

*"it helped me rebuild my confidence"*

"When I first walked into the Simcoe/ Norfolk Regional Campus of Fanshawe College, I was nervous and feeling unsure. At this point of my life, I had no job – nor had I completed high school. I enrolled in the Academic Upgrading program and started attending once a week to improve my math skills and achieve my grade 12 equivalency.

After 45 job applications, I was finally hired by a medical spa in my home town. I had to make the decision to take Esthetics seriously and enrolled in the Esthetics program at Fanshawe College.

I would work on upgrading my math skills Tuesday mornings and afternoons, while completing the Body Care course in the evenings. It was a lot to juggle, but something inside me shifted.

I started believing in myself.

My family and teachers at Fanshawe saw something in me that I hadn't yet seen in myself. Their support, kindness, and encouragement helped me begin to build my confidence and discover the person that I was truly meant to become.

It wasn't easy. But every step forward felt like a small victory. Since then, I've completed two Esthetics courses and continued working in the wellness field. I now work at Sayza Yoga and Wellness Centre in Simcoe, and I've started my own business called 'Dream On.'



I look forward to watching my business grow through the seeds I've sown while I learn new ways to educate others on how they can truly love themselves from the inside out.

Academic Upgrading not only helped me increase my math skills – it helped me rebuild my confidence, rediscover my purpose and reshape my future.

I've learned that every day is a chance to grow, to heal and to help others do the same. My story is proof that when you take a chance on yourself, amazing things can happen. I'm proud of how far I've come, and I'm excited for what's ahead in my academic and career journey."

— Tori, Fanshawe College