



School of Social Work Indigenous Initiatives

[Indigenous Access McGill](#) (IAM) - 2019 marks the 12 year anniversary of IAM at the [School of Social Work](#). IAM forms an essential component of Indigenous student recruitment at McGill University.

To date, the program has supported 21 Indigenous students since its inception in 2007 (19 social work and 2 nursing). Three students completed both their [Bachelor of Social Work](#) (BSW) and [Master of Social Work](#) (MSW) in our School. There are currently 13 Indigenous students enrolled in the School of Social Work and this fall there will be another 7 Indigenous students joining the School of Social Work.

For 2019, Indigenous students will represent approximately 10% of the incoming BSW program and for the first time, there is an Indigenous student in the [Couples and Family Therapy Program](#) at the school.

There are two dedicated courses for Indigenous topics in the School of Social Work, both of which are both course options for McGill's [Minor Concentration in Indigenous Studies](#):

The [Indigenous Field Studies](#) Course (IDFC 500) is an Indigenous community engagement course created by IAM within the IAM Curriculum Development dossier. This year IDFC 500 is celebrating 10 years of offering the only interdisciplinary land-based course at McGill. In the last decade, the course has engaged over 200+ students from Social Work, Medicine, Anthropology, Law, Education, Indigenous Studies Minor, Canadian Studies, Sociology, Psychology, History, and Environmental Studies - as well as two participants from the Chaplaincy Division of the Canadian Armed Forces. The professional engagement and payment of Indigenous community based subject matter experts provides a platform for institutional reconciliation practices. The IDFC 500 is planned for 2020 in Kanehsatà:ke, which is also the 30 year commemoration of the Oka Conflict. Additionally, IDFC 500 is being used as a format to offer a professional education offering in Kahnawá:ke for McGill faculty and staff.

The [Social Work and First Peoples](#) Course (SWRK 445) is in the BSW program. The course focuses on an analysis of Canadian policies and legislation, their impact on First Peoples and on social work practice. Social work has been an active participant in colonialism and, more recently, reconciliation. In this course students will engage in a critical exploration of the history and fact patterns underlying the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action to inform student developed implementation plans.

Learn more about the School of Social Work [here](#).