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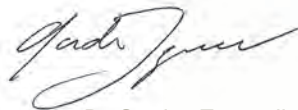
Welcome

Welcome to the Open Learning Division of Thompson Rivers University (TRU), the only English-speaking University in Canada that operates both a traditional campus and an Open Learning Division. Here at Thompson Rivers University (TRU-OL), we are committed to being the institution of choice for open, distance and online education in British Columbia and beyond. To achieve this goal we have focussed on serving the needs of our learners by providing high quality, open, flexible and accessible distance education as well as prior learning assessment and recognition opportunities. We pride ourselves on providing you with options such as courses you can enrol in at any time and that allow you to study at your own pace; or, courses with a fixed start date that enable you to collaborate and interact with other students. Regardless of the method of study

you pursue, distance education through TRU-OL allows you to study at a time and place that meets your needs.

At TRU-OL, we are delighted to help you fulfill your educational goals, whether those goals include: earning a few additional credits to complete your degree; applying your two-year college diploma towards an undergraduate degree; or completing a full credential through distance education. Regardless of which learning path you are on, we take pride in providing exceptional service to all of our learners.

Each year at TRU-OL we have proudly helped thousands of students worldwide pursue their dreams. We are ready to help you fulfill yours.



Dr. Gordon Tarzwell,
Vice-Provost, Open Learning



THOMPSON RIVERS
UNIVERSITY
OPEN LEARNING



Opportunity



Our Mandate

We at the Open Learning Division of Thompson Rivers University (TRU) strive to provide excellence in service and high quality education in order to meet the open and distance education needs of learners provincially, nationally and worldwide.

Our Mission

- Strive to make post-secondary education available at a time and place and through delivery methods convenient to you, the learner.
- Expand the recognition and acceptance of credits earned at other national and international institutions through an established educational credit bank to broaden credential-completion opportunities.
- Establish distance education as a viable complement to on-campus and classroom learning.
- Broaden participation in post-secondary education by developing programs to encourage and engage you, the learner.

Inspire

Our History

Nowhere in Canada has the evolution of post-secondary education been more dramatic than at our Kamloops, BC campus. In the last two decades, we at TRU have made transitions from a community college to an innovative university-college and now a full degree-granting university with a unique directive – Open Learning.

Our Open Learning Division has a rich legacy of providing open and distance education to students nationwide. This legacy is rooted in its origins as the British Columbia Open University (BCOU), which formerly operated as the Open Learning Institute (OLI). In 1978 the OLI was founded as a non-profit, fully-accredited institution by



Credibility

the provincial government. In 1988, OLI combined with the Knowledge Network to form the Open Learning Agency, of which BCOU was a Division.

In 2005, the Government of British Columbia granted full university status to the University College of the Cariboo and we became Thompson Rivers University.

As an integral component of this transition, we assumed full responsibility of all courses and programs of the former BCOU under our Open Learning Division. On July 1, 2007, all Open Learning operations relocated from Burnaby to the BC Centre for Open Learning located on our Kamloops campus.

TRU story: In 1970, Thompson Rivers University (TRU) first opened as Cariboo College at the Kamloops Indian Residential School, at which point it adopted the motto, “Quansem Ilep,” meaning “to strive ahead” in Chinook. In order to continue striving ahead, TRU broke ground for construction of its \$32-million House of Learning in November 2008. The House of Learning features a library, learning commons, space for Aboriginal programs and services, computer labs, study space and a lecture theatre.

Alliance

Our University Consortium Partners

In 1984, the government of British Columbia established the University Consortium to increase access to university courses offered at a distance. Our Open Learning Division was selected to be the central administrative headquarter.

The University Consortium arrangement allows our Open Learning students to take distance courses delivered by Simon Fraser University (SFU), the University of Victoria (UVic) and the University of British Columbia (UBC) without having to be admitted to a program at the institution delivering the course. Spaces are reserved at each of these consortium partners specifically for Open Learning students. This means you have access to hundreds of additional courses to complement the courses offered by our Open Learning Division.

TRU story: Through our consortium partners including Simon Fraser University, the University of Victoria and the University of British Columbia, students of TRU-OL have access to a wide variety of online and distance programs as well as hundreds of distance courses.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
THINKING OF THE WORLD





TRU story: “The barriers imposed by traditional schools are transcended by this medium (open learning), making many more people able to gain a new credential, a higher income and a better life. Moreover, the content is equal to or better than traditional schools with comparable course variety. Without Open Learning the path to my Bachelor of Arts degree would have been even more challenging than it already has been.”
– Meghan Pacheco, Bachelor of Arts.

Openness

Unlocking the Possibilities to Education

Providing “open” access to education means more than offering curriculum at a distance; it is a philosophy of education that offers you the choice and opportunity to pursue educational goals on your own terms. As a student of Open Learning, you will have access to hundreds of courses and a variety of programs that easily ladder into other credentials. You may also be eligible to receive academic recognition for past learning experiences, including those gained in the workplace, and apply it to your credential.

Our “open” mandate means you have a real opportunity to successfully complete your education and grow your career in the most efficient and effective manner possible. Furthermore, at Open Learning we take your lifestyle and commitments into account and help remove the barriers blocking your access to quality post-secondary education.

Accessibility: You don’t need to have a specific grade point average or submit your secondary school transcripts to be admitted to Open Learning and to register in courses.

Flexibility: Study anywhere, anytime and at a pace that suits your lifestyle.

Choice: Access hundreds of courses and a variety of certificate, diploma, degree and post-baccalaureate programs in an array of disciplines.

Recognition: Gain credit for the university-level knowledge you have received through a variety of means, including past education from other post-secondary institutions and private trainers, relevant work experience (Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition) and workplace training (Credit Bank).

Engaging

A Student-Centred Approach to Success

Through Open Learning, you can engage in education on your own terms – work at your own pace, plan your own direction and choose between independent or group study options.

Take part in this student-centred approach promoting:

Optional Delivery: Courses are delivered through web, online and/or print formats and are either self-paced or in a cohort.

Active Learning: Our focus at Open Learning is not on one-way transmission of knowledge, but on learning through actively engaging with materials, solving problems and critically applying knowledge.

Relevance: You are encouraged to apply what you are being taught to authentic experiences.

Individuality: You are encouraged to build on your prior knowledge and bring your own perspective to the learning environment.

Lifelong Learning: Build skills that will allow you to be an independent lifelong learner.

Interaction and Collaboration: Interact through the Open Learning setting, with both peers and Open Learning Faculty Members in order to build your own relevant, personalized learning experience. You can further this experience by utilizing Web 2.0 tools, such as blogs, wikis, social networking sites and others.

TRU *story:* "Open Learning allows me to complete my degree while working full-time in my career field of choice. I have established a great career . . . working my way up to Deputy Director of Corporate Services for the Village of Burns Lake, and my education will help me continue to grow and move up in local government."
– Stephanie Beerling, Bachelor of Public Administration



Get Ahead with Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) can provide you with the opportunity to have knowledge you have gained through formal and non-formal education as well as life and work experience, assessed and recognized in the form of academic credit toward requirements of your Open Learning program. PLAR can help you finish your program quicker and may also help you save time and money as you may be required to take fewer classes.

In support of PLAR activities here at Open Learning, we have launched a Prior Learning International

Research Centre (PLIRC). The virtual centre, which operates out of our BC Centre for Open Learning building on the Kamloops campus, was developed in order to stimulate innovative research concerning prior learning and the theory, policy and practice of its assessment and/or recognition and/or validation. PLIRC provides an international forum for networking amongst scholars of PLAR and actively promotes dissemination of research findings to practitioners and policy makers alike.

Turn Life into Learning – Transfer Credit and Laddering

Just because you are returning to your post-secondary education doesn't mean you have to start from scratch. The open approach to education we offer means you won't necessarily lose the valuable time you have already spent working towards your education.

By enrolling in one of our Open Learning programs, you can maximize your experiences and skills by

transferring credits you have previously earned or by "laddering" a previously earned certificate or diploma into the program.

Laddering agreements allow you to use your existing credential as credit for the completion of another credential (i.e. diploma, degree or post-baccalaureate) in the same area of study.

TRU story: "I'm very grateful that I looked into the PLAR program and even more grateful for the immense jump-start it's given my educational goals. PLAR has taken almost a year of schooling off the task of getting my degree and this has really opened the doors and possibilities. More than that, the PLAR experience has been incredibly rewarding as it has chronicled my life and awarded me great merit for my achievements."

– Trevor Roberts, Bachelor of Arts,
General Studies.



Recognition



TRU *story:* “My course Open Learning Faculty Member did a great job. I felt like I was engaged in an open dialogue with the Open Learning Faculty Member and that we were working together towards a common goal. When I needed help, emails I sent out would be responded to promptly and in full. Receiving personal emails very much felt like I was working one-on-one with the Open Learning Faculty Member – you’d never know that the Open Learning Faculty Member was juggling other courses and hundreds of other students.”
– Michael Droulliard, Diploma in General Studies.

Support

Support at a Distance

While online and distance learning may imply a separation from peers and instructors, you will find that the support we offer at Open Learning can bridge that distance. No matter what course you choose or what method it is being delivered in, be it print, web or online, support from Open Learning is always available. Our Open Learning Faculty Members are your first resource but there are many other people and services available to you, it is this support that will make your Open Learning experience a success. As an

Open Learning student, you will receive help from a number of our highly respected and qualified Open Learning Faculty Members who will guide you through course activities and the entire learning process. Our Open Learning Faculty Members, who grade and comment on your work, have a high level of interaction with students and are available to answer questions and inquiries via email, phone and other online communication technologies.

Melodie's Story

Melodie Hull is a Registered Psychiatric Nurse with a Masters of Administrative Studies (Health) and a Masters of Education (TESOL-Nursing and Medical English). Hull has authored two textbooks entitled *Medical Language: Terminology in Context* and *Medical English Clear and Simple: A Practice-based Approach to English for ESL Healthcare Professionals*.




Arts

Whether you envision yourself as a politician, photojournalist, community planner, environmental activist, analyst with a non-profit organization or stage director for a performing arts group, a background in the Arts can help you get there. As a graduate of the Arts, your opportunities are limited only by imagination.

Arts programs are often designed to provide you with a breadth in both general and specialized subject matter. As a student of the Arts, you can choose to complete your credential with a concentration in the Arts or a combination of Arts and either a Business Administration or Science concentration. Some areas you may concentrate your studies on include English, History, Psychology, Sociology or Geography.

- **Advanced Certificate in Liberal Arts**
- **Associate of Arts**
- **Bachelor of Arts, Criminology**
- **Bachelor of Arts, General Program**
- **Bachelor of Arts, General Studies**
- **Bachelor of Arts, Major Program**
- **Bachelor of Design**
- **Bachelor of Fine Art**
- **Bachelor of Music (Performance)**
- **Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Liberal Arts**



TRU story: “Before I enrolled in Open Learning through Thompson Rivers University I was seriously considering re-entering the workforce without a degree. I would now be earning considerably less than I am and would have considerably fewer options. The flexible schedule and synchronous delivery provided by OL were essential to my success.” – Jacob Cowan, Teacher and Dad.

Business and Management Studies

Graduates with formal business training are always in demand, filling crucial roles in government as well as profit-driven companies and non-profit organizations. That's because business graduates bring a range of analytical and communication skills applicable to most jobs, companies and industries. The choice is yours, whether you want to be a private-sector accountant or a public-sector manager. Through Business Management Studies, you will gain the skills necessary to become a successful leader, innovator or entrepreneur in today's competitive economy.

- **Certificate in Business Skills**
- **Certificate in Entrepreneurial Skills 1**
- **Certificate in Entrepreneurial Skills 2**
- **Certificate in First Nations Applied Economics**
- **Certificate in First Nation Taxation Administration**
- **Certificate in Management Studies**
- **Accounting Technician Diploma**
- **Diploma in Management Studies**
- **Advanced Certificate in Management**
- **Advanced Diploma in Management**
- **Bachelor of Business in Real Estate**
- **Bachelor of Commerce**
- **Bachelor of Public Administration**
- **Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Commerce**
- **Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Commerce**
- **Master of Business Administration**

TRU *story*: “While taking my TRU-OL courses I found I was able to better perform as a decision maker in my company and it allowed me to critically analyze the organizational structure and provide solutions and change to areas where our company needed improvement. The concepts and theories that I learned through the courses that I took through OL helped me achieve change, credibility, responsibility and elevated my status in the company.” – Sandra Saric, Corporate Sales Representative, Business Owner and Mom.





TRU *story:* "The benefit of enrolling in online and distance learning courses through Open Learning is the flexibility in self-paced work. In order to obtain full-time work, I have to be available to be a TOC (teacher-on-call) twice a week in two districts. Thus, enrolling in an online and distance learning course was an excellent option for me; I can be available to work and still make time to study." – Harjit Chauhan, Teacher.

Education

Education

Our Graduate Certificate in Online Teaching and Learning program is ideal for educators interested in gaining a solid foundation in the technical and pedagogical expertise required to effectively use education technology in your career. Designed and developed in collaboration with our Faculty of Human, Social and Educational Development at TRU and pre-approved by the Teacher Qualification Service of BC, this program will help you to develop skills that you can use in the classroom, distributed learning environments and in the world of online education.

As a kindergarten to Grade 12 teacher, online instructor or post-secondary faculty member, you can access this graduate certificate and gain additional credits above your baccalaureate credential.

General Studies

Statistics Canada says that in today's society six in ten adults have some form of post-secondary education. Add knowledge, skills and confidence to your academic repertoire and compete in today's competitive workforce by attaining a post-secondary credential in general studies.

Our General Studies programs offer you the opportunity to grow your education into one of three accredited post-secondary programs. The programs are specifically designed for individuals who want to develop a rich and diverse background and will give you the ability to tailor your education to meet personal and professional interests and needs. Once enrolled, you will have the freedom to structure your general studies program with as much or as little subject specialization as you require or desire.

- **Certificate in General Studies**
- **Diploma in General Studies**
- **Bachelor of General Studies**

TRU *story:* "Thanks to the flexibility of Open Learning, I was able to work full-time and write a nationally published book while working towards my credential. TRU-OL is genuinely interested in having its students reach their educational goals." – Michael Drouillard, Author and Law School Student.

udies



Health and Human Services

Through our Health and Human Services programs, we give you the opportunity to enter into the Health Care and Social Assistance industry and choose from one of many possible careers including registered nurse, social service worker and child and youth care worker.

If you are a professional already working in the Health Care industry, you can advance your education and obtain a degree that complements your discipline. You can turn your training into experience and your passion for the Health Care industry into recognized credentials that will help take control of your future and move your career forward.

- **Health Care Assistant Certificate**
- **Medical Laboratory Assistant Certificate**
- **Polysomnography Certificate**
- **Pre-Health Science Certificate**
- **Seniors Living Management Certificate**
- **Social Service Worker Certificate**
- **Anesthesia Assistant Post-Diploma**
- **Bachelor of Health Science**
- **Graduate Certificate in Child and Youth Mental Health**
- **Return to Registered Nurse Practice Certificate**
- **Transition Courses: Nursing and Health**

Human Services



TRU story: "I chose to go through Open Learning because it allowed me to continue to do massage therapy and bring in an income while pursuing my return to the nursing profession. I was initially concerned I would feel very alone at home but was delighted to discover the togetherness I felt in coming to know and work with my cohorts during group assignments, online sharing and discussions about our work experiences. It was liberating to see how much we all had to offer and how much we still remembered and could readily contribute once again to the nursing profession."

– Maggie Marsh, Home and Community Nurse.



Science

If you are fascinated by the continuing quest for discovery and the advancement of human knowledge than Science is the stream for you. At Open Learning we give you the opportunity to enhance your knowledge through scientific method from the broadest spectrum of study to specialized areas of interest including life sciences, chemical science, physical science, earth science, mathematics and applied science. You can stop hypothesizing and start controlling the conditions of your success by enrolling in an Open Learning Science program today.

- **Associate of Science**
- **Bachelor of Science, General**
- **Bachelor of Science, Major**

TRU story: In order to further her job as a College Lab Instructor, Kirsten Wilson, a Bachelor of Science (BSc) student at Open Learning, knew she had to complete the BSc she began years prior. Through Open Learning, Wilson was able to transfer her courses from a previous diploma, and from those she took at another institution, as credits towards the completion of her BSc. And this all happened while working full-time and studying at her own pace.

TRU story: "After a number of years of local government administrative work, I decided that I wanted to obtain a degree but I did not want to start all of my post-secondary education over again; I was married with a family and working full-time and it was not practical to try and attend classes during the day. I enrolled in TRU-OL's Bachelor of Technology program in order to achieve my undergraduate degree." – Keith Meldrum, Chief Communications Officer, Prince George Fire Rescue Service.

Technology

Technology and Trades industries represent some of the fastest growing areas of opportunity in today's economy. The scope of our Technology programs range from computing and information technology, to the areas of water treatment and trades, so if you have the interest, we have the program for you. Our Technology programs help you gain the fundamental skills of today and tomorrow, learn how to shape metal, create structures and apply technology to practical problems.

- **Water Treatment Technology**
- **Certificate in Information Technology**
- **Diploma in Information Technology and Management**
- **Bachelor of Technology (Technology Management)**
- **Bachelor of Technology (Trades and Technology Leadership)**

Tourism

Tourism

If you are passionate about travel, recreation and leisure and love to plan and organize events, you can find your educational niche in Tourism. Enrol in our Events Management Certificate program to get started in your career or try our Bachelor of Tourism Management degree program if you have a recognized two-year diploma in tourism management, hospitality administration or outdoor recreation or if you have related educational or industry experience. Set sail on your tourism career and help to accelerate this vital global industry which positively affects many other industries including transportation, hospitality and more.

- **Events Management Certificate**
- **Bachelor of Tourism**

TRU *story*: Through our Bachelor of Tourism Management program, you can specialize in either Tourism Management or Hospitality Administration. You can also apply face-to-face tourism courses you have gained at any accredited post-secondary institutions toward your degree.



University Preparation

The U-Prep program provides you with the opportunity to gain the prerequisites you need to get into the post-secondary program, and ultimately the career, of your dreams. We can help you prepare for a new career or kick-start your post-secondary education through our preparatory courses. Our University Preparation courses are designed for adults by the BC Ministry of Advanced Education and are similar to Adult Basic Education courses offered by colleges in BC. These courses are geared towards adult learners who are interested in entering the workforce, vocational programs or university.

TRU *story*: We assist our Open Learning students with career and college preparation through our Adult Basic Education (ABE) courses and programs. We offer programs including: ABE Intermediate Certificate, Grade 10 equivalency; ABE Advanced Certificate, Grade 11 equivalency; and BC Adult Graduation Diploma, Grade 12 equivalency.

Prep



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