



Disability Support Professional

Support communities to become more inclusive. Develop skills to support individuals with disabilities in the community that focuses on their rights, strengths and removing barriers.

Start date: September 2026

Typical length: 1 year

Credential: Certificate

Part-time Delivery Location: Kingstec, Sydney Waterfront, Iwany

Full-time Delivery Location: Kingstec, Sydney Waterfront

Bursary Available

You are eligible for a bursary that covers tuition, books and student fees, if you are a Canadian or permanent resident, and agree to work with one of the service provider organizations with the Nova Scotia's Department of Opportunities and Social Development Disability Support Program for one year upon graduation

Program overview

You learn:

- How to apply a human-rights based approach to address and support community inclusion.
- Knowledge of various disabilities and specific strategies for supporting people with these disabilities.
- The philosophy and skills you need to support self-determination and decision-making.
- An understanding of your professional, legal and ethical responsibilities as a direct support professional in this field.
- How to work effectively in teams by increasing self-awareness and practicing effective communication skills.
- Knowledge of important topics and skills related to supporting persons with disabilities including medications, nutrition, aging, sexuality, employment and assistive technology.

Other info

- Employers in this sector require one or all of the following as part of the hiring process: a current, official criminal record check and vulnerable sector check and a child abuse register check. A conviction or finding in family court may impact your ability to secure employment.
- In this industry, some positions may require you to work shift work including evenings, nights and weekends.
- This role may be physically demanding and include moving and lifting others as well as spending long periods of time on your feet.

Work experience

Field experience is a mandatory credit course, providing the opportunity to apply your knowledge and skills outside the classroom.

- Opportunities are typically unpaid with two separate practicums throughout the program.
- Transportation, accommodations and other costs related to work experience courses are your responsibility.

Admission requirements

- High School Graduation Diploma or equivalent.
- International students – High school diploma equivalency and English language requirements vary by country.

Career options

Employment options include a variety of ways to help people live full and enriched lives such as:

- Working with persons with disabilities to enhance their physical, emotional and psychological well-being.
- Supporting and empowering people in maximizing their strengths and achieving their goals.
- Playing an important role to inclusion.

Graduates find employment by:

- Working with individuals in community and independent living settings.
- Helping individuals with disabilities enhance employment skills or with employment supports.
- Supporting individuals in areas of education and recreation/leisure.

Questions? Contact us:

902-491-4911 | 1-866-679-6722 (toll free)

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nscc.ca/programs

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