



## INDIGENOUS ACCESS POLICY

Policy Area:	Board		
Policy Number:	IACPL_2403N_BA/PVPA		
Policy Sponsor:	Provost and Vice President Academic		
Policy Contact:	Registrar		
Stakeholders:	Students and Employees		
Authority:	<i>College and Institute Act</i>		
Approval Authority:	Board of Governors on advice of Education Council		
Approval Date:	March 12, 2024		
Effective Date:	May 1, 2024		
Replaces:	OC Calendar Admission Policies: Section 6 - Aboriginal Admission		
Last reviewed:	March 2023	Scheduled review date:	March 2028

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Procedures: *None*

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### 1. Policy Statement

The College has committed to Reconciliation and to ensuring that our structures, policies, and practices support Indigenous Students

The College is dedicated to enhancing the participation rate of Indigenous peoples in post-secondary education by providing enhanced access and dedicated program seats to a level which is representative of the Indigenous population of the College.

### 2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to increase access and decrease barriers to the College's programs for Indigenous applicants, future students, and communities.

### 3. Scope and Application

This policy provides guidance to Indigenous applicants and relevant employees concerning specific admissions opportunities.

#### 4. Definitions

**Flexible Admissions** Means an alternative admissions process that are based on identifying, assessing and recognizing skills, knowledge, or competencies that have been acquired through previous education, work experience, non-credentialed training, independent study, volunteer activities, etc.

**Indigenous Student** Means a self-declared person of Indigenous ancestry who is one of the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada defined by the Constitution Act of 1982 and refers inclusively to members of First Nations, status and non-status, treaty and non-treaty Indians, Métis, and Inuit peoples in Canada.

#### 5. Principles

- 5.1 The College will annually set aside a predetermined number of seats specifically for Indigenous Students in all credential programs. While the number may vary from program to program, it will normally be ten percent of the intake capacity for any given program in a particular year.
- 5.2 Indigenous applicants will have access to the predetermined number of reserved seats specific to each program during the period from the first allowable application submission date to ninety (90) days prior to the start date of the program.
- 5.3 In programs where the reserved seats for Indigenous applicants are not filled ninety (90) days prior to the start date, the program will be filled with other students who have applied. In circumstances where reserve seats have not been filled with Indigenous Students, subsequent Indigenous applicants up to the number of unfilled reserved seats will be placed at the top of the Program's wait list.
- 5.4 Okanagan College invites applications from Indigenous applicants who can demonstrate they meet admissions requirements through a range of achievements and life experience, including previous coursework. Indigenous Students are encouraged to contact Indigenous Student Services who can provide information and support and will assist applicants to contact the appropriate Program Dean/Director to discuss this Flexible Admissions option. If applicable, applicants will be provided with an assessment to determine if admission requirements have been met. Students may be asked to submit additional documentation. Okanagan College reserves the right to determine program admissions eligibility to support student success in the program.

#### 6. Related Acts and Regulations

None.

#### 7. Supporting References, Policies, Procedures and Forms

*Indigenous OC Plan*

##### History / Revisions

Date	Action
2024-03-12	Approved by the Board of Governors: <i>Indigenous Access Policy (IACPL_2403N_BA/PVPA)</i>