

“I am now a college graduate with a diploma and the ACE Certificate. I was just hired as a Support Worker and excited for my future!”

“Dropping out of high school in grade 11 shattered my confidence and left me feeling like I was unintelligent. Life wasn’t easy, but I made ends meet to support myself and eventually my family. I wanted more and I knew I would need my grade 12 if I wanted meaningful employment.

In 2022, I enrolled in the free Academic Upgrading (AU) Program at Sault College with the intent of getting my grade 12 equivalency, the Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) certificate. The Academic Upgrading staff at Sault College did a fantastic job of supporting self-directed learning and finding ways to help me manage the workload.

They truly care about their students and were the first to see me and my learning style for what it was. They encouraged me to try out a college course, Introduction to Psychology, while taking my upgrading courses. That experience was a game-changer for me.

I realized that I wanted more than just my grade 12 equivalent. The opportunity they provided me to try college eventually led to enrollment in the full-time Social Service Worker (SSW) program in Fall 2023. I was also able to get a diagnosis for the ADHD that I knew I had all along.

After 2 years of hard work, I am now a college graduate with a diploma and the ACE Certificate. In May 2025, I was hired as a Support Worker at Mariposa Developmental Services in the Sault and am excited for my future!

None of this would have been possible without the support of the Academic Upgrading team and their dedication to ensuring that everyone who comes through their door gets equal opportunity and access to the learning they deserve! —Mark



Mark, Sault College Upgrading

