



1. What is a Guardian or Watchman?

Guardians and Watchmen are the 'eyes and ears on the land and water.' They are environmental monitors of individual territories and/or regions on the central and north coast of British Columbia. This program is modeled in part on the Haida Gwaii Watchmen program, and incorporates First Nations perspectives, culture and history into the program.

2. Do I have to be a First Nations person to take this program?

No. The Coastal Guardian Watchmen Program is open to all students interested in learning about the central and north coast from an environmental monitoring and First Nations perspective.

3. What are the pre-requisites to get into this program?

Although there are no formal pre-requisites for this program, students will be expected to be fluent in English and able to keep up with written assignments and numerous readings.

4. How do I become a student in the Coastal Guardian Watchmen Program?

You must first apply for admission to the college and program, which will give you a student number that you will need to register in individual courses. For more information, contact any Northwest Community College campus, or the program coordinator (contacts listed below).

5. Where are courses offered?

Courses are offered at various Northwest Community College campuses, with future offerings in Coastal First Nations communities. Modules rotate between campuses and communities in order to offer students a regional learning experience as well as build networks between Guardians and Watchmen and their communities on the north and central coast.

6. When are courses offered?

Courses are delivered during the Guardian-Watchmen off-season, between October and June each year. See the CGW website for details on dates and delivery (contact listed below).

7. How long does it take to complete the program?

In this certificate program, courses are grouped into four modules, each delivered in intensive three week sessions, spanning 12 weeks in total. Modules are offered over the winter and spring months, with a full certificate delivery completed each year.

8. What kind of job can I get after completing this program?

Students who complete the program will be qualified to apply their skills in a variety of settings including Park Ranger positions with the BC Ministry of Environment, community based environmental monitoring programs and numerous tourism positions. First Aid and safety certifications will provide general opportunities for students to work in numerous industries. This program also provides foundational skills to further education and training in specific fields of interest.

9. Are courses hands-on or classroom based?

Students participate in both classroom and field settings, incorporating readings, lectures, field trips and various simulated Guardian-Watchmen exercises for a holistic learning experience. Due to the intense delivery structure, students are required to attend every class to pass courses.

10. I have already taken some of the courses offered- do I have to take them again?

If you have proof of completion or a valid certificate in an equivalent course or higher (example: Wilderness First Aid), you will not be required to re-take the same course. You must speak to the program coordinator and submit a copy of your course equivalent for review and processing of equivalent credit.

11. What if I can't complete one of the modules right away?

Modules and courses can be taken out of sequence at the student's own pace, although full modules are encouraged to complete the program in less time.

12. How much does the program cost?

Program fees include \$800 tuition per module, plus \$54.19 in student fees for modules offered on NWCC campuses (check website for current fees). Students are also responsible for individual transportation and accommodation costs, as well as safety gear, books and supplies for each module. Gear and supply lists are supplied to registered students and are also available on the program website (listed below).

13. Where can I find money to help pay for my costs to take this program?

There are numerous bursary and scholarship information sites listed online, as well as financial aid offered through Northwest Community College. First Nations students are encouraged to speak to their Education Coordinators and First Nations Access Coordinators at NWCC Campuses. Limited bursaries may be available from the Rainforest Solutions Project Fund- contact program coordinator Jacinda Mack for more information on availability and deadlines (contact listed below).

14. Where can I stay while taking the program?

Terrace campus has a limited number of dorm rooms available on campus. CGW students receive a pro-rated rate for a three week stay. For more information, contact resident officer Sheila Dyck at 1-877-277-2288, extension 5266, Monday to Friday, 10am- 2pm. Also check out the website: <http://www.nwcc.bc.ca/AdmissionRegistration/dorms.cfm>

Students may also consider local accommodations such as hotels, billets, or house rentals with fellow students, when delivery takes place on campuses without dorms or in First Nations communities. Contact the program coordinator, Jacinda Mack, for more information.

15. Where can I get more information?

Program coordinator, Jacinda Mack:
Toll Free: 1-877-277-2288, ext. 5351
Email: jmack@nwcc.bc.ca
Program website: <http://www.nwcc.bc.ca/Programs/CoastGuardian/WatchmanTraining.cfm>

Northwest Community College
Website: www.nwcc.bc.ca
Toll Free: 1.877.277.2288

CGW Network: <http://www.coastalguardianwatchmen.ca/>