

Updated June 2026



Student FAQs:

Transition from Community and School Support (CASS) to Education Assistant (EDUA)



Why is the program changing from CASS to EDUA?

The CASS program used to include both the Education Assistant (EA) and Community Support Worker (CSW) certificates. Due to low enrolment in the CSW program, CNC is now focusing solely on the Education Assistant program. The new program, EDUA, has been updated to better meet what schools need today.

What are the biggest differences between CASS and EDUA?

- EDUA is 30 credits (CASS is 34).
- EDUA students don't need an elective.
- EDUA has new courses on child development and supporting numeracy.
- CASS 150 (Life Planning) is not part of the new EDUA curriculum.
- Same overall focus: preparing you to work as an Education Assistant.

I'm in the CASS program. Can I use EDUA 100 as my CASS Elective?

Yes! You can take EDUA 100 (Child Development) to meet your CASS elective requirement. A Course Substitution Form must be completed and approved in advance before registration. You can obtain this form from Academic Advising or your program coordinator.

I'm already enrolled in CASS. Do I graduate with CASS or EDUA?

We encourage current students to complete their Education Assistant Certificate through the CASS program. To graduate with a CASS credential, please keep the following in mind:

- Continue taking CASS courses while they are available. Once CASS courses are no longer offered, you can take the equivalent EDUA courses to complete your remaining requirements. A Course Substitution Form must be approved before registering in an EDUA course. Forms are available through Academic Advising or your Program Coordinator.
- Complete CASS 150 as soon as possible. This course has no equivalent in the EDUA

program and remains a required course for CASS students. Seats are available in Fall 2026 and Spring 2027.

- Remain an active student. Students cannot miss both the Fall and Spring semesters consecutively.
- Complete your credential within 10 years of starting the program.

If you have questions about your individual course plan, please contact an Academic Advisor.

I was already given a deadline to complete CASS by. Do I still follow this deadline?

No, the April and December 2027 deadlines are no longer in effect. Students are to follow the new guidelines listed above. At the end of the Spring 2027 term (or by the date in your letter), you should meet with an advisor to determine whether to finish your CASS credential using EDUA courses or fully transition to the EDUA program.

I am currently in the CASS program. Can I change to the EDUA program?

Yes. Students may change programs from CASS to EDUA to complete their EA Certificate, but we recommend students complete their certificate under CASS if possible. We encourage you to meet with an advisor to help decide which option is the best fit for you.

If you must change programs, you'll follow the EDUA graduation requirements (see the chart on the last page). We'll share more details about the process once everything is finalized.

I've already taken CASS courses. Do they still count if I switch to EDUA?

Yes! Courses with the same numbers transfer directly (for example, CASS 110 = EDUA 110).

Do EDUA students need an elective?

No. Electives are no longer required.

CASS 150 isn't in the new EDUA program. Do I still need it?

Yes, if you're finishing your CASS certificate, you'll still need to complete CASS 150. It will run through Fall 2026 and Spring 2027, so make sure to register early.

Will the new EDUA courses cost more than CASS courses?

Tuition for the new EDUA program will be higher than the current CASS program. The total cost of the CASS program is \$3,587, while the new EDUA program will cost \$4,898.

What are the graduation requirements for EDUA vs CASS?

Refer to the chart below to compare the differences (**highlighted in shaded sections**) between the two EA Programs. Courses with identical course numbers are equivalent for graduation requirements.

New EDUA Program		Previous CASS Program	
EDUA 100	Child Development (3)	None	Not Required
EDUA 105	EA Practicum I (3)	CASS 105	Practicum I (3)
EDUA 110	Interpersonal Communication (3)	CASS 110	Communication Skills (3)
EDUA 120	Disability and Inclusion (3)	CASS 120	Human Diversity (3)
EDUA 130	Anti-Racism & Ethical Practice (3)	CASS 130	Ethical Foundations (3)
EDUA 140	Intro to Behaviour (3)	CASS 140	Positive Approaches to Teaching and Learning I (3)
EDUA 145	Trauma and Behaviour (3)	CASS 145	Positive Approaches to Teaching and Learning II (3)
None	Not Required	CASS 150	Life Planning (3)
EDUA 160	Health, Wellness, and Care (3)	CASS 160	Health and Wellness (3)
EDUA 170	Supporting Numeracy (3)*	None	Not Required
EDUA 180	Supporting Literacy (3)*	CASS 180	Supporting Literacy (3)
None	Not Required**	CASS 189 or elective	Elective/Special Topic (3)
EDUA 195	EA Practicum II (3)	CASS 195	EA Practicum II (4)
Total:	30 Credits	Total:	34 Credits
*EDUA students choose between EDUA 170 and EDUA 180			
** EDUA students are not required to take an elective. However, some students may choose to take courses such as English, Métis Studies, or Aboriginal Studies to further their learning. These courses are optional and do not count toward the EDUA certificate.			

How can I get help from Academic Advising?

There are two ways to connect with Advising.

- You can submit your questions to Advising through your CNC Connect – Student Planner Account by following the step below.
 - Sign into your CNC Connect account.

- Select "Student Planning."
- Select "Go to Plan & Schedule."
- Select the "Advising" tab.
- Under "Compose a Note", type your question in the text box.
- Once complete, click "Save Note."
- Once your note has saved, select "Request Review" to submit your question to Advising.
- Once an advisor has provided an answer in your account, you will receive an email alert. Please do not reply to the email alert.
- You can book an appointment with an Academic Advisor through the [Advising Booking Tool](#).

How do I connect with the EDUA Program Coordinator?

You can contact the program coordinator, Shannon Perlstrom, by email at perlstroms@cnc.bc.ca