



RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING FOR NON-DIRECT STUDENTS

Many programs across George Brown College attract non-traditional students. These students are different from the typical “direct from high school” student and are often different from one another. Many of these students go into certificate, diploma and degree programs that are offered in the usual formats, and most are successful.

This handout describes some programs that have been designed for non-direct students. Each program has features that make it especially suitable for some students. An example of each type is given as an illustration, though neither the list nor the examples are exhaustive.

1. ACADEMIC UPGRADING

Upgrading - is offered for students who never completed high school or who lack high-school level skills in English, math, or sciences. This is available as full-time study during the day, as part-time study during the late afternoons and evenings, and off campus in some community settings. Learners can progress at their own pace. Many use this as an initial step prior to moving on to apprenticeship, post-secondary programs, or employment.

2. HIGH-SUPPORT APPRENTICESHIP

Residential Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Training – This 8-month program offered training as a Residential Air Conditioning Systems Mechanic to women who had experienced violence or were at high risk. The program provided an opportunity to develop skills that would lead to stable employment and good career prospects. The program included math upgrading and other academic supports, as well as assistance with a broad spectrum of other needs, including transportation, food, social assistance, child care, and housing. A seminar for reflection and discussion facilitated the formation of a strong cohort and networks of mutual support among the women.

3. AUGMENTED EDUCATION

Assistant Cook Extended Training (ACET) - This unique program model was developed in partnership with the Centre for Addiction and Mental health (CAMH) to help people with mental health and/or addiction histories take the first steps towards jobs in Toronto’s food service industry. The model involves delivering training over a longer

period of time than usual and with a higher level of support and direction. The program includes classroom and kitchen lab instruction, a work placement, and workshops. Class and kitchen lab time is approximately 15 to 20 hours per week, with support and tutoring available through program coaches and job developers. Successful participants are qualified for entry-level food preparation jobs in commercial food service, cafeterias, fast food outlets, restaurants and catering operations. There is a companion **Construction Craft Worker Extended Program [CCWET]** which prepares people for entry-level jobs in the construction.

4. RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION

Redirection Through Education - Redirection Through Education (RTE) is a supported education program that provides adults who have a history of mental health needs or addictions with the opportunity to assess their readiness for full-time school or work. Students enroll in non-credit courses that focus on personal development and career exploration. As the program progresses, they are also able to acquire college credits by taking courses such as English, Computer Skills, and Contemporary Issues in Adult Development. Vocational counselling helps students determine their interests and aptitudes, and a work placement experience allows students to test out possible careers as well as their readiness to return to work. Students typically spend about one year in the program.

5. COMPRESSED AND FAST-TRACK DIPLOMA PROGRAMS

Career and Work Counsellor -This program trains career and vocational counsellors who work in private business, not-for-profit agencies, and for government. Most applicants are mature people who are changing careers and have significant work experience or education. This two-year post-secondary program is delivered over 16 consecutive months, with most students doing a 12-month fast-track delivery designed for university or college graduates. This enables students who have family and/or financial obligations to complete the program in a single calendar year.

6. GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS – Studio or Atelier Model

Institute without Boundaries – This 10-month interdisciplinary program gives people who already have education and/or experience in a variety of disciplines the opportunity to participate in a complex problem-based learning experience in graphic design. Strong industry partnerships with leading designers ensure the students' exposure to a current challenges and resources in this field. Students develop a range of skills in the course of their work on a large scale project with significant potential impact, such as designing a sustainable, universal, affordable housing system.

7. Distance Education – Start Any Time Self Paced

Electronics Technician -

The Electronic Technician (Distance Education) program at George Brown College focuses on the skills needed to assemble, install, troubleshoot and repair electronic equipment used by consumers, business and industry. Students learn electronics theory and how to work with circuits and the various components of electronic systems such as capacitors, resistors, semiconductors and amplifiers. The focus is on a broad understanding of the field that students can then apply to specific areas of interest or employment.

This is a Distance Education program in which you complete all courses by studying at home, with an interactive learning package on a personal computer. Laboratory projects and assignments are also carried out in this way. The learning package consists of 23 courses (modules) on a CD-ROM with text, video, animation, computer-based testing and a computerized simulation of an electronics laboratory. Students also have telephone or e-mail access to a tutor for personal assistance. You may enrol at any time during the year and complete the modules in the learning package at your own speed. Typical completion time for the program is 34 weeks.

Information about these and other programs can be found at www.georgebrown.ca