

ACR Aboriginal Programs Project Program Template

Program Area:	2.0	Workforce Development
Sub Program:	2.4	Programs Sponsored by Government and Non-Profit Agencies
Template:	2.4.13	Preparation for Academic and Careers Education (PACE) Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) Program
Sponsor(s):	<i>Wood Buffalo Partners in Aboriginal Training</i>	

1. Objective

To teach the skills needed to be a successful student and help the student build a career and educational plan that is realistic and attainable.

2. Description

The six-month PACE Program, funded through Alberta Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP), teaches communication, problem solving, assertiveness, planning and study skills needed to be a successful student. It refreshes math, writing and reading skills and helps the student build a career and educational plan that is realistic and attainable.

Course Descriptions

- **PACE 001: Communication and Conflict Management Skills.** Students will develop questioning skills, attending behaviours and the ability to appropriately express their feelings in a formal school setting, identify assumptions, and give and receive feedback. As well, students will learn the basics of conflict management in a multicultural class or workplace setting and how to disagree in a positive manner. Students will learn to negotiate with peers and those in authority to resolve arguments. Assertiveness training, anger management and self-esteem building will be included.
- **PACE 002: Academic Survival Skills.** Students will develop time management proficiency, SQ3R techniques, test taking anxiety controls, note taking and research expertise. As well, the students will learn how to set priorities, do time studies analyses, develop and effectively use day plans and, and manage stress. A customized math and English refresher and an introduction to computers are included. Individualized academic remediation with computer-assisted instruction and tutor support is available.
- **PACE 003: Critical Thinking and Problem Solving.** Students will develop an understanding of critical thinking and how to apply it to their lives as students and future employees. Topics include: knowing your attitudes and values, knowing your mental habits, the characteristics of critical thinkers, how to recognize errors in thinking, how to evaluate ideas, and how to apply critical thinking.

- **PACE 004: Academic and Career Planning.** Students will develop their ability to identify personal interests and to set, classify, justify and evaluate goals. As well, students will explore the variety of potential careers and training currently available in the region and develop long-range action plans on how to reach their vocational goal.

3. Implementation

Some of the key elements for implementation and management of this program are:

- Students wishing to enter this program must be 18, express an interest in participating in formal trades and technology education, be referred by Wood Buffalo Partners in Aboriginal Training, and have a minimum Grade 10 academic skill level.
- Consideration is given to prospective students who may have experienced difficulty in one or more of the following areas: succeeding in formal education setting, maintaining or securing permanent employment, securing a trades or technology job, dealing with day-to-day living skills, learning on or off the job, and deciding on a career or education goal.

4. Timeframe for Results

The ASEP-PACE is a customized six-month, full-time credit program designed to give students the necessary skills to proceed to further formal education at Keyano College in targeted trades and technology careers: mine operations, preparation for mechanical and construction trades, and power engineering/process operations.

5. Measurable Criteria

These include:

- Students will complete courses based on pass/fail.
- Students will complete a variety of assignments, homework, quizzes, final exams, projects, and presentations.
- Students who complete the program will proceed to further education.

6. Budget

Cost of this program for the 2005-2006 academic year:

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|-------------------------------|------------|
| ➤ Tuition (per term) | \$1,062.60 |
| ➤ Books and supplies | 400.00 |
| ➤ Mandatory health and dental | 126.00 |
| ➤ GED testing fee | 125.00 |
| ➤ DAT testing | 45.00 |

7. Partners and Sponsors

In the Wood Buffalo region, HRSD/AHRE funding was negotiated through an agreement (Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership) with the Athabasca Tribal Council/Métis Nation of Alberta. However, the administration of the funds for delivering programs was granted to a non-profit society formed for the purpose of managing the program, Wood Buffalo Partners in Aboriginal Training.

Wood Buffalo Partners in Aboriginal Training have an elected board of directors who serve on a

volunteer basis. The board hired a project manager and project liaison to manage the ongoing operations of the program, including working directly with employment coordinators/counsellors and with students.

8. Experience with the Program

The first cohort of students successfully completed the ASEP-PACE program in July 2005. The second cohort will start in May 2006. However the ASEP-PACE program will be adjusted to accommodate additional courses, which will extend the program completion date to August 2006.

9. General Applicability

The ASEP-PACE program provides greater probability of securing a job and/or retaining long-term employment in the trades and industry sectors. The application of this program is transferable to any Aboriginal community in Alberta and across Canada.

10. Additional Information or Support

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