
Humanities/Social Science Requirement			
Humanities/Social Science Requirement			
Open Option			
Open Option			
Open Option			
Open Option			
Open Option			
Open Option			

COURSE CATEGORIZATION/ELECTIVE LIST

You'll see in your AU degree that you need courses in Humanities, Sciences, and Social Sciences. There is a lot of flexibility to meet these requirements, and you can choose from many electives in many disciplines. If you are taking some of these requirements at RDP, you can use the recommended RDP subjects below to meet these requirements.

Humanities Elective	Social Science Electives	Science Electives	Open Options
Art History Classics (CLAS) Communications (COMM) English (ENGL) French (FREN) History (HIST) Philosophy (PHIL)	Anthropology (ANTH) Economics (ECON) Political Science (POLI) Psychology (PSYC) Sociology (SOCL)	Astronomy (ASTR) Biology (BIOL) Chemistry (CHEM) Computer Sciences (CMPT) Mathematics (MATH) Physics (PHYS)	Any courses from the other categories, or any three-credit university level course that transfers to AU.

[Click here](#) to view 2022-2023 RDP Arts and Science course offerings in more detail. [This AU website](#) will let you filter all courses and their subject areas to gain a broader view of what can be used to meet the additional requirements in your degree. For example, some COMM courses are classified as "Humanities" at AU, and some are classified as "Social Science". Remember to check your courses to see if they are transferable to Athabasca using [Transfer Alberta](#).

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
Athabasca University Academic Advisors	advising@athabascau.ca 1-800-788-9041 AU Student FAQ