“I really want to connect with other aboriginal students and hopefully inspire some of them to continue their studies.”

—Jacquelyne Nokusis, former ASAP student and current ASAP tutor


“ASAP uses a holistic model that addresses the student as a whole person. It comes down to knowing each student and addressing what they need.”

—Kristina Bidwell, Associate Dean of Aboriginal Affairs


For more information, contact:

Program Information:
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Photos: above and cover by Dave Stobbe

Aboriginal Student Achievement Program
(ASAP)
The Aboriginal Student Achievement Program (ASAP)

More than 800 Aboriginal students are pursuing their goals at the College of Arts & Science at the University of Saskatchewan. The Aboriginal Student Achievement Program welcomes these students into their first year of study, helping them succeed, and building an Aboriginal student community on campus. ASAP supports students as whole people—academically, financially, personally, socially and culturally.

First-year Aboriginal students in ASAP register together in small classes, taking sets of common courses together, with additional tutorials to build academic skills. All courses are taught by professors who understand the cultures and needs of Aboriginal students. In addition to sharing a classroom experience, the students gather as a community for a weekly ASAP Hour guided by two Aboriginal peer mentors who have successfully completed their first year. During ASAP Hour, students learn about study skills and career options, participate in cultural activities and get involved in the larger university community. Students also meet throughout the year with dedicated Aboriginal student advisors who help support and guide them.

What are the supports?

ASAP offers a wide range of supports to help Aboriginal students succeed academically, enjoy their university experience, and overcome any barriers they may face.

**Academic:**
- Popular first year courses
- Small class sizes
- Tutorials
- Culturally-aware and engaged faculty
- Course in “Learning to Learn: Strategies for Academic Success”

**Advising:**
- Individual attention to students’ goals and needs
- Holistic and culturally-informed advising
- Early warning system to identify students at risk

**Community and Culture:**
- Aboriginal Peer Mentors
- Weekly “ASAP Hour” to build community
- Cultural events with Elders and Aboriginal role models

**Financial:**
- Bursaries for every student in ASAP
- Bursaries available for students with children
- Emergency funding for students in financial crisis
- Liaison with First Nations bands

The ASAP Team

Dr. Kristina Bidwell, Associate Dean of Aboriginal Affairs

Lori Slater Pollock, Director of Arts & Science Learning Communities

Sheryl Prouse, Director of Student Advising

Lorie Peters-Whiteman, Aboriginal Student Advisor

Kayla Goshulak, Aboriginal Student Advisor

Paul Thompson, First Year Advisor & Learning Communities Coordinator

ASAP Faculty Members, Aboriginal Peer Mentors and Faculty-guided Teaching Assistants

Dr. Kristina Bidwell (photo: Dave Stobbe)

“*It’s a very friendly atmosphere—people are very accepting. Starting out small is a lot easier and it helps you get to know one another and be there for one another when you need help.*”

“*The profs made you feel like you could go and talk to them. If you didn’t understand something you could go talk to them. If you needed help in any area, they made you feel really good.***”