

ALUMNI

In Focus

Current Job:

Educational Assistant Coordinator for Learner Support Centre & Financial Aid & Awards Officer,
University College of the North,
Thompson, MB

What her job entails:

I have been working with UCN for the past 12 years. My first position, during my time as a student in the B.A. program, was a library aid. I worked there part-time in the evenings. After I graduated, I moved up to full-time library clerk for a few years. An opportunity presented its self, and I applied for the position to be the coordinator for Learner Support Centre.

As the Coordinator for the Learner Support Centre, I am in partnership with SAC who provides support in financing the Peer Tutor Program, which provides one-on-one tutoring sessions on request. I also assist students in research, writing skills, time management, exploring student success strategies (skills for reading and understanding content, note-taking, time management, preparing for and writing tests/exams, memory strategies), learning styles and strategies. The second position that I also have is half-time financial aid & awards officer. I provide financial counselling, assist with student loan applications and award applications. I also part-take in the awards committee, orientation committee and convocation committee.

Future Plans:

I hope to work on my M.A. soon. I haven't decided on what institution that I will be apply to. I hope to either complete my M.A. in Sociology or Education.

How did your UCN Program help launch your career?

Being in the Social Science program has helped me secure amazing positions within UCN. UCN provided positions for students seeking part-time work, which was the first door of opportunity. I had amazing guidance and recommendations from my instructors to pursue the position at the library, which only helped me to move further up in that into different title positions for a few more years. Working there in the evenings helped boost my confidence not only in my studies but in the workforce.



Emerald McKay

Bachelor of Arts,
4-Year Program
Major-Sociology
Minor-English
2011

How did your UCN Program help you achieve and advance your career goals to-date?

Social Science programs such as Sociology have helped me achieve my goals even when I was a student. I learned how to speak more openly and present myself with a clearer mindset and a strong understanding of how society works as a whole. When the window of opportunity presented itself for me to further advance in my career goals, I took it with full confidence that I could reach a new goal in my work career goals.

What key competencies did you acquire?

Firstly, I would like to say that many people have told me that obtaining a Sociology degree would not open up any opportunities for me in the job force. I am living proof that the statement is not true. All Social Science courses, particularly Sociology, has vast branches of career paths for anyone to embark on (and education is one of them). I am very glad that I was encouraged by two past UCN instructors to take that leap into the Social Science area.

I learned to be more open-minded about my society around me and my culture/heritage learned to communicate more effectively; and, have a broader mindset when it comes to who I want to be as a student and in my career path. I learned just what type of student I could be with amazing support from the faculty at UCN.

Attending UCN helped me overcome my social fears of being around people. Having a small based classroom does have an amazing impact on you. You get to learn more better, be more engaged and develop a close relationship with your instructors who are always willing to guide and support you in your educational goals. I had amazing instructors in the past, they all have shaped me and molded me in many different ways to be the best that I could be as a student and in the workforce.

Anything else you would like to share to encourage prospective students?

UCN is one of the most prestigious Institutions in Northern Manitoba, as it is rooted in the seven sacred teachings and is diversely supportive to all different students coming from different cultures around Canada and internationally. I encourage all present and future students to continue working towards those end goals. Be open-minded, attentive and engage with your fellow students and instructors. Developing those bonds and open dialogue will help you as a student in the long-run. UCN Staff and faculty are supportive and fully engrossed in providing the best support to students while attending UCN. Take full advantage of the opportunities presented to you. Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone. I am glad that I took my educational path here at UCN, it led me to an amazing journey in my life and career. Be strong, stay focused, because at UCN Here You Can.