Pathways to Post-Secondary Education

Lakehead University November 7, 2025 Denise Baxter

What are Indigenous Access Programs?

- Post-secondary education pathways for Indigenous people
- Provide academic skills development (tutoring, academic advising), and culturally informed events and activities
- Include first-year courses
- Transition into any first year of program they qualify for



Who is Eligible?

First Nations, Metis, or Inuit who are:

- High school graduates who do not have the U or M level credits to enter directly into their program of interest;
- Mature students who have not completed their OSSD; and
- Applicants self-identify.

Coordinators meet with applicants to discuss their readiness to attend university and supports and services they may need



Benefits

- Great supports! Academic advising, study support, tutoring, and cultural activities
- Programming that honours Indigenous culture
- Small class sizes create a comfortable learning environment
- Earn first year credits





Niijii Indigenous Mentorship Program

- I. Mentorship &
 Support Services for
 Indigenous Youth
- II. Outreach & Recruitment

Niijii Mentorship



In-person tutoring/work on assignments/projects at local high schools & online tutoring open to all Indigenous students. Drop-in sessions or by appointment

Post-secondary information/activities offered in local, regional and remote schools. Hands-on activities specific to students' interests (ie., nursing, Anthropology, Engineering, etc.).

Personalized meetings with university faculty/staff to answer specific questions about their programs ~ available online & in-person

Games and social connection sessions... Kahoot trivia or similar games and conversations.

Niijii Project Fair (held in conjunction with Indigenous Preview Day)

Niijii Summer Employment Experience Program
Transition & support

Niijii Outreach & Recruitment



Lunch & Learns in local & regional schools to provide post-secondary discussions over lunch

- Access Programs
- Lakehead's Academic Programs
- Post-Secondary Applications
- Assist in Applying for Post-Secondary Funding

Attend First Nation Career Fairs

Travel with Aboriginal Post-Secondary Information Tour (APSIP)

Program for Recruitment throughout the Fall

Indigenous Preview Day to Showcase our Academic Faculties and Programs ~ every April

Campus tours and guest speaker events throughout the year