

"The best thing I ever did for me"

"My name is Maddie and I had amazing success with Conestoga's academic upgrading program. I had always wanted to pursue nursing ever since I was a little girl. But I am a creature of habit and was fearful of that big change.

I work at Stratford General Hospital in Environmental Services. When I first began there and adjusted to my role, it did not take long for me to confirm that I wanted to be a nurse—because I was in the hospital environment.

I am now 30 and TOO comfortable where I am, yet there was always this looming feeling that I wanted to pursue nursing. I was not the best student in high school and knew that I was going to need to upgrade many grades to be accepted into the nursing program.

When September of 2024 rolled around, I felt more motivated and had an itch to begin the upgrading process. I was able to communicate my barriers and fears; I was supported and accommodated to help keep me on track.

Not only did I have support with my courses, I also had support with the college application process. Academic upgrading was there for me from beginning to end! Furthermore, they are very connected and knowledgeable with resources and supports within the community.



Academic upgrading was the best thing I ever did for me. I will forever be in debt to the staff and the program.

I am so happy I took the leap of faith and I am quite proud of my achievements in academic upgrading, which would have been impossible without everyone involved. Thanks for helping my dreams come true!"

—Madison, Conestoga upgrading student