



**Edison College Canada**  
SINCE 1973  
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# **Community Support Worker:** **Addictions & Mental Health Specialization**

30 Weeks Program





**Program Duration:**  
30 Weeks / 600 Hours



**Delivery Methods:**  
Online



**Campus Location:**  
Victoria, British Columbia

## Program Description

This Community Support Worker Diploma program will provide graduates with the skills to help clients effectively manage areas within the scope of their personal and social realm, specializing in the implementation of addiction and mental health programs and services. Graduates will be able to observe, understand, and evaluate responsiveness to various treatment programs and provide the necessary support via networking systems.

## Workplace Settings

- Addiction and Counselling Support Center
- Correctional Facilities
- Women Shelters
- Community Mental Health Care Center
- Social Service Government Agencies
- Group Homes

## Estimated Salary

Community  
Support Worker  
**\$52,140**

AVERAGE ESTIMATED  
EXPERIENCED WAGE PER YEAR

\*This estimate is based on available employment data at the time. Actual salary will be based on numerous factors.  
Source: workbc.ca



# Admission Requirements

- **High School Graduate or equivalent OR Mature student status (19 years or older prior to starting the program)**
- **Meet one of the following English Language Proficiency requirements:**
  - Minimum Grade 10 English (Domestic Students)
  - Overall IELTS 5, OR CLB Level 5, OR Duolingo score of 75-80, OR ECC test score of 55/100
- **Criminal record check (in accordance with the Criminal Records Review Act)**





## Courses

### **Introduction to Ethics**

This module is aimed to help students develop the competency to make decisions and take action on a wide variety of situations in the social services. A strong grasp of ethics enables them to think critically in considering the balance between professional behaviour and a client's best interest.

### **Introduction to Addictions**

This module educates students in the complex phenomenon of drug addiction—from the causes, types, risk factors, scope, to its consequences. It introduces the concepts of harm reduction and abstinence—two points of view that play an important role in addressing addiction.

### **Pharmacology Essentials**

This module can be considered a supplement to the addictions module. Learning more towards substance addiction, this module explores the biochemical aspect of addictions in order to solidify the students' understanding of how drugs affect the brain and the body.

### **Essentials of Mental Health**

The module is designed to educate students to fundamental concepts about mental illness—the rationale behind identification, sign and symptom recognition, and familiarization with some of the most commonly diagnosed mental illnesses among vulnerable clients. Though this module isn't geared to teach students the diagnosis of mental illness, early detection may help alleviate the distress on impacted individuals.

## **Aboriginal Canadian Studies**

This module aims to raise awareness on the phenomenon of intergenerational trauma that resulted from the Residential School system and the sixties scoop—harrowing experiences that torment present-day Aboriginal Canadian survivors. This module blends knowledge with advocacy/taking action towards the process of reconciliation and healing as put forward by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

## **Interviewing Skills**

The intake/interview is one of the building blocks of client work. Possessing a solid understanding of a client's circumstances lays the foundation for a solid assessment later on. This module blends theoretical knowledge with role-playing exercises in order to augment student learning.

## **Assessment Essentials**

The 'problem-solving' phase of client work, this module teaches the students a logical approach to going about the process. Similar to interviewing skills, it blends theoretical knowledge with role-playing sessions to reinforce understanding. Knowledge from interviewing skills is also applicable to this module; however, assessments emphasize working on a client's concerns.

## **Introduction to Case Management**

Case management is a vital process that, at some point, the support worker will have to conduct. Support workers are motivated to help; this module teaches them the specific processes involved in it: documentation, collaboration, care plan implementation, and follow-up.

## **Relapse Prevention**

A client's first step towards positive change can be a life-changing step for them. Keeping them on the path towards continued positive change is another aspect that a support worker may need to help a client with. A person in recovery may be at-risk for a relapse, given the right timing of certain distressing circumstances. This module educates students on the basic premises of a relapse, its risk factors, and preventive measures that can be taken to decrease its likelihood.

## **Burnout & Self-care**

Social service work can be a daunting task. If a support worker isn't mindful of their professional boundaries and limitations, the risk of developing apathetic and unsupportive attitudes increases. This module teaches students the importance of balancing their professional competency with self-care. Limit-setting and assertiveness are also discussed here.

**Trainings and Certifications**

Industry-standard certifications in British Columbia for FoodSafe Level 1, First Aid with CPR Level C, and Suicide Prevention are required for this program.

**Career and Employment Strategies**

This course provides information on how to use the communication skills in order to make a successful presentation to a prospective employer. Self-assessment during this course allows students to identify their personal skills.



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