VICTIMOGLOLOGY

Program Outline

Major: VICT  
Length: 1 Year  
Delivery: 2 Semesters  
Credential: Ontario College Graduate Certificate  
Effective: 2017-2018  
Location: Orillia  
Start: Varies (Orillia)

Description
In this program, students will develop an understanding of victims’ rights, sudden and traumatic loss, victim populations, crime, and its effects on victims in the criminal justice system. History and theories of victimization are explored, with an applied victim centered focus. Specific course emphasis is given to issues such as childhood physical and sexual abuse, intimate partner violence, and sexual assault. A field placement experience in victim services provides students with the opportunity to collaborate with victim service agencies in the planning, delivery and evaluation of victim services and advocacy.

Career Opportunities
Graduates of this program may find employment opportunities in fields such as social services, child protection, crisis response, and the criminal justice system. Opportunities may also be available in policy areas related to victimization.

Program Learning Outcomes
The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:
- assess individuals, families and groups for the risk and experience of victimization;
- advocate for victims of crime within the criminal justice and other systems;
- plan, implement and evaluate interventions aimed at prevention and healing for victims of crime;
- refer victims of crime to appropriate services;
- design and deliver victim service education to other professionals and members of the community;
- collaborate with service agencies to plan, deliver and evaluate victim service programs and initiatives;
- identify, analyze and apply current research and theory to victim services; assess the personal impact of delivering victim services and employ self care strategies.

The Program Progression:
Winter Intake - Orillia
**Admission Requirements:**
- college diploma with a specialty in social services, youth services, police foundations, early childhood education, community and justice services - university degree, with a specialty in social work, criminology, law, psychology, counselling, nursing, sociology or other related degree

**Criminal Reference Check:**
Placement agencies require an up-to-date clear criminal reference check and vulnerable sector check prior to going out on placement. Students should obtain their criminal reference check approximately one month prior to placement; checks conducted earlier may not be considered current. As some jurisdictions require longer lead-time for processing, please check with the program co-ordinator to ensure you allow for sufficient turn-around time. Students are required to provide these checks prior to placement start.

NOTE: A record of criminal offences, for which a pardon has not been granted, may prevent the student from completing their placement, thereby affecting their ability to graduate.

**Graduation Requirements:**
12 Mandatory Courses
1 Field Placement

**Graduation Eligibility:**
To graduate from this program, a student must attain a minimum of 60% or a letter grade of P (Pass) or S (Satisfactory) in each course in each semester. The passing weighted average for promotion through each semester and to graduate is 60%.

Mandatory Courses
VICT1000 Victimology: Theoretical Perspectives (ODE)
VICT1001 Victims of Crimes (ODE)
VICT1002 Victimization and the Law (ODE)
VICT1003 Violence Against Women (ODE)
VICT1004 Aboriginal Peoples: Understanding and Reducing Victimization (ODE)
VICT1005 Victims and the Media (ODE)
VICT1006 Violence Against Men (ODE)
VICT1007 Childhood Victimization (ODE)
VICT1008 Diversity and Victim Assistance (ODE)
VICT1009 Victimology: Professional Practice (ODE)
VICT1010 Victimology: Assessment and Intervention (ODE)
VICT1011 Victim Assistance Services (ODE)

Field Placements
VICT1012 Field Placement

**Course Descriptions:**
VICT1000 Victimology: Theoretical Perspectives (ODE) 42.0 Hours
The majority of Canadians experience criminal victimization at some point in their lifetime. This course explores the meaning of the concept “victim” through theoretical perspectives and case studies. Students conduct critical analyses and examine research methods in the field of victimology. Students examine victim classifications, communities as victims, the link between victimization and offending, and violence prevention strategies. Special attention will also be given to the examination of the development of victims’ rights at the regional, national and international level.

**VICT1001 Victims of Crimes (ODE) 42.0 Hours**

It is essential for professionals in the field of victimology to ensure that victims of crime are not further traumatized by the very interventions designed to assist. Students examine the impact of various types of victimization including, cyber crime, homicide, sexual assault, elder abuse, drunk driving, assault, intimate partner violence, human trafficking and fraud. Students explore issues of grief, loss, trauma response and the costs associated with victimization. Through discussion, case studies and role playing, assessment, advocacy, and advanced communication skills are developed.

P- VICT1000 Victimology: Theoretical Perspectives (ODE)

**VICT1002 Victimization and the Law (ODE) 42.0 Hours**

In the modern era, crime victims have become the subject matter of numerous law reform initiatives. In this course, students critically examine the Canadian criminal justice system from a victim’s perspective, including a consideration of the intersection of criminal and civil law. Relevant legislation, case law, and scholarship are examined to uncover the nature of the various law reform initiatives. In addition, this course examines the impact of the victims’ rights movement, and the evolving development of restorative justice and victim participation in the process.

P- VICT1000 Victimology: Theoretical Perspectives (ODE) and P- VICT1001 Victims of Crimes (ODE)

**VICT1003 Violence Against Women (ODE) 42.0 Hours**

In this course, students learn theory and practical skills essential to assist women who have experienced violence. Students examine historical and social perspectives of violence against women; issues of power and authority within a feminist theoretical framework; different forms of violence against women, such as sexual violence and femicide; and women's varied experiences of violence as impacted by race, class, sexual orientation, ability and age. Students learn how to support women victims of violence, to assess women at risk of violence, to recommend personal safety plans, and to best advocate for appropriate and needed services.

**VICT1004 Aboriginal Peoples: Understanding and Reducing Victimization (ODE) 28.0 Hours**

Students explore the impact of the residential schools, effects of colonialism on traditional values and culture, as well as structural victimization. Students critically examine and assess Canada’s principal approaches to addressing victimization against Aboriginal peoples. Through discussion and experiential learning, students gain insight and understanding of Aboriginal worldview, healing, crime prevention and restorative justice.

**VICT1005 Victims and the Media (ODE) 28.0 Hours**

Crime is frequently reported and sensationalized in the media. In this course, students are sensitized to the impact of the media on victims of crime. Through a review of current events, students evaluate the role of the media in the lives of victims, paying particular attention to privacy
issues. Students develop media research, communication and public relations skills to effectively advocate for victims' issues in the media.

VICT1006 Violence Against Men (ODE) 28.0 Hours
Men are more likely to be assaulted by strangers. This course explores the unique issues of men's experiences when victimized by crime as impacted by race, class, sexual orientation, ability and age. Gender theory as relevant to masculinity is discussed and the victim offender continuum is examined. Response to and reporting of crimes is analyzed. Students demonstrate an understanding of the victimization of men.
P- VICT1000 Victimology: Theoretical Perspectives (ODE)

VICT1007 Childhood Victimization (ODE) 42.0 Hours
Childhood victimization can have long-term negative impacts and shape the way a person views the world and those surrounding them. Students examine short and long-term effects of childhood victimization and gender related issues. Common myths are explored regarding children's symptoms and the effects of childhood victimization. Students gain an understanding of criminal and child welfare investigations, as well as relevant legislation and professional requirements related to reporting and documentation. Child development (ages, stages, capacities) and parental/guardian considerations are explored. Students develop the interpersonal skills necessary to listen to and to interview children and their families. Emphasis is placed on appropriate victim support and prevention of recurrence.
P- VICT1000 Victimology: Theoretical Perspectives (ODE)

VICT1008 Diversity and Victim Assistance (ODE) 28.0 Hours
Individuals experience victimization differently. Understanding diversity is important for victim assistance workers in order to respond effectively to victims' needs. Students explore the needs of victims from different cultural and economic backgrounds. Emphasis is given to specific populations such as victims of hate crimes, the homeless, the disabled, and victims of war. Students learn how to deal sensitively with unique groups while applying an anti-oppression framework.

VICT1009 Victimology: Professional Practice (ODE) 28.0 Hours
Working with victims of crime is a demanding profession. Students learn the principles of debriefing, self-care and stress management. Reflective activities and in-class discussions enable students to understand their personal strengths and limitations and to develop and critique personal strategies for managing occupational stress. Special attention is given to working within professional guidelines and to the creation of individual plans for professional development. Through examination of Victim Service Standards students develop knowledge of ethical codes confidentiality and ongoing education that guide professional practice in victim services.

VICT1010 Victimology: Assessment and Intervention (ODE) 42.0 Hours
Victim assistance workers must be able to plan and implement skills and techniques aimed at the prevention of crime and healing of victims. Students are introduced to the theoretical basis and practice of victim service interventions. Students learn to conduct threat assessments, triage, facilitation, mediation, negotiation, and crisis intervention. Emphasis is placed on recognizing and addressing the acute needs of victims in crisis, and delivering interventions from a client-centred perspective.
VICT1011 Victim Assistance Services (ODE) 42.0 Hours
Victim service professionals are required to collaborate with service agencies to plan, deliver and evaluate victim service programs and initiatives. Students research and identify the vast array of community, provincial and national services, including financial remedies, counselling, mental health, medical, and addiction services. Students learn to facilitate interagency communication and multidisciplinary case management. Students identify and assess needs of victims, identify the most appropriate referrals, and present strategies and approaches that can be used to advocate for victims within and between various systems.
P- VICT1000 Victimology: Theoretical Perspectives (ODE)

VICT1012 Field Placement 160.0 Hours In collaboration with faculty and agency personnel students work in a community agency providing victim centred services or advocacy. This placement experience provides students with the opportunity to integrate theory with practice and to contribute to victim service initiatives within a community setting. Students reflect on their learning through student-led seminars, discussions and journals.
P- VICT1001 Victims of Crimes (ODE) and P- VICT1002 Victimization and the Law (ODE) and P- VICT1003 Violence Against Women (ODE) and P- VICT1004 Aboriginal Peoples: Understanding and Reducing Victimization (ODE) and P- VICT1005 Victims and the Media (ODE) and P- VICT1006 Violence Against Men (ODE) and P- VICT1000 Victimology: Theoretical Perspectives (ODE)

Course Description Legend
P = Prerequisite; C = Concurrent prerequisite; CO= Corequisite

Information contained in College documents respecting programs is correct at the time of publication. Academic content of programs and courses is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance to changing educational objectives and employment market needs. The college reserves the right to add or delete programs, options, courses, timetables or campus locations subject to sufficient enrolment, and the availability of courses.