



**UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM  
FOR ABORIGINAL STUDENTS**

**Rationale**

- Saskatchewan requires a skilled and trained Aboriginal labour force to meet the demands of the knowledge economy.
- Aboriginal students face unique challenges during the transition to University study, particularly in the areas of mathematics and science.
- The new Mathematics and Science Program for Aboriginal Students at the University of Saskatchewan will serve as an important bridge to careers that require a background in mathematics and science.
- Students who avail themselves of transition support programs are more likely to be fully engaged in their studies and thus their likelihood of success is greatly increased.

**Background**

- The Mathematics and Science Program will provide a structured and supportive learning environment for up to 50 Aboriginal students each year.
- The program is a cohort-based model that encourages peer support and permits the delivery of both academic and non-academic programs to address the challenges faced by Aboriginal students in the study of science.
- CIC's contribution of \$1,053,200 over 5 years will fund instructors, the program coordinator, and elders, in addition to skills development workshops and internships. The University will provide in-kind contributions and direct investment.
- Program development and recruitment will begin immediately, with program delivery beginning in fall 2005.



## Program model

- Key components of the Program are:
  1. individualized, detailed diagnostic evaluation of students' entry knowledge and skill level
  2. cohort-based model
  3. instructional approaches which accommodate the skill/knowledge level of incoming students
  4. a structured, supportive, and enriched learning environment
- The package of courses is intended to build a solid foundation for future study in science, mathematics, and professional programs in scientific fields.
- Instructional approaches will emphasize increased interaction with and support from faculty through tutorials, supervised study, assessment, and preparatory sessions.
- Skill-development workshops in critical thinking, time management, library research, information technology (IT), study techniques, and exam-writing strategies will be led by Aboriginal graduate students who can serve as role models and mentors. Cultural support will be provided through the involvement and leadership of Elders.
- The program staff will be guided by an advisory committee made up of University of Saskatchewan scientists, Aboriginal leaders, and Aboriginal students.
- Regular speaker sessions will help students define and develop educational and career goals in the sciences.
- Student recruitment for the program will include an entrance interview and information session to orient students to the expectations of the program.
- Program will include summer internships in the sciences for up to 10 students.
- Program evaluation will occur annually with modification of instructional models as

### **For more information, contact:**

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