About the Program

The Transition Year Program (TYP) is a one year university access program for First Nation, Metis and Inuit students who may not be prepared to enter a faculty through the regular admissions route. TYP students are full time post-secondary students in Open Studies.

The objective of the program is to prepare Aboriginal students for admission into one of the following nine faculties:

- Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences (BSc)
- Arts (BA)
- Business (BCom)
- Education - Elementary or Secondary Route (BEd)
- Engineering (BSc)
- Native Studies (BA NS)
- Nursing (BScN)
- Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation (BKin) or (BARST)
- Science (BSc)

Program Highlights

TYP provides a strong network of support through small, intimate learning environments that combine academic and cultural components, support services, and opportunities including:

- Orientation to campus and academic life
- Individual support and advocacy
- Social and cultural events
- Individual academic advising and program planning
- Tutorials
- Access to Elders
- Cultural teachers in the classroom
- Access to printing, faxing, photocopying, and computer lab services

Students in TYP are automatically enrolled in University 101 and 102 classes that focus on the academic skills they require to be successful in university. Additionally, students are enrolled in TYP English/Writing Studies classes that focus on Aboriginal literature.
Eligibility

To be considered for admission into TYP, applicants must meet the following minimum criteria:

- Proof of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Ancestry
- Grades of at least 50% in required high school courses
- Minimum overall average in required high school courses between 60%–75% (varies by program and year)
- Each faculty route has specific high school subject requirements

Please visit ualberta.ca/current-students/first-peoples-house for details.

Admission to the Program

The Transition Year Program is a limited enrollment program and admission is not guaranteed to all applicants. Applicants are admitted in order of qualifications until the program quota is full. All applicants are encouraged to re-apply.

“TYP made me feel supported in my first year of university...at first I did not know what to expect when I started this journey, but after meeting a lot of the staff and my soon-to-be peers at TYP orientation, I knew I was going to have a positive experience.”

Marissa Nakoochee, 4th Year Cree student in Native Studies & Secondary Education

“The Transition Year Program had a positive impact on my university experience, preparing me for upcoming years of university and providing the resources and knowledge I needed to strive and become successful here. My favourite part of university life has been meeting so many new people — aboriginal students, teachers, mentors, faculty members — in different disciplines, hearing their stories and where they want to go in life.”

Monique Desjarlais, First Nations nursing student in Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN), Collaborative Program
Application Process

The Transition Year Program accepts applications for Fall and Winter Terms in the following admission cycles:

**Fall Term (September):**
- Application opens: **November 1**
- Application closes: **May 1**
(all program routes)

**Winter Term (January):**
- Application opens: **August 1**
- Application closes: **October 1**
(Arts & Native Studies routes only)

An application is not considered complete until the following documents are submitted with an application:

1. Letter of Intent
2. Documentation of all Previous Education (Official or Unofficial Transcripts)
3. Letters of Reference (2)
4. Proof of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Ancestry

Applications are considered complete when all documents are received with the application before the deadline. The application can be completed online, sent through mail, fax, or dropped off in person.

Once your complete application has been received, you will be contacted to schedule an interview with the TYP coordinator. If admitted to the program, you will need to:

- complete a U of A admission form
- pay a registration fee upon acceptance
- provide a letter from a funding agency, where applicable

“I would love to become a teacher to help students understand equality within all cultures, sexualities, and beliefs. The Transition Year Program helped me understand how to be a student and gather information to become fully educated. I’ve made friends and connections with people in this program that I know will last a lifetime.”

**Kobe Currie**, Status First Nation student in Open Studies Faculty of Education