



*Preparation for Health Careers
in Aboriginal Communities*

SFU

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Partners

- Simon Fraser University
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Kla-how-eya Aboriginal Centre
- Kwantlen First Nation
- Sto:lo Nation HRD
- Métis Nation of BC

Building on ...

- **Aboriginal University Prep** (*SFU, KPU, Sto:lo Nation HRD, Surrey & Langley SDs*)
- **Rural Aboriginal Pre-Health** (*SFU Kamloops & TRU*)

Preparation for Health Careers in Aboriginal Communities

- A 10-month-long **bridging program**
- Core components: **Curriculum & student supports**
- Focus on **competence** and **confidence**; preparation for a range of health careers; possibility of a Certificate
- **A blend** of science, “context setting” courses, and hands-on experience

How we started ...

- Community consultations: *Needs, priorities, resources ...*
- Pre-requisites of target post-secondary programs
- Environmental / institutional scan: *What courses exist?*
- Emerging best practices

Where we are now ...

- Advisory Committee: *Elders, community partners, national Aboriginal role model (a young community health nurse)*
- Curriculum & student supports in development
- Promotion strategy: *FHA, SDs, Aboriginal partners*

What will this program look like?

- 3 terms, ~10 months
- **Courses** (*Aboriginal and Western perspectives woven together for effective practice*):
 - Foundations of health & wellness
 - Intro to Canada's health system & health careers
 - English, Math, Science, Human Biology
 - First Nations Studies 100, Health Sciences 100
 - Practicum (*shadowing, hands-on experience*)
- **Elders** involved as guest speakers and mentors

What supports will students need?

- **Personal, cultural, spiritual**
 - *Elders, home community*
 - *Peers*
- **Health career specific**
 - *Peers*
 - *Current health science students and recent graduates*
 - *Health professionals*
- **Academic**
 - *SFU Student Services / First Nations Student Centre*

What will the supports look like?

- **Tutoring** (*subject specific*)
- **Mentoring** (*holistic, face-to-face*)
- **e-Mentoring** (*online – to complement F2F*)
 - *A partnership with UBC Faculty of Medicine*
 - *Sponsored by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) through the Technology Enabled Knowledge Translation Investigative Centre (TEKTIC)*
- **Networking** *with other Aboriginal health professionals*



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