

FACULTY OF CHILD, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY STUDIES

# BEHAVIOUR INTERVENTION

Certificate Program

## APPLICANT INFORMATION BOOKLET



DOUGLASCOLLEGE

# Behaviour Intervention

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) are the most common neurological disability today, affecting 1 in 68 children in BC. Over 7,000 children in BC currently receive autism intervention funds from the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Therefore, BC families seek appropriately trained Behaviour Interventionists, the front-line workers, who provide evidence based behavioural intervention based on Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) methodology.

The Behaviour Intervention (BI) Certificate program is the first formal post-secondary training for Behaviour Interventionists in BC. The BI program is one of many programs offered by the Disability and Community Studies Department within the Faculty of Child, Family and Community Studies at Douglas College.



## Career Prospects

The BI Certificate program prepares graduates to work under the supervision of a Behaviour Consultant to implement one-on-one teaching strategies in settings such as the family home or a centre, with a young child who has an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The BI program is also a good fit for Education Assistants in the school setting, as there is an overwhelming need for Education Assistants with ABA training.

Although there is no age limit for the BI Certificate program, the Ministry of Children and Family Development autism funding has a 19 year old minimum age requirement for families looking to hire Behaviour Interventionists. This requirement is currently under review. Families can hire Behaviour Interventionists using private funds and there is not age restriction to work in school or community settings.

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## Your Studies

**On-line Studies.** The courses in the BI Certificate program are offered on-line and open to anyone across Canada. The program is part-time and courses are flexible to fit the busy schedules of students and working professionals.

**Engaged Learning.** Approximately 30 students are admitted to the BI program each year. Students come from various communities as well as educational and professional backgrounds, forming a cohort of shared learning.

**Hands on Learning.** The BI program offers a 100 hour practicum for students to implement theory into practice. Practicums will be arranged by the college within the community you live in, and working Behaviour Interventionists may also have the option to use their current employment as a paid practicum.

**Instructors are Practitioners.** Our knowledgeable instructors include Board Certified Behaviour Analysts who bring their skills and experiences from the field to you. The instructors have many years of supporting individuals with disabilities in various community settings.

**Academic Credit.** The BI program can be taken as a stand alone credential for anyone starting out in the field. For those looking to further educational opportunities, 13.5 credits can be transferred into the Douglas College Classroom & Community Support Diploma program.

**Professional development.** Graduates of human service certificate/diploma programs (CSW, SETA, ECE, CYC, etc) from other post-secondary institutions who are interested in supplementing their skills with ABA techniques may be eligible for transfer credits. Practitioners with several years of experience may be eligible for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR).



# Course Descriptions

The BI program begins each September. The program consists of six courses: two courses per semester over three semesters. Students must take all BI courses offered in a semester over one academic year, unless they have approved transfer credit. Three credit courses run for a full semester (14 weeks).

## Fall Semester (September to mid-December)

### **CCSD 1140: Introduction to Practice** (3 credits)

This introductory course explores the components of exemplary practice and service delivery through cooperative learning, lecture, and observations in the field. Practitioner roles and responsibilities in a range of related fields, ethics, values and legal responsibilities as well as basic health and safety issues will be covered.

### **CCSD 1150: Teaching and Learning: Foundations** (3 credits)

This course builds students' observation, planning and teaching skills to create or support meaningful learning opportunities in response to diverse learning styles. Using a common set of values, students will explore a number of teaching strategies and how these match with different learners' needs.

## Winter Semester (January to mid-April)

### **BHIN 1230: The Young Child with Autism** (1.5 credits)

This course introduces students to developmental principles and applied strategies that support the learning of a young child who has Autism Spectrum Disorder (including Autism, Asperger Syndrome, Rett Syndrome, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder and Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified)

### **CCSD 2334: Supporting Families** (1.5 credits)

In this course, students explore the various perspectives on families with members(s) who live with disabilities. Students will have the opportunity to examine the strengths and stresses of these families, the interdependence of family and community, and the unique role of the practitioner in supporting families.

## Summer Semester (May to mid-August)

### **BHIN 1256: Supporting Positive Behaviour and Communication** (3 credits)

This course introduces students to principles and applied strategies in positive behaviour support and augmentative and alternative communication as it applies to a young child who has autism.

### **BHIN 1240: Behaviour Intervention Practicum** (3 credits)

This applied course provides opportunities for students to practice behaviour intervention skills in selected sites under supervision, for a total of 100 practicum hours. Student will integrate and reflect upon their educational, personal, and professional experiences in practicum and real-time webinars.

(Prerequisites: CCSD 1140, CCSD 1150, CCSD 2334, BHIN 1230. Co-requisite: BHIN 1256)

A current Standard First Aid with CPR certificate (minimum of eight hours) is required to be eligible for graduation.



# Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

Experienced practitioners with at least one year full-time related work (1,000 hours) and/or related coursework can challenge up to 75% of the credential.

Consider PLAR if you:

- have at least one year full time equivalent of experience working with children or adults with an intellectual disability and/or autism,
- are an experienced practitioner in a related education, health or human service field and/or,
- have previous related Canadian private or public-post secondary course credits/credential,
- are a graduate of an “old” (over 10-15 years) public post-secondary human service program and cannot transfer your credits to Douglas College
- an education and human service professional from another country who is having difficulty having their credential acknowledged.

If you qualify for PLAR, please contact the DACS Instructional Facilitator ([dacs@douglascollege.ca](mailto:dacs@douglascollege.ca)) for more PLAR information and the pre-PLAR self-assessment.

Once your pre-PLAR self-assessment is complete, please apply to the program and submit the assessment along with your application documents (See Application Overview, page 7). In order to participate in PLAR, you must meet all admission requirements and be accepted into the BI Certificate program.

## Transfer Credit

There are many transfer credit opportunities that are not listed in the BC Transfer Guide. Possible transfer options include:

- Credits from directly related credentials (i.e. Community Support Worker or Special Education Teacher Assistant) from Canadian public post-secondary institutions, taken within the past 10 years
- Other human service credentials from public post-secondary institutions (i.e. Early Childhood Education, Child and Youth Care, etc)
- Vancouver Community College ASL and Deaf Studies graduates will receive transfer credit for the elective course

Students are required to submit an official transcript and fill out a “Request for Transfer Credit” form available at the Registrar’s Office or on-line:

<http://www.douglascollege.ca/study-at-douglas/register/canadian-students/forms>

# Volunteer/Work Experience

It is important that you have some understanding of what this type of work is like before making major investments in time, money and effort. This volunteer/work time also provide you an idea about your personal suitability for the field in supporting individuals with disabilities.

Applicants may apply to the program first and accumulate their volunteer/work experience by May 1st of the intake year. We encourage applicants to begin work as soon as possible, as applications to volunteer may take time, with limited hours per week.

Applicants who have completed 60 hours before the program application deadline date and submit all documents may be considered for early admissions.

## Conditions for volunteer/work experience

- Supervised by a non-relative.
- Front-line service in a supporting role, working directly with children or adults, some of whom have disabilities.
- Minimum 60 hours. Hours can be accumulated in several different locations, for a combined total of 60 hours.

## Volunteer/work experience examples

Behaviour Interventionist  
Elementary/secondary schools  
(classroom, resource/skills room, individual student support, noon hour supervision, etc)  
Inclusive recreational/leisure programs  
Inclusive daycares  
Inclusive before-and-after school care  
Family/caregiver respite services  
High school peer tutoring

Supported living/residential programs  
Microboards (and other individually funded employment/volunteer situations)  
Supported employment programs  
Therapeutic Riding Association  
Special Olympics  
Supported adult day programs  
Supported adult post secondary educational settings

Some related occupations and life experiences also qualify as volunteer/work hours such as:

- parents and employers of Behavioural Interventionists
- graduates of the Vancouver Community College's ASL Deaf Studies Program.

If you are unsure whether your experience qualifies, please contact the Instructional Facilitator at [dacs@douglascollege.ca](mailto:dacs@douglascollege.ca).

## Work Experience Forms

Once you have completed your hours, please arrange for a reference from your supervisor. This is done by providing them with a copy of the Volunteer/Work Experience Form. The form will be mailed to you once your apply to the program.

# Application Overview

The Behaviour Intervention Certificate Program is looking for students who endeavor to improve the lives of children living with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

## Before you apply

- Review the Behaviour Intervention Program information on-line: [www.douglascollege.ca/bi](http://www.douglascollege.ca/bi)
- Review the Douglas College website for information about admission to the college, student expectations, and available support services.
- Attend an Information Session. Scheduled dates are posted at [www.douglascollege.ca/info](http://www.douglascollege.ca/info)

**If you are ready to apply to the program, please complete the next steps:**

## BI admission requirements

- Applicants must meet general Douglas College entry requirements, which includes English Language proficiency. Please see [www.douglascollege.ca/apply](http://www.douglascollege.ca/apply)
- 60 hours of supervised work (paid or volunteer) with children in an inclusive setting or adults with a developmental disability.

## Apply to Douglas College

- Apply online: <http://www.douglascollege.ca/study-at-douglas/apply>
- Indicate “**Behaviour Intervention**” as program of choice.
- Pay the application fee

## Submit supplement document as a package

- Letter of intent, outlining your interest in taking the program
- Resume
- Volunteer/Work experience form (to be completed by your supervisor for your 60 hours)
- 2 professional reference letters (from references who are different from your referee who completed your volunteer/work experience form)
- Self-declaration Informed Medical Suitability form
- Official transcript(s)
- Submit package via **email** (as attachments) to **[dacs@douglascollege.ca](mailto:dacs@douglascollege.ca)**

OR by **mail** to:

DACS Instructional Facilitator  
Faculty of Child, Family and Community Studies  
Douglas College  
1250 Pinetree Way  
Coquitlam, BC V3B 7X3

## Final admission requirements

**Applicants will be notified when to submit these requirements:**

- Criminal Record Search
- Tuberculosis Test

# Frequently Asked Questions

<b>Department Location</b>	David Lam Campus 1250 Pinetree Way Coquitlam, BC V3B 7X3
<b>Official Credential</b>	Certificate
<b>Schedule</b>	Courses are online
<b>Length of Program</b>	3 semesters (12 months)
<b>Number of credits</b>	15
<b>Program Start</b>	September
<b>Program End</b>	August
<b>Program Breaks</b>	Breaks between semesters. One week Reading Break in Winter semester.
<b>Fees</b>	Approximately \$1750. <b>Please see the Douglas College Tuition Fees webpage for accurate tuition information.</b> Cost includes tuition and student fees.
<b>Number of students accepted each year</b>	30
<b>Practicum</b>	One 100 hour practicum
<b>Financial Aid</b>	This program is a part-time program and students may not be eligible for a StudentAid BC loan.

Please be advised that this booklet captures information listed in other Douglas College documents. It is not intended to replace these documents, and may not remain accurate. Please review the Douglas College Calendar and website for up-to-date and detailed information.

## Connect with Douglas College



**Check out our website**  
[www.douglascollege.ca/bi](http://www.douglascollege.ca/bi)



**Contact our department**  
[dacs@douglascollege.ca](mailto:dacs@douglascollege.ca)



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