

“one of my best decisions”



"My name is Stephen and I'm 36. In grade 12, I had a mini stroke which ruined my grades, health and speech. I was lost and without direction for many years.

But last year, my father inspired me to become an electrician like my grandfather. I realized that if I wanted to become one and join his union, I needed better Grade 12 Chemistry and Mathematics grades.

I was able to get directed to academic upgrading at Durham College and was blessed to meet Chris and Maryam — two of the best educators I have ever had in my lifetime. Thanks to them, I was able to relearn mathematics and chemistry in less than 4 months.

And, with their mentorship, I earned 100% grades in both classes.

They built me back up from not knowing if I could get back into education after being out of it for 13 years to being able to get into my Electrical Engineering Technician program at Durham College — and win one of 10 prestigious Schulich Builders Scholarships.

Going to academic upgrading at Durham College was one of my best decisions I have ever made."

— Stephen, Durham College upgrading graduate