

book of answers

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Welcome to AU

Welcome to the Book of Answers, your personal introduction to the Athabasca University experience. This compact publication was created to provide you with a quick snapshot of Athabasca University, Canada's leader in online and distance education. We've taken a list of popular questions asked by students and provided the answers on the pages that follow. It's all you need to know about getting started at AU. We look forward to helping you further your education.



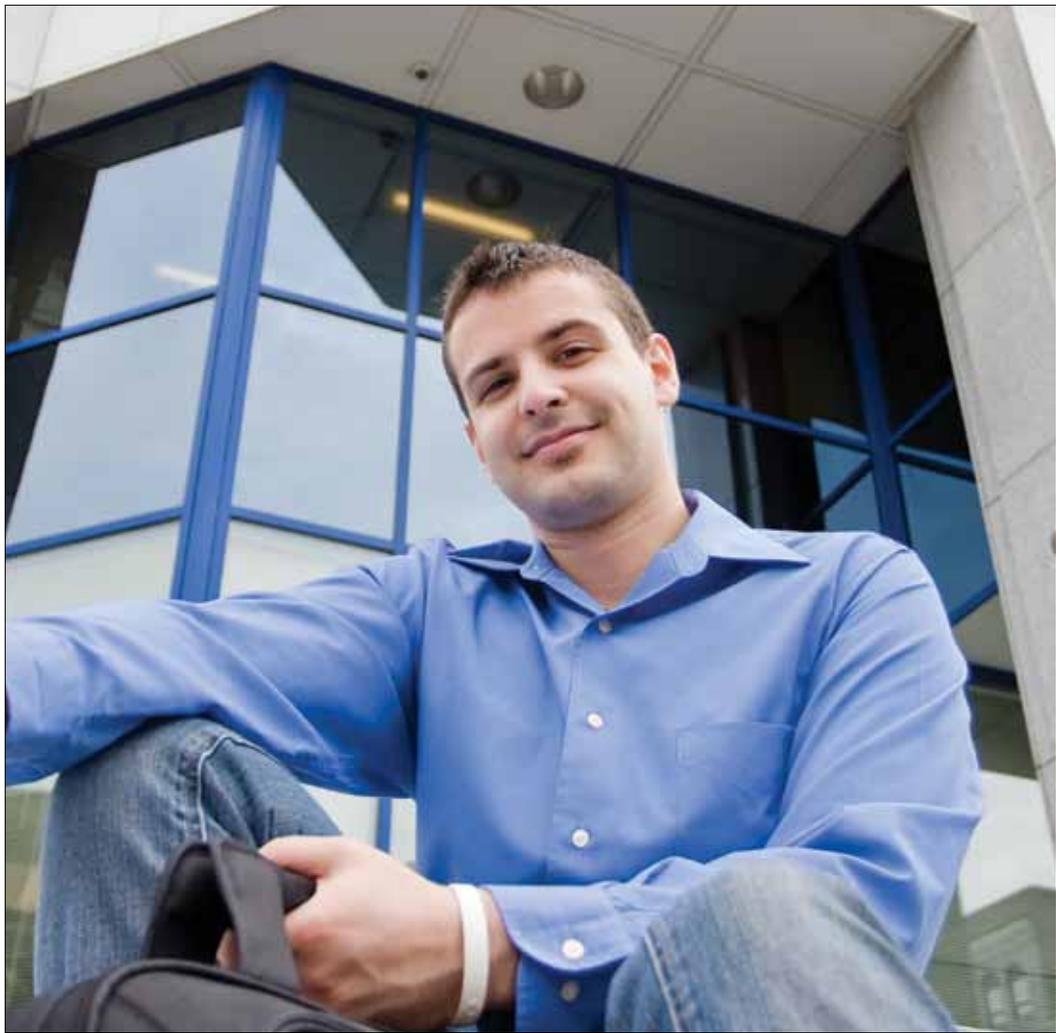
AU student Andrée in Edmonton, Alberta

What is Athabasca University?

Athabasca University was established in 1970, and by 1972 had developed into a public, distance university. You can feel confident when you study with AU because we have a proven track record as distance learning specialists. During the 1990s, we pioneered the use of computer applications to deliver course materials, and in 1994, AU launched the world's first online EMBA. Today, AU proudly serves more than 37,000 students from 87 countries worldwide.

Where is Athabasca University located?

AU's main administrative campus is located in Athabasca, Alberta, 145 kilometres north of Edmonton, but your actual online campus is anywhere in the world you want it to be. At your desk in your basement. At your favourite coffee shop. On your deck at your cabin. It's all about flexibility. Which is why Athabasca University is an open university. That means we remove geographic, financial, social, and cultural barriers that limit post-secondary access. We guarantee entry to most of our programs to anyone 16 and older with a passion to learn.



AU student Daniel in Halifax, Nova Scotia

What courses does AU offer?

Whatever area you wish to study, chances are we have what you're looking for. AU offers over 700 courses and 50 undergraduate programs, seven master's degrees, and two doctorate programs. Not surprisingly, one of the doctorate degrees is in distance education itself. Dozens of diplomas and certificates are available in areas as wide ranging as financial services, computing and information systems, public administration, and counselling. For more details, check out the program listings on pages 16 to 18.

Who are the instructors?

AU faculty members are leaders in their field of study, researching and developing new ways to deliver their courses online. Our staff includes three Canada Research Chairs and a number of professors researching topics as diverse as the northern lights, Canadian social policy, and climate change. As a student, you'll be assigned a tutor who'll be your direct contact throughout your course. You'll also benefit from the added educational experience of discussions with fellow students from across the country and around the world.



AU professor Dr. Kinshuk in Edmonton, Alberta

How are courses taken at Athabasca University?

AU delivers courses in two different ways. Individualized Study lets you study at your own pace using course materials provided either online, or by hard copy, with support from your tutor. Individualized Study courses feature monthly start dates. The second course delivery method is Group Study, where you're taught by an instructor in a group setting, either in a classroom or online. Courses are based on a traditional 13-week timetable, starting in May, September and January. Please check the AU website to see which course delivery method is available for your particular course or program of interest.

How do I get started in a program?

The first step in starting an AU program is to research your program options on the AU website at **athabascau.ca**. After you've decided on your area of study, complete AU's general application form, which is also on the website. Once your application is processed you'll receive an AU student ID number. Next, pick your courses using the AU Calendar. Then log onto the AU website using your new AU student ID number, and pay your course fees. You'll receive a confirmation of enrolment within two weeks.



AU student Yuen with his son in Edmonton, Alberta

What is a Post Diploma?

Do you currently hold an approved two-year or three-year diploma from an accredited college or technical institute? If so, then an AU Post Diploma degree is an ideal next step. Your two-year diploma can count for up to two years of credit towards your degree. Your three-year diploma may count for up to three years of credit towards your degree. Have your diploma evaluated when you submit an application for your program of interest.

Can I take courses as a visiting student?

If you're enrolled at another university or college, you can also study at AU. Visiting students often take one or more AU courses to complement their post-secondary studies. To apply, visit athabascau.ca and complete a general application form. You'll receive an AU student ID number. Next, pick your courses using the AU Calendar. Just remember you'll need to get a letter of permission from your home university to ensure the course(s) you pick are transferrable to your degree.



AU student Carlie in Calgary, Alberta

I'm not ready to enrol in a program. Can I take a few courses?

You don't need to enrol in a full program to study at AU. Some students just take one or more courses for interest, or simply to find out if university education is right for them. Some wish to gain a particular skill, while others wish to "bank" credits against a future program. To get started, visit **athabascau.ca**.

Can I get transfer credit for my prior education?

If you've taken courses at other accredited post-secondary institutions, a formal evaluation towards an AU credential is available. First, you must enrol in a specific AU program. And once you've submitted the general application for your program of interest, as well as all other supporting documents and fees, your previous course work will be evaluated.



AU student Lori in Kingston, Ontario

Can I receive credit for my prior work experience?

If you've been working for several years and/or don't have previous post-secondary education, you may gain credit through the PLAR (Prior Learning and Assessment Recognition) program. PLAR provides opportunities for you to gain credit for non-formal learning and workplace/labour training programs. Contact the Centre for Learning Accreditation for support and guidance before beginning the PLAR process. In Canada or the United States, call toll-free, 1-800-788-9041 (extension 6348). For all other international locations, please call 780-675-6348.

How can I get more information?

Visit athabascau.ca for more information about the specific area of study you're interested in. Be sure to research your options online. We also recommend that you order an AU Calendar to get more details about programs and courses. And please feel free to contact the AU Information Centre if you have questions or need some advice.

Canada/U.S.: 1-800-788-9041
International: 780-675-6100



AU student Samuel in Hobbema, Alberta

Undergraduate Degrees:

Bachelor of Arts

(three or four-year degree)

- Anthropology
- Canadian Studies *
- English
- French
- General**
- History
- Humanities
- Information Systems
- Labour Studies
- Political Economy
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Women's Studies

* four-year degree only

** three-year degree only

Bachelor of Commerce

(four-year degree or post diploma)

- Accounting
- E-Commerce
- Financial Services

Bachelor of Management

(three or four-year degree
and post diploma)

- Human Resources Management
 - Marketing
-

Bachelor of Science in Computing and Information Systems

(four-year degree or post diploma)

Bachelor of General Studies

(three-year degree)

- Arts and Science
 - Applied Studies
-

Bachelor of Human Resources and Labour Relations

(three-year degree or post diploma)

Bachelor of Nursing

- Two-year post RN Degree
- Three-year post LPN Degree

Bachelor of Health Administration

(three-year degree or post diploma)

Bachelor of Professional Arts

(four-year degree)

- Communication Studies
 - Criminal Justice
 - Governance, Law
and Management
 - Human Services
-

Bachelor of Science

(four-year degree or post diploma)

Bachelor of Science in Human Science

(four-year degree or post diploma)

Graduate Degrees:

Master of Arts – Integrated Studies

- Educational Studies
- Work, Organization,
and Leadership
- Global Change
- Canadian Studies*
- Information Studies*
- Adult Education
- Cultural Studies
- Community Studies
- Historical Studies*
- Equity Studies (open)

** These areas of concentration are under development and may be subject to change. Degrees will not be awarded with these specializations at this time.*

Master of Business Administration

- MBA with Project
Management Electives
- MBA with Energy Electives

Also available:

- Graduate Diploma
in Management

Doctorate in Business Administration

Master of Counselling

- Counselling Psychology
- Career Counselling

Also available:

- Post-Graduate Certificate
in Counselling
 - Post-Masters Certificate
in Counselling
-

Master of Distance Education

Also available:

- Graduate Diploma in Distance
Education Technology
- Graduate Diploma in
Instructional Design
- Graduate Certificate
in Instructional Design

Doctor of Education in Distance Education

Master of Nursing

Also available:

- Advanced Graduate Diploma –
Advanced Nursing Practice
-

Master of Health Studies

Master of Science – Information Systems

University Certificates and Diplomas:

Certificate of Completion

- English Language Proficiency Program

University Certificates

- Accounting
- Administration
- Advanced Accounting
- Career Development
- Computers and Management Information Systems
- Computing and Information Systems
- Counselling Women
- E-Commerce
- English Language Studies
- Financial Services
- French Language Proficiency
- Health Development Administration
- Heritage Resources Management
- Human Resources and Labour Relations
- Labour Studies
- Marketing
- Public Administration

University Diplomas

- Arts
- Inclusive Education



AU student Lisa in Halifax, Nova Scotia



AU student Sarah in Edmonton, Alberta

standout:

Athabasca University 

Website www.athabascau.ca **Inquiries** www.askau.ca

Phone 1-800-788-9041 (Canada/U.S.) or 780-675-6100