

## Aboriginal Art Certificate

### Program Length and Certification

- One year (three terms)
- Portage College Certificate

### Entrance Requirements

High school diploma with:

- English 30-1 or English Language Arts 30-2
- Strong interest in Native arts and culture
- Computer literacy is recommended

Mature Status:

- English Language Arts 30-2 or English 33 with at least 50% OR
- CAAT C (eliminate the following testing sections: Number Operations, Problem Solving & Mechanical Reasoning), score of Stanine 5 or greater) Interview with Coordinator
- Applicants must be 19 years of age and out of high school for one year
- Interview with Coordinator

### Career Potential

The certificate enhances artist skill sets and prepares students to promote their art as artists, or pursue a career in art or craft centres, Friendship Centres or artist run centres. The certificate program grants students the opportunity to further study in Portage College's Entrepreneurship Diploma Program as an entrance requirement.

## Artisan Entrepreneurship Diploma

### Program Length and Certification

- Two Year program  
*\*Must obtain Aboriginal Art Certificate year 1\**
- Portage College Diploma

### Entrance Requirements

High school diploma with:

- English 30-1 or English Language Arts 30-2
- Aboriginal Art Certificate

Mature Status:

- English Language Arts 30-2 or English 33 with at least 50% OR
- Nelson Denny Test
- Applicants must be 19 years of age and out of high school for one year
- Interview with Coordinator

### Career Potential

Students who have successfully completed the Diploma program have the ability to become their own Self-Employed Freelance Artisan and explore their creative avenue. Students have the potential to work in careers related to visual, Aboriginal art and culture such as: museums, historical sites, Native Friendship Centres or other community/government agencies.

# Native Arts and Culture

## Contact Information

Dean

Donna Feledichuk  
780-623-5536  
donna.feledichuk@portagecollege.ca

Coordinator

Ruby Sweetman  
780-623-5646  
ruby.sweetman@portagecollege.ca

Program Student Advisor

Sandra Merchant  
780-623-5759  
sandra.merchant@portagecollege.ca

Marketing Specialist

Kelsey Scott  
780-623-5617  
kelsey.scott@portagecollege.ca



**Aboriginal Art Certificate and  
Artisan Entrepreneurship Diploma  
Programs**



## Aboriginal Art Certificate Program

Inspiring artistic creativity, the Aboriginal Art Certificate program at Portage College provides students with the unique opportunity to study Aboriginal art and other types of mediums within a studio environment.

Taught at the Lac La Biche campus, the program offers traditional and contemporary Aboriginal art forms through hands-on instruction. The qualified and skilled instructors have a vast knowledge of

Aboriginal art from a cultural and historic point-of-view. The certificate program prepares students for further study in the diploma program at Portage College.

The Certificate program will not only spark one's creativity, it will expand an artist's ability, mindset and passion for Aboriginal art. A student who walks in as a freshman student to Portage College, will walk out as a skilled and qualified Artist.

### Course Descriptions

#### Carving

The Carving course introduces students to carving with wood and soapstone. Basic techniques will be covered as well as tools, supplies and safety concerns related to each medium. Additionally, students will study traditional subject matter, current trends and historical aspects of the art form.

#### Beadwork

This course covers the development of beadwork skills and knowledge, with a focus on various North American Aboriginal beadwork styles & techniques. Three main styles of beadwork will be covered: loom, lazy stitch and appliqué as well as a number of related techniques.



#### Communication and Basic Computer Skills

Students are given an introduction to the communication skills and knowledge artists need for today's business world. Writing development will focus on e-mails, resumes and artist' statement and letters. Students will also develop their own professional business card.

#### Decorative Arts

This course focuses on the traditional arts of moose and caribou hair tufting, porcupine quillwork, horse hair wrapping and fish scale art. Instruction includes the collection, cleaning and dyeing of the natural materials.

#### Digital Art

This course introduces the computer as a creative tool for the visual artist. Students will focus on developing basic skills in the digital environment including navigating software and conceptualizing ideas in artwork.

#### Art Expose

Students are given the opportunity to visit art galleries, artists' studios, art & craft suppliers, museums and other sales venues. Students gain exposure to art markets and the opportunity to learn from practicing artists the knowledge and skills needed to pursue a career in this field. Students will design and produce an Art Exposé showcasing their own work.

#### Footwear

This course involves designing, decorating and constructing Native Footwear. The focus of the course will be on constructing moccasins and mukluks in the Northern Woodland Cree style. Students will study the history of this art form within the context of the styles of footwear covered.



#### Hide Tanning

Traditional methods used in preparing, tanning and smoking hides, as practiced by the Northern Woods Cree, make up the primary focus in this course. Students will actively participate in the process and study the 13 steps required for this method.



#### Visual Arts

Comprised of four courses, Visual Arts will explore and examine different materials, techniques, concepts and processes through a variety of art forms—drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media compositions, clay and metal sculpture.

#### Native Studies

The Canadian pre-history and history of Aboriginal Culture is reviewed in the Native Studies course. Students are exposed to the historical significance of many Aboriginal traditional and contemporary art forms and practices—Aboriginal art, music, games, dance, literature and film.

#### Nature Crafts

Focused on natural materials, the Nature Crafts course provides students with a wide skill set in preparation, collection, location, and conservation of material goods required for traditional and contemporary nature crafts. Birch bark, willow, spruce roots, tamarack are just some of the natural materials studied throughout the course.

#### Sewing

Machine and hand sewing techniques are taught throughout the course. Students are exposed to specialization in measuring, pattern preparation, decorative techniques of applique and embroidery.



## Artisan Entrepreneurship Diploma Program

The Artisan Entrepreneur Diploma is a two year program which focuses on developing the skills and knowledge to be a self-employed artist/artisan.

Once completed the Aboriginal Art Certificate in year one, students have achieved an introductory level of study in Aboriginal fine art and craft media. In year two, students advance into the diploma program and continue to study traditional Aboriginal and contemporary art forms. Advanced courses in

hide tanning, painting, drawing, carving, sewing, footwear, beading, and decorative arts are examined and studied throughout the program.

Studio courses are incorporated throughout the program and provide students with the unique opportunity for specialization in an identified area of interest; drawing, painting, printmaking, carving, digital and other media while under the supervision of the instructors.

The Artisan Entrepreneurship program takes the interest and love of Aboriginal art to the next level. Not only do students get advanced training in Aboriginal art practices, they receive excellent teaching in entrepreneurial skills for self-employment as well as how to work in the field of visual or Aboriginal arts.

#### Art Expose

Students have the opportunity to visit galleries, art studios and other venues related to the production and sale of arts and crafts. Students will participate in the production and creation of the annual art exposé.

#### Beadwork II

This course focuses on further development of beadwork skills in the 3 main styles of beadwork; loom, lazy stitch and applique. Students are expected to experiment with new materials and use techniques to produce unique, creative designs that show independent research.

#### Care and Collections

The Collection and Care of Artifacts course focuses on the basic skills and knowledge associated with the care and handling of artifacts. Practical hands on experience is gained through exposure to museum artifacts.

#### Carving II

The purpose of this course is to build upon the skills developed at the introductory level. Growth of individual style and independent research is expected. Experimentation with new materials, techniques and designs is encouraged. The development of creative expression and interpretation is vital to successful completion of this course.

#### Communication for Artists

This course focuses on the development of practical communication skills that artists need to promote and market their work.

#### Computers

Students will develop computer skills—necessary for art centres and businesses—using a Windows platform and the most recent Microsoft Office software including Word, Publisher, and Excel, PowerPoint and Internet browser.

#### Creating an Online Business

Students will study the introductory theory behind basic e-commerce environments and practical application of the theory in designing their own websites.

#### Decorative Arts II

This advanced Decorative Arts program incorporates art through hair, embroidery, tufting, porcupine quillwork, horse hair pinning and fish scales mediums. Skills will be improved and enhanced through the completion of projects where students must research, design and create their projects while demonstrating a development of styles.

#### Footwear II

Research is done in order to create, design and construct 'one-of-a-kind' products. High top footwear is studied and created, as well as alternate moccasin construction styles and techniques. Historical and cultural significance of footwear styles is also covered.

#### Hide Tanning II

This course is designed for students who have successfully completed Basic Hide tanning. This course will further develop knowledge and skills in preparing, tanning and smoking hides as practiced by Northern Wood Cree. Emphasis will be placed on students writing a paper with a detailed plan to design and set up a commercial hide tanning site.

#### Introduction to Marketing Arts and Crafts

This course covers basic entrepreneurial skills that artisans need to be successful in today's market. Students will study basic business concepts such as, creating a budget, managing inventory, personal cash flow knowledge and income tax. Additionally, students will cover business networking and other art specific topics such as artist's contracts and grant applications.

#### Nature Crafts II

This course provides further instruction of the location, collection, preparation and conservation of natural materials for the use in making a variety of traditional and contemporary natural crafts.

#### Sewing II

This course provides further instruction of machine and hand sewing techniques. Students will build upon the skills developed at the introductory level.

#### Studio I & Studio II

Students will work on an individual basis with an instructor to develop a body of work with a defined focus. Each student will plan and outline -- in the form of a contract -- a program of targeted focus and study in consultation with approval from her/his selected instructor.

#### Visual Arts V-2D

This course provides further development of drawing and painting skills. Advanced teachings in the development of drawing and painting are focused throughout this course. Students will explore the watercolour medium, its techniques, and mixed media concepts that will assist students to produce visual expressions that reflect interpretive and expressive outcomes.

