

# FIRST NATIONS FINE ARTS CERTIFICATE

View on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsLJr2IFc5k>)

First Nations Fine Arts (FNFA) is a vibrant, successful two-year Freda Diesing School of Northwest Coast Art (<https://coastmountaincollege.ca/programs/explore/freda-diesing-school-of-northwest-coast-art/>) Diploma program that seeks to honour and support the rich culture and tradition of First Nations art in the Northwest.

Founding instructors Dempsey Bob (Tahltan/Tlingit), Stan Bevan (Tahltan/Tlingit/Tsimshian), and Ken McNeil (Tahltan/Tlingit/Nisga'a) are world-renowned master carvers who developed the Freda Diesing Program in honour of Dempsey's paternal ancestor, Freda Diesing (Haida) was a master of First Peoples descent.

Learners of First Peoples descent develop a solid foundation in First Nations Northwest Coast art while they learn and practice traditional design, painting, and carving.

The First Nations Fine Arts program includes field trips to important cultural events and sites, museums, and galleries. Visiting artists, dignitaries and cultural advocates enhance the learning environment with their knowledge, wisdom and experience. Learners mount a number of public art exhibits each year to acquire the skills required by professional artists to display, promote, and sell their own creative work.

## First Nation Fine Arts Certificate

Learners begin with fundamentals of two-dimensional Northwest Coast art design, drawing, and painting basics, followed by building and using traditional tools, and traditional work carving techniques.

Learners carve a number of pieces to build their proficiency. These include small- to medium-sized plaques, spoons, portrait masks, and bowls. Learners will be expected to participate in exhibitions throughout the year.

## Apply to CMTN

Visit Apply to CMTN (<https://www.coastmountaincollege.ca/admissions/apply-to-cmtn/>) for an Admissions Checklist and to apply online.

Our Educational Advisors (<https://www.coastmountaincollege.ca/student-services/student-support/educational-advising/>) are here to help if you have any questions or need guidance along the way.

## Dates and locations

Intake	Location
Fall 2025	Terrace

## Certificate

Code	Title	Credits
FNFA 104	Professional First Nations Artist Dev I	3
FNFA 106	Exhibitions and Curating I	3
FNFA 110	Shop Safety Basics	1
FNFA 112	Two Dimensional Design - Basic Forms	3
FNFA 113	Two Dimensional Design	3

FNFA 114	Tool Making	4
FNFA 116	Elements of Wood Carving & Design I	3
FNFA 119	Tool - Adze Making	2
FNFA 124	Elements of Wood Carving & Design II	3
FNFA 126	Wood Carving & Design-Traditional Spoon	3
FNFA 127	Wood Carving & Design-Traditional Bowl	3
FNFA 128	Wood Carving & Design - Portrait Mask	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>34</b>

The FNFA Certificate program is open to beginner and advanced carvers.

Applicants will be evaluated on a first-applied basis and must:

- Grade 12 graduation, or Mature Student
- Be at least 16 years old
- Have successfully completed English First Peoples 10 or equivalent
- Present a portfolio/samples of the artwork undertaken to date
- Complete an interview with the Instructional Team
- It is recommended that applicants have basic computer skills. Instructors may recommend learners take a co-requisite computer course
- It is recommended that applicants have basic mathematics skills. Instructors may recommend learners take a co-requisite mathematics course
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Fees	Full-time domestic
Full-time:	34 Credits
Tuition:	\$6,204.28
Student Union Fees:	\$112.76
Extended Health and Dental*:	\$295.00
Mandatory Fees:	\$277.10
<b>Total Tuition:</b> <sup>1</sup>	<b>\$6,889.14</b>
Additional Costs:	
Books: <sup>2</sup>	\$200.00
Supplies/Clothing: <sup>2</sup>	\$200.00
Tools: <sup>2</sup>	\$833.94
*Total Program Cost:	\$8,123.08

**Fees are effective as of August 1, 2025 for 2025/26 academic year**

1 These fees are an annual cost. Program takes one year to complete.

2 **TOOLS ARE MANDATORY** and can be purchased from the college or elsewhere. The published price is based on purchasing tools directly from the college. Please note that these are approximate costs and may vary depending on courses taken.

\* The Coast Mountain Students Union (CMSU) is pleased to offer Extended Health and Dental Insurance to all qualifying members. The plan is mandatory for all students enrolled in 6 or more credits or a trades



program of 26 weeks or longer. Some students, including those studying overseas and those with existing extended health coverage, are eligible to opt out. Visit <https://cmsu.studenthealthbc.ca/> to learn more about the plan or request to opt out. You will also receive a detailed introductory email no later than 6 weeks after your semester starts. For any inquiries about the plan, please contact the Students' Union Organiser : Bhushra Ansari, [organiser@mycmsu.ca](mailto:organiser@mycmsu.ca)

## Furthering education

### **NEW! First Nations Fine Arts Advanced Diploma**

Graduates of the FNFA Diploma can now ladder into CMTN's First Nations Fine Arts Advanced Diploma (<https://catalogue.coastmountaincollege.ca/programs/first-nations-fine-arts-advanced-diploma/>). Our new 10-month Advanced Diploma specializes in business courses, jewelry and sculpture with a mentoring approach that increases confidence for students moving forward in their artistic careers.

Students who complete the First Nations Fine Arts Diploma with a GPA of B or better will also be eligible for acceptance into the third year of the Bachelor of Fine Arts (Visual or General Fine Arts major) degree program at Emily Carr University of Art + Design (<http://www.ecuad.ca/>).

