

FNTI's Standalone Bachelor of Indigenous Social Work Frequently Asked Questions

1. When will FNTI deliver its standalone Bachelor of Indigenous Social Work degree?

First Nations Technical Institute's Bachelor of Indigenous Social Work (BISW) program is one of the first degrees ever to be credentialed by an Indigenous Institute in Ontario, wholly rooted in Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous ways of knowing and understanding the world. Graduates of this program will receive a degree originating from First Nations Technical Institute.

We anticipate that our standalone Bachelor of Indigenous Social Work undergraduate degree will begin the program accreditation process with IAESC in Winter/Spring 2020, which will allow FNTI to **begin targeted deliveries** in September 2020 in accordance with the *Indigenous Institutes Act, 2017*. General deliveries of the standalone BISW program are expected to begin in 2021.

2. How long will it take to complete the degree program?

The BISW degree is made up of a two-year foundational component and approximately 2.5 years of industry-focused curriculum entrenched in Indigenous ways of knowing and worldviews.

Applicants that hold a diploma in social service work (or related field) from a recognized Canadian college will be eligible to apply for the 2.5 years of industry-focused portion of study, with credit for their previously attained diploma credential.

Applicants without previous post-secondary experience in social work or a related field that are graduates of a recognized Indigenous immersion high school or community school or hold an Ontario Secondary School Diploma or equivalent are eligible to apply for the entire 4 year program.

3. Is there a field placement?

Your program includes field placement that will give you hands-on experience! Over the course of your program, you will complete a substantive field placement that focuses on practicing on working within an interdisciplinary team to provide client service and support. These real-world experiences are mandatory and are designed to allow you to integrate classroom teachings with professional practice. Through your placements, you will gain valuable experience that will help you understand the diverse roles, settings, and responsibilities of a Social Worker.

4. What are the admission requirements?

FNTI strives to provide an admissions process that is inclusive, facilitated and accessible.

Applicants that are graduates of a **recognized Indigenous immersion high school or community school** or hold an **Ontario Secondary School Diploma or equivalent** (with ENG4C or ENG4U) are eligible to apply for the 4.5 year stream of the Bachelor of Indigenous Social Work.

Applicants that hold a **diploma in social service work (or related field) from a recognized Canadian college** will be eligible to apply for the 2.5 years of industry-focused portion of study, with advanced standing for their previously attained diploma credential.

Applicants who do not meet the criteria above but are willing to participate in an interview by a cross-functional admissions committee to determine the individual application admissibility, may be admitted into the BISW based on the likelihood of the applicant's success.

5. Can I apply for advanced standing, credit transfer and/or prior learning assessment and recognition?

Yes. A formal process for advanced standing, credit transfer and/or prior learning assessment and recognition is being formulated and will be overseen by the cross-functional admissions committee.*

**the committee formation and process may be delayed to the September 2021 student cohort.*

6. Will FNTI's BISW be accredited with the Ontario College of Social Work and Social Workers?
Graduates will be eligible to apply to register with the [Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers](#).

7. How much will the degree program cost?

Estimated tuition is approximately \$3500-\$4000 per semester.

8. Are financial supports available for the BISW program?

Yes, assistance for tuition fees, travel and accommodation costs may be available for students through sources such as the education office of your First Nation, Aboriginal Area Management Boards, Metis Nation of Ontario, Employment Ontario programs, scholarships, bursaries and grants. BISW will also be recognized by the Ontario Student Assistance Program (estimated timeline is July 2020).

9. In what locations will the program be delivered?

FNTI programs are delivered in communities across Ontario. There are no pre-determined locations for the general delivery of the BISW degree program at this time -- we continue to evaluate interest from applicants to make this determination.

10. How do I apply?

The formal application process for the standalone BISW degree program has not yet begun. Before this application process begins, formal organizational review and program accreditation from IAESC must be complete. By submitting a [BISW interest form](#) you will receive up to date information about the progress of this process.

11. What are the application deadlines?

Applications for FNTI's standalone BISW degree program are not open yet.

If you are applying to the Bachelor of Social Work degree offered by FNTI in partnership with Ryerson University, the deadline for application is February 1, 2020.

If you are applying to another university delivery, the deadline to submit your completed application to the OUAC was January 15, 2020. Note: The OUAC still processes applications

received after this date and distributes them to the universities; however, specific university deadlines will apply.

12. What is the difference between FNTI's Bachelor of Indigenous Social Work degree program and the Bachelor of Social Work program delivered in partnership between FNTI and Ryerson University?

FNTI's BISW program is one of the first degrees ever to be credentialed by an Indigenous Institute in Ontario, wholly entrenched in Indigegogy, Indigenous knowledges and Indigenous ways of knowing and understanding the world. Graduates of this program will receive a degree originating from First Nations Technical Institute.

Students who graduate from the BSW program delivered by FNTI in partnership with Ryerson will receive a degree originating from Ryerson University.

13. Do I have to be of First Nations, Métis or Inuit descent to be a student in the BISW program?

All FNTI programs are rooted in Indigegogy and Indigenous ways of knowing. FNTI students meet Indigenous learning outcomes, as well as all post-secondary intended learning outcomes, program vocational outcomes and essential employability skills. Regardless of genealogical descent, all learners are welcomed into the BISW program.

14. Will this be delivered in intense professional mode?

BISW students will attend classes in an *intense professional mode*, meaning that they receive instruction for 1-2 post-secondary courses over approximately one week a month, instead of stretching the instruction of a course throughout an entire semester. Learners complete the same hours of course instruction hours as mainstream delivery; typically 42 hours per course. Students are expected to be fully engaged in learning over the course of the program – they are also assigned readings and preparatory work in advance of the week of instruction and are expected to complete and submit assignments following the instruction week.