



# Disability Support Professional

Support communities to become more inclusive. Develop skills to support individuals with disabilities in the community that focuses on their rights, strengths and removing barriers.

**Start date:** September 2026

**Typical length:** 1 year

**Credential:** Certificate

**Part-time Delivery Location:** Kingstec, Sydney Waterfront, Iwany

**Full-time Delivery Location:** Kingstec, Sydney Waterfront

## Bursary Available

You are eligible for a bursary that covers tuition, books and student fees, if you are a Canadian or permanent resident, and agree to work with Nova Scotia's Department of Opportunities and Social Development Disability Support Program for one year upon graduation

## Program overview

You learn:

- How to apply a human-rights based approach to address and support community inclusion.
- Knowledge of various disabilities and specific strategies for supporting people with these disabilities.
- The philosophy and skills you need to support self-determination and decision-making.
- An understanding of your professional, legal and ethical responsibilities as a direct support professional in this field.
- How to work effectively in teams by increasing self-awareness and practicing effective communication skills.
- Knowledge of important topics and skills related to supporting persons with disabilities including medications, nutrition, aging, sexuality, employment and assistive technology.

## Other info

- Employers in this sector require one or all of the following as part of the hiring process: a current, official criminal record check and vulnerable sector check and a child abuse register check. A conviction or finding in family court may impact your ability to secure employment.
- In this industry, some positions may require you to work shift work including evenings, nights and weekends.
- This role may be physically demanding and include moving and lifting others as well as spending long periods of time on your feet.

## Work experience

Field experience is a mandatory credit course, providing the opportunity to apply your knowledge and skills outside the classroom.

- Opportunities are typically unpaid with two separate practicums throughout the program.
- Transportation, accommodations and other costs related to work experience courses are your responsibility.

## Admission requirements

- High School Graduation Diploma or equivalent.
- International students – High school diploma equivalency and English language requirements vary by country.

## Career options

Employment options include a variety of ways to help people live full and enriched lives such as:

- Working with persons with disabilities to enhance their physical, emotional and psychological well-being.
- Supporting and empowering people in maximizing their strengths and achieving their goals.
- Playing an important role to inclusion.

Graduates find employment by:

- Working with individuals in community and independent living settings.
- Helping individuals with disabilities enhance employment skills or with employment supports.
- Supporting individuals in areas of education and recreation/leisure.

## Questions? Contact us:

902-491-4911 | 1-866-679-6722 (toll free)

admissions@nscc.ca

[nscc.ca/programs](https://nscc.ca/programs)

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