

Area of Interest: Public Safety and Legal Studies

Victimology

Ontario College Graduate Certificate

Program Code: 1611X01FWO

1 Year

Ottawa Campus

Our Program

Help build the future of enhanced supports and rights for victims of crime.

The one-year Victimology Ontario College Graduate Certificate program prepares you for work in a variety of fields, providing services to victims of crime. This one-year program provides specialized knowledge and skills in victimology and in the provision of victim services. You also explore the history and theories of victimization, with applied victim-centred focus.

Combining theoretical and applied learning, it includes a field placement of more than 140 hours. It is in this setting where you learn about victims' issues and perspectives first-hand from experts in the field.

Practicum options include:

- victim crisis units
- police services
- victim advocacy centres
- Indigenous healing centres
- government agencies
- women's shelters
- community action groups

Overall, you develop knowledge of crisis response, sudden and traumatic loss, and victim populations. Learn about crime and its effects on victims in the criminal justice system. In your practicum, you integrate theory with practice and contribute to victim service initiatives within your community.

The Victimology program offers you the means to pursue a unique career. This program is the first graduate certificate program offered by a Canadian college specializing in victimology. More than just theory, this program puts you in the field, allowing you to learn how to look at issues from the victim's perspective.

You may find work in a wide variety of fields helping victims of crime. Work opportunities may exist in:

- social services
- child protection
- crisis response
- the criminal justice system, and
- in other areas related to victimization

SUCCESS FACTORS

This program is well-suited to students who:

- Are committed to developing specialized knowledge and skills related to victimology and victim services.
- Possess excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Work successfully in a team environment.
- Thrive in challenging work settings and are able to work effectively under stressful situations.
- Are advocates of victim rights.

Employment

Graduates may find employment in a variety of occupational fields providing services to victims of crime, including social services, child protection, crisis response, the criminal justice system and in policy areas related to victimization.

Learning Outcomes

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

- Assess individuals, families and groups for the risk and experience of victimization.
- Advocate for victims of crime within the criminal justice and other systems.
- 3. Plan, implement and evaluate interventions aimed at prevention and healing for victims of crime.
- Refer victims of crime to appropriate services.
- Design and deliver victim service education to other professionals and members of the community.
- Collaborate with service agencies to plan, deliver and evaluate victim service programs and initiatives.
- Identify, analyze and apply current research and theory to victim services.
- Assess the personal impact of delivering victim services and employ self-care strategies.
- Plan and participate in ongoing professional development.
- Identify and apply discipline-specific practices that contribute to the local and global community through social responsibility, economic commitment and environmental stewardship.

Program of Study

Level: 01	Courses	Hours
VIC0001	Victimology: Theoretical Perspectives	42.0
VIC0002	Victims of Crime	42.0
VIC0003	Victimization and the Law	42.0
VIC0004	Violence Against Women	42.0
VIC0005	Indigenous Peoples: Understanding and Reducing Victimization	28.0
VIC0006	Victims and the Media	28.0
VIC0007	Men and Victimization	28.0

Level: 02	Courses	Hours
VIC2000	Professional Development and Self Care	42.0
VIC2001	Childhood Victimization	42.0
VIC2002	Diversity and Victim Assistance	28.0
VIC2004	Victimology: Assessment and Intervention	42.0
VIC2005	Victim Assistance Services	42.0
VIC2006	Field Placement	146.0

Fees for the 2023/2024 Academic Year

Tuition and related ancillary fees for this program can be viewed by using the Tuition and Fees Estimator tool at <https://www.algonquincollege.com/fee-estimator> .

Further information on fees can be found by visiting the Registrar’s Office website at <https://www.algonquincollege.com/ro> .

Fees are subject to change.

Additional program related expenses include:

- Books and supplies cost approximately \$550 and can be purchased from the campus store.
- For more information visit <https://www.algonquincollege.com/coursematerials> .

Admission Requirements for the 2024/2025 Academic Year

Program Eligibility

- Ontario College Diploma, Ontario College Advanced Diploma, Degree or equivalent in a Medical or Social Services field.
- Applicants without the required diploma or degree will be assessed individually and will be required to complete an Eligibility Package.
- Eligibility Package submission details can be found on the Algonquin College Additional Admission Requirements website: <https://www.algonquincollege.com/admissionspackages> .
- Applicants with international transcripts must provide proof of the subject-specific requirements noted above and may be required to provide proof of language proficiency. Domestic applicants with international transcripts must be evaluated through the International Credential Assessment Service of Canada (ICAS) or World Education Services (WES).
- IELTS-International English Language Testing Service Overall band of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each band; OR TOEFL-Internet-based (iBT)-overall 88, with a minimum of 22 in each component: Reading 22; Listening 22; Speaking 22; Writing 22; OR Duolingo English Test (DET) Overall 120, minimum of 120 in Literacy and no score below 105.

Police Records Check Documentation:

Though not an admission requirement, applicants must note important information listed below regarding Police Records Check program requirements. Successful completion of a field placement is a requirement for graduation from the Victimology program. Agencies that provide placement opportunities may require proof of a clear Police Records Check for Service with the Vulnerable Sector (PRCSVS). Your acceptance for placement is at the discretion of the agency. If you register in the program and do not have a clear PRCSVS and as a result are unable to participate in placement, you will not be able to graduate.

Field Placement Eligibility:

To be eligible for placement, you must submit proof of a PRCSVS, which will be retained on your

department file and used only for purposes related to your placement. You will be required to disclose the contents of the PRCSVS, including all notations, to the placement agencies.

It is your responsibility to obtain the PRCSVS from your local Police Department prior to the deadline identified by your department and to pay any associated costs. Application processing delays are possible; please submit your application promptly upon department date release. Should you require further information, contact the Program Coordinator.

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Application Information

VICTIMOLOGY Program Code 1611X01FWO

Applications to full-time day programs must be submitted with official transcripts showing completion of the academic admission requirements through:

ontariocolleges.ca
60 Corporate Court
Guelph, Ontario N1G 5J3
1-888-892-2228

Applications are available online at <http://www.ontariocolleges.ca/> .

Applications for Fall Term and Winter Term admission received by February 1 will be given equal consideration. Applications received after February 1 will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis as long as places are available.

International applicants applying from out-of-country can obtain the International Student Application Form at <https://algonquincollege.force.com/myACint/> or by contacting the Registrar's Office.

For further information on the admissions process, contact:

Registrar's Office
Algonquin College
1385 Woodroffe Ave
Ottawa, ON K2G 1V8
Telephone: 613-727-0002
Toll-free: 1-800-565-4723
TTY: 613-727-7766
Fax: 613-727-7632
Contact: <https://www.algonquincollege.com/ro>

Additional Information

This program is also available through AC Online. For more information, visit the AC Online website at <https://www.algonquincollege.com/online/>.

Field Placement/Clinical Experience:

In collaboration with faculty and agency personnel, students work in a variety of settings including community agencies, the criminal justice system and policy related placements, providing victim-centred services advocacy. This practicum experience provides students with the opportunity to integrate theory with practice and to contribute to victim service initiatives within seminars, discussions and journals.

Contact Information

Program Coordinator(s)

- Jennifer Barkley, <mailto:barklej@algonquincollege.com>, 613-727-4723, ext. 5246

Course Descriptions

VIC0001 Victimology: Theoretical Perspectives

The majority of Canadians experience criminal victimization at some point in their lifetime. The meaning of the term "victim" is explored through theoretical perspectives and case studies. Students conduct critical analysis and learn research methods in the field of victimology. Students are introduced to victim classifications, community victimization, the link between victimization and offending and violence prevention strategies. Special attention is also given to the examination of the development of victims' rights at the regional, national and international level.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

VIC0002 Victims of Crime

It is essential for professionals in the field of victimology to ensure that victims of crime are not further traumatized by the very interventions designed to assist. Students examine the impact of various types of victimization including cyber-crime, homicide, sexual assault, elder abuse, drunk driving, assault, intimate partner violence, globalization, human trafficking and fraud. Students explore issues of grief, loss, trauma response and the costs associated with victimization. Case studies and role playing, assessment, advocacy and advanced communication skills are developed through discussion.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

VIC0003 Victimization and the Law

Being a victim of crime thrusts a person into a number of legal systems. Students critically examine legal systems from a victim's perspective. Particular focus is placed on the criminal and family law

systems and how they intersect. Relevant legislation, as well as recommendations from inquests and inquiries are examined. Restorative justice and victims' rights are explored.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

VIC0004 Violence Against Women

Students learn theory and practical skills essential to assist women who are victims of violence. Students examine historical and social perspectives of violence against women; issues of power and authority within a feminist theoretical framework; different forms of violence against women, such as sexual violence and femicide; and women's varied experiences of violence (as impacted by race, class, sexual orientation, ability and age). Through a combination of case studies, literature and media analysis, group activities and discussion, practical demonstrations, role plays, and community research, students learn how to support women who are victims of violence, to assess women for risk of violence, to recommend personal safety plans, and to best advocate for appropriate and needed services.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

VIC0005 Indigenous Peoples: Understanding and Reducing Victimization

Indigenous Peoples are over-represented both as victims and offenders. Students explore the impact of the residential schools, effects of colonialism on traditional values and culture, as well as structural victimization. Students critically examine and assess Canada's principal approaches to addressing victimization and offending by and against Indigenous Peoples. Through discussion and experiential learning from an Indigenous perspective, students gain insight and understanding of Indigenous teachings, Indigenous worldview, culturally relevant healing, crime prevention and restorative justice.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

VIC0006 Victims and the Media

Crime is frequently reported and sensationalized in the media. Students are sensitized to the impact of the media on victims of crime. Through a review of current events, students evaluate the role of the media in the lives of victims, paying particular attention to privacy issues. Students develop media research, communication and public relations skills to effectively advocate for victims' issues in the media.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

VIC0007 Men and Victimization

Men who experience victimization often encounter barriers to seeking help. Students explore masculinities theory, stigma, help-seeking behaviours, and male-centred treatment approaches. Special attention is paid to men's experiences of sexual violence, partner violence, institutional violence, and war-related trauma. Through case studies, in-class activities, and research, students will consider how society can better prevent and respond to male victimization.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

VIC2000 Professional Development and Self Care

Working with victims of crime is a demanding profession. Students learn the principles of debriefing, self-care and stress management in preparation for field placement. Seminars involve the discussion of issues relating to the placement environment and analysis of on-the-job situations. Students are able to understand their personal strengths and limitations and to develop and critique personal strategies for managing occupational stress. Special attention is given to

working within professional guidelines and the creation of individual plans for professional development. Through examination of Victim Service Standards students develop knowledge of ethical codes, confidentiality and ongoing education that guide professional practice in victim services. Students complete field placement documentation and consultations with their field placement supervisor.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

VIC2001 Childhood Victimization

Childhood victimization can have long-term negative impacts and shape the way a person views the world and those surrounding them. Students examine short- and long-term effects of childhood victimization and gender-related issues. Common myths are explored regarding children's symptoms and the effects of childhood victimization. Students gain an understanding of criminal and child welfare investigations, as well as relevant legislation and professional requirements related to reporting and documentation. Child development (ages, stages, capacities) and parental/guardian considerations are explored. Students develop the interpersonal skills necessary to listen to and to interview children and their families. Emphasis is placed on appropriate victim support and prevention of recurrence.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

VIC2002 Diversity and Victim Assistance

Students develop the knowledge and skills required to provide culturally competent services to victims. Students explore the dynamics of difference from a personal and professional perspective. Emphasis is given to marginalized and minoritized populations. Through critical analysis and examination of core concepts (identity, equity, anti-oppression, reflective practice and cultural competency), students learn how to work with all populations requiring victim services while applying an anti-oppression framework.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

VIC2004 Victimology: Assessment and Intervention

Victim assistance workers must be able to plan and implement skills and techniques aimed at the prevention of crime and healing of victims. Students are introduced to the theoretical basis and practice of victim service interventions. Students learn to conduct threat assessments, triage, facilitation, mediation, negotiation, and non-violent crisis intervention. Special emphasis is placed on recognizing and addressing the acute needs of victims in crisis, and delivering interventions from a client-centred perspective.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

VIC2005 Victim Assistance Services

Victim service professionals are required to collaborate with service agencies to plan, deliver and evaluate victim service programs and initiatives. Students research and identify the vast array of community, provincial and national services, including financial remedies, counselling, mental health, medical and addiction services. Students learn to facilitate interagency communication and multidisciplinary case management. Through case studies, students identify and assess the needs of victims, identify the most appropriate referrals, and present strategies and approaches that can be used to advocate for victims within and between various systems.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

VIC2006 Field Placement

In collaboration with faculty and agency personnel, students work in an agency providing victim-centred services, research, or advocacy. This field placement experience provides students with the opportunity to integrate theory with practice and to contribute to victim service initiatives within a community setting. Those already working with an approved victim services agency may opt, in consultation with their supervisor, to conduct a research project within their agency. Students reflect on their learning through seminars, discussions and journals.

Prerequisite(s): VIC0001 and VIC0002 and VIC0003 and VIC0004 and VIC0005 and VIC0006 and VIC0007

Corerequisite(s):none