



**Bachelor of Science *in***  
**Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences**  
**FAQs for Prospective Students**

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## **1) What is the Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences (ENCS) Program?**

Yukon College, in partnership with the University of Alberta, offers years 3 and 4 of a [Bachelor of Science degree in Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences](#) (B.Sc. ENCS), granted by the University of Alberta. This Northern ENCS Program is delivered primarily by University of Alberta faculty and Yukon College instructors based in Whitehorse. Yukon College will become Yukon University in May 2020 but this will not change the partnership and co-delivery with U of Alberta.

Canada's North is experiencing unprecedented rates of change in environmental, social, and economic conditions, due to climate change, new governance structures, and accelerated industrial and infrastructure development. These pressures create significant challenges for northern communities, management of northern resources, and maintenance of northern values.

The Northern Systems Major of the Northern ENCS Program applies a systems perspective to understanding the implications of rapid environmental and social change affecting the North, and developing responses that promote resilience and adaptation. Strong foundations in natural and social sciences provide a platform for exploring approaches to conservation and sustainability, with course content that is relevant to the region. Students will learn about systems in the North, in a learning environment respectful of the area's unique ecological, cultural and social realities.

Graduates are prepared for careers in federal, territorial and First Nations governments, with resource industries, conservation organizations, and consulting companies operating in the North, and in environmental education and outreach.

## **2) What kinds of courses does the Northern ENCS Program offer?**

The Northern ENCS Program consists of an interdisciplinary curriculum that integrates natural and social sciences as related to issues such as global climate change, non-renewable energy resources, land use, resource management under modern treaties, changes in water quantity and quality, and wildlife conservation.

Some core courses include: Northern Land-use Planning; Ecology of Northern Landscapes; Management of Aboriginal Natural Resources; Environmental Policy; Natural Resource and Environmental Economics; Wildlife Ecology and Management; Biodiversity Conservation; Introduction to Soils and Soil Science; Experimental Design and Data Analysis for Environmental Sciences; and Critical Thinking and Advanced Communication in Science.

## **3) Can I complete my entire Northern ENCS degree at Yukon College?**

Yes! You would complete the first two years of the degree in one of Yukon College's science-based diploma programs ([Northern Science ENCS Stream](#) or [Renewable Resources Management](#)). You would then apply to transfer to the Northern ENCS

Program for your final two years. Once accepted to the Northern ENCS Program, you would maintain dual registration at the University of Alberta and Yukon College, and complete your coursework at Yukon College.

#### **4) Where is the Northern ENCS Program located at U of A and at Yukon College?**

The B.Sc. in Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences Program is housed in the [Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences \(ALES\)](#), and partnered with the [Faculty of Native Studies](#) at the [University of Alberta](#), in [Edmonton, Alberta, Canada](#).

The Northern ENCS Program is offered by [Yukon College](#) (to be [Yukon University](#) beginning in May 2020) in partnership with U of A, and is located in the School of Science, within the Division of Applied Science and Management, at Yukon College in [Whitehorse](#), Yukon, Canada.

#### **5) What first and second year courses are required in the Northern ENCS Program?**

Core first and second year courses include: first-year Biology; one term each of first-year Chemistry, Calculus and English; introductory courses in Statistics, Ecology, Soils, Plant Science (Botany), GIS, Microeconomics and First Nations Studies; and 1-2 field courses. Some of these courses may be completed after admission to the Northern ENCS Program.

#### **6) Can I take courses in the Northern ENCS Program part-time?**

Yes, part-time study is an option. This may be particularly appealing to returning professionals who would like to continue to work while completing their ENCS course work, parents with young children, and students who need to be employed while studying.

#### **7) Who can apply to the Northern ENCS Program at Yukon College?**

Students who have completed 24 credits of transferable post-secondary coursework may be eligible to apply to the Northern ENCS Program. Application is made to the University of Alberta following consultation with an [ENCS Program Advisor](#) at Yukon College.

Transferable coursework includes first- and second-year courses such as Biology, Chemistry, English, Calculus, Ecology, Microeconomics, Introductory Statistics, and many others. Many students complete this coursework as part of a two-year diploma program, such as Northern Science or Renewable Resources Management, at Yukon College or another institution.

Students may transfer a maximum of 60 credits toward the Northern ENCS Program.

Students must meet the minimum entrance requirements of the University of Alberta's Faculty of Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences (ALES), in which the Northern ENCS Program is housed. These are:

- 24 transferable credits of coursework;
- Minimum Admission Grade Point Average (AGPA) of 2.3;
- Proficiency in English (refer to sections 13.3.1 and 13.3.2 of the U of A Academic Calendar at <http://calendar.ualberta.ca/index.php>); and
- For students under 21 years of age:
  - English 12, Chemistry 12, Biology 12, Principles of Math 12 or Pre-calculus 12, and one of: Calculus 12, Physics 12, Geology 12, Environmental Science 12, History 12, 12-level language, or 12-level Fine Arts.
- For non-matriculated students (21 years of age or older):
  - Chemistry 12, Biology 12, and Pre-calculus 12 (or equivalents), with a grade of at least 50% in each and a minimum overall average of 70%.
- \*Note: if a student does not have the high school prerequisites but has completed a more advanced college/university course in that subject (e.g. does not have Biology 12 but has successfully completed a first-year college/university-level biology course, such as YC's BIOL 101/102), then U of A may waive the high school prerequisite. Please contact an [ENCS Program Advisor](#) for more information.

## 8) I think I'm eligible. How do I apply to the Northern ENCS Program?

Contact an [ENCS Program Advisor](#) at Yukon College. The Advisor will conduct a preliminary assessment of your completed coursework and unofficial transcripts to ensure that you are eligible to apply. Once the advisor has confirmed that you are eligible to apply, you will submit an application by going to the [U of Alberta undergraduate admissions page](#) and clicking on the Start Application button for the appropriate term. Please note the following details when filling out the application, the Faculty being applied to is Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences (ALES), the Program is Environmental and Conservation Sciences (or just ENCS), and the Major is Northern Systems. After submitting the application, please also email a pdf copy of the proof of application to Dr. Kathryn Aitken, [kaitken@yukoncollege.yk.ca](mailto:kaitken@yukoncollege.yk.ca), for Yukon College records. Additionally, you will need to have official copies of your high school and post-secondary transcripts mailed to the Registrar's Office at Yukon College, P.O. Box 2799, 500 College Drive, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 5K4. If you attended Alberta high school or post-secondary institutions that are part of the ApplyAlberta system, then you will not need to have official copies mailed to Yukon College.

After submitting your application, follow the instructions at <https://www.ualberta.ca/admissions/undergraduate/admission/after-you-apply> to ensure that you have activated your Campus Computing ID (CCID) and password in order to monitor your application progress.

Once you receive an offer of admission from University of Alberta, **you will be required to pay a \$500 tuition deposit** to indicate your intention to attend. The deadline to pay the deposit will be indicated in your computing account on U of A's online student system, Bear Tracks (<https://www.beartracks.ualberta.ca/>). For more information on tuition deposits and how to accept your offer of admission, visit:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/admissions/undergraduate/admission/after-you-apply/how-to-accept-your-offer>. If you will be receiving funding from your First Nation for your education costs, you can arrange to have your tuition deposit covered through your third-party funder. For information on that, contact U of A Financial Services at [student.payment@ualberta.ca](mailto:student.payment@ualberta.ca) or call 780-492-2400.

## 9) What is the deadline to apply?

The deadline for applications is:

- 1 March for September admission
- 15 November for January admission

## 10) I'm still in high school and want to apply to the Northern ENCS Program after graduation. Which courses should I take?

Please note that you will not apply directly to the Northern ENCS Program after high school graduation. Instead, you will apply to either the [Northern Science \(ENCS Stream\)](#) or [Renewable Resources Management \(RRMT\)](#) diploma programs at Yukon College, or to similar programs at another post-secondary institution, to complete courses for transfer as years one and two of your ENCS degree. Please see the Yukon College website for entrance requirements and application information for Northern Science (ENCS Stream) and RRMT ([www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/programs/](http://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/programs/)). For the Northern Science (ENCS Stream) diploma, you must have at least two of: English 12, Pre-calculus 12, Biology 11, or Chemistry 11 (Chemistry 12 is strongly recommended).

## 11) I am a high school graduate but I did not complete the high school entrance requirements for University of Alberta. Can I still apply to the Northern ENCS Program?

Yes, it is possible. Yukon College offers high school equivalencies for English 12, Chemistry 12, Biology 12, and Math 12. Depending on your background and other coursework, you may be able to apply for admission to the Northern ENCS Program and complete the necessary equivalencies at Yukon College while also completing ENCS coursework. Talk to an [ENCS Program Advisor](#) for more information.

## 12) I need some math, chemistry, or biology upgrading. Which courses do I need to take?

Equivalencies in high school math, chemistry, and biology are available through the School of Academic and Skill Development at Yukon College.

The Yukon College equivalents for Chemistry 11 and Biology 11 are CHEM 050 and BIOL 050. The equivalents for Chemistry 12 and Biology 12 are CHEM 060 and BIOL 060.

YC equivalents for Math 11 and 12 are MATH 050 and MATH 060, respectively. Because U of Alberta and Yukon College require equivalents for Yukon's Pre-Calculus 12 (or previously Principles of Math 12), a student entering the Northern ENCS program

with Math 11 and 12 may still be required to do some upgrading if they completed other high school math courses (e.g. Applications of Math, etc.). Contact an [ENCS Program Advisor](#) to discuss whether you will need math upgrading.

Students who need math upgrading may be advised to write a math placement test to determine whether they need MATH 050 or 060. These tests are written through the Testing and Assessment Centre at Yukon College. Information on testing is available here: <https://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/student-life/learning-matters/testing-assessments>, which includes review material and a link to the online test booking system. Students may be able to complete their placement test from off-campus. Contact the School of Academic and Skill Development at the link above for more information.

### **13) I live in a Yukon community outside of Whitehorse. Can I still complete the Northern ENCS Program?**

Whenever possible, the Northern ENCS Program offers courses via Distance Learning (usually web conference) to Yukon College community campuses.

However, due to lab components in some courses and other logistic constraints, we cannot offer all courses in the program via Distance Learning. Therefore, while a student may be able to complete some of their ENCS coursework from their community, they should expect to spend at least some of their time in the program at the Ayamdigut campus in Whitehorse.

Students taking the Northern Science or Renewable Resources Management diploma programs in anticipation of transferring to the Northern ENCS Program, or students applying to the Northern ENCS Program with less than 60 transferable credits, should plan to complete most of their coursework in Whitehorse.

### **14) How much does the Northern ENCS Program cost?**

After being accepted into the Northern ENCS Program at Yukon College and University of Alberta, students pay tuition only at University of Alberta but pay mandatory non-instructional fees at both institutions. The fees below are based on rates for Canadian citizens or permanent residents. For information on international student fees, visit <http://www.registrarsoffice.ualberta.ca/en/Costs-Tuition-Fees/Undergraduate-Tuition.aspx>

Sample totals for tuition and fees:

For a student taking a full-time course load of **five 3-credit courses**, the **2019-2020** academic year per-term fees are:

| <b>U of A fees</b>  | Per-term cost |
|---|---------------|
| U of A tuition<br>(\$532.08 per 3-credit course; tuition cost here is based on full load of 5 courses per term) | \$2660.40     |
| Non-instructional fees  | \$284.27      |
| Students' Union Health & Dental Plan <sup>1</sup>   | \$292.22      |

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Yukon College fees</b>                      |                  |
| Students' Union, Technology, and Activity fees | \$180.00         |
| <b>Total:</b>                                  | <b>\$3416.89</b> |

<sup>1</sup> Students are automatically enrolled in the U of A student health and dental plan but may choose to opt out (see <http://www.studentcare.ca> for more information).

For a student taking a part-time course load of **two 3-credit courses**, the **2019-2020** academic year per-term fees are:

| <b>U of A fees</b>   | Per term cost    |
|--|------------------|
| U of A tuition<br>(\$532.08 per 3-credit course; tuition cost here is based on load of 2 courses per term) | \$1064.16        |
| Non-instructional fees   | \$217.59         |
| Students' Union Health & Dental Plan <sup>1</sup>  | \$292.22         |
| <b>Yukon College fees</b>  |                  |
| Students' Union, Technology, and Activity fees   | \$50.00          |
| <b>Total:</b>  | <b>\$1623.97</b> |

<sup>1</sup> Students are automatically enrolled in the U of A student health and dental plan but may choose to opt out (see <http://www.studentcare.ca> for more information).

Students registered in Yukon College Northern Science or Renewable Resources Management diploma programs in preparation for transfer to the ENCS Program pay tuition and non-instructional fees **ONLY** to Yukon College. For information on current Yukon College tuition rates, visit: <https://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/admissions/money-matters>

### **15) Are there services or support available for Indigenous students?**

Both Yukon College and University of Alberta have a variety of services for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students. For more information on University of Alberta services, visit: <http://aboriginalservices.ualberta.ca/>. For information on Yukon College services, visit: <https://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/student-life/health-wellness/first-nations-support-services>

### **16) Does Yukon College have student housing in Whitehorse?**

Yes, Yukon College has campus housing with single and double-occupancy rooms, as well as housing for mature students (aged 25 and older), and for families. For more information on student housing at Yukon College, visit <https://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/student-life/campus-housing>

### **17) Is there any funding available to help me during my studies?**

Students registered in the Northern ENCS Program at Yukon College and University of Alberta are eligible to apply for funding at either institution.

For information on funding available through U of A, visit [www.registraroffice.ualberta.ca/en/Financial-Assistance.aspx](http://www.registraroffice.ualberta.ca/en/Financial-Assistance.aspx). Please note that some U of A awards have Alberta residency requirements.

For information on funding available through Yukon College, visit <https://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/admissions/money-matters> and go to the Financial Supports section.

The Yukon Government offers several Student Financial Assistance programs for Yukon residents. For more information, visit <http://www.education.gov.yk.ca/student-funding.html>.

## **18) Who do I contact for more information on the Northern ENCS Program at Yukon College?**

Email [ualberta@yukoncollege.yk.ca](mailto:ualberta@yukoncollege.yk.ca), or contact the Northern ENCS Program Advisors directly:

Dr. Kathryn Aitken, Program Coordinator  
t. 867.668.8866, [kaitken@yukoncollege.yk.ca](mailto:kaitken@yukoncollege.yk.ca)

Dr. Fiona Schmiegelow, Director  
t. 867.668.8711, [fiona.schmiegelow@ualberta.ca](mailto:fiona.schmiegelow@ualberta.ca)