



ACAD 26:

Holistic Admissions Pathway Evaluation Rubric (Enhanced Model)

Effective Date: Friday, April 17, 2026

The Holistic Admissions Evaluation Rubric designed for Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig supports admissions decisions for applicants applying through alternative or holistic pathways (e.g., mature applicants, Indigenous community recommendation, experiential learning pathways). The rubric balances academic readiness, community engagement, cultural knowledge, and student success potential, consistent with SKG's Anishinaabe teaching lodge model.

1.0 PURPOSE

The Holistic Admissions Evaluation Rubric provides a structured framework for assessing applicants who are considered through SKG's Additional Admissions Pathways, including:

- Indigenous Community Recommendation
- Land-Based and Experiential Learning Recognition
- Community-Based Cohort Admissions
- Mature Student Admission

The rubric ensures that admissions decisions remain fair, transparent, and consistent, while recognizing diverse forms of knowledge and experience that demonstrate readiness for post-secondary study.

2.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Holistic admissions evaluation at SKG reflects the following principles:

- recognition of multiple ways of knowing
- respect for Anishinaabe knowledge systems
- support for community-centered education
- equitable access to post-secondary learning
- commitment to student success and academic integrity

3.0 EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

Applicants are evaluated across five weighted categories.

Evaluation Category	Weight
Academic Readiness	30%
Community Engagement & Leadership	20%
Cultural Knowledge & Indigenous Engagement	20%
Work, Life Experience & Responsibility	15%
Motivation, Learning Commitment & Goals	15%

Total score: 100 points

4.0 EVALUATION CRITERIA

Academic Readiness (30%)

Assesses preparedness for university-level learning.

Evidence may include:

- secondary or post-secondary coursework
- upgrading programs
- academic transcripts
- learning portfolios
- literacy or academic readiness indicators

Score	Description
5	Exceptional preparation for university-level study
4	Strong academic preparation

Score	Description
3	Adequate readiness with potential to succeed
2	Limited preparation but potential present
1	Minimal evidence of readiness

Community Engagement and Leadership (20%)

Recognizes involvement in community initiatives and leadership roles.

Evidence may include:

- community service
- youth leadership
- governance participation
- volunteer work
- community program involvement

Score	Description
5	Significant leadership and community impact
4	Strong community engagement
3	Active participation in community initiatives
2	Limited involvement
1	No evidence of community engagement

Cultural Knowledge and Indigenous Engagement (20%)

Recognizes knowledge of Indigenous culture, traditions, and community connection.

Evidence may include:

- participation in cultural practices
- language learning or revitalization
- involvement in traditional teachings
- community cultural initiatives
- knowledge-sharing activities

Score	Description
5	Deep engagement in cultural knowledge and practices
4	Strong cultural engagement
3	Moderate participation
2	Limited engagement
1	No demonstrated engagement

Work and Life Experience (15%)

Recognizes employment experience, responsibilities, and life skills.

Evidence may include:

- employment history
- caregiving responsibilities
- leadership roles
- entrepreneurial experience
- community work

Score	Description
5	Extensive experience demonstrating leadership and responsibility
4	Significant work or life experience
3	Relevant experience
2	Limited experience
1	Minimal experience

Motivation and Commitment to Learning (15%)

Assesses the applicant's motivation and educational goals.

Evidence may include:

- personal statement
- interview responses
- letters of recommendation
- demonstrated educational aspirations

Score	Description
5	Exceptional clarity of goals and commitment
4	Strong motivation and clear educational goals
3	General interest in post-secondary learning
2	Limited clarity of goals
1	Unclear commitment to learning

5.0 SCORING MATRIX

Category	Weight	Score (1–5)	Weighted Score
Academic Readiness	30%		
Community Engagement	20%		
Cultural Knowledge	20%		
Work / Life Experience	15%		
Motivation	15%		
Total	100%		

6.0 ADMISSION RECCOMENDATION THRESHOLD

Score Range Recommendation

85–100	Strong recommendation for admission
70–84	Recommended for admission
55–69	Conditional admission with supports
Below 55	Not recommended at this time

Applicants receiving conditional admission may be recommended for:

- academic transition supports
- bridging programs
- additional advising

7.0 ADMISSIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Holistic applications may be reviewed by an Admissions Review Committee composed of:

- Registrar or Admissions Officer
- Academic representative from the program
- Indigenous student support representative
- Additional institutional representative where appropriate

The committee ensures balanced and fair evaluation.

8.0 DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants considered through holistic pathways may submit:

- personal statement
- resume or CV
- community recommendation letter
- experiential learning portfolio
- employment documentation
- cultural engagement evidence

9.0 DECISION DOCUMENTATION

Admissions decisions will:

- be documented using the rubric
- be retained in the admissions record
- maintain applicant confidentiality

10.0 ALIGNMENT WITH SKG'S STRATEGIC PATHWAYS

This rubric supports SKG's institutional priorities by:

- recognizing Indigenous knowledge systems
- supporting community-based learning
- strengthening Indigenous access to higher education
- promoting student success and retention

11.0 POLICY REVIEW

This rubric will be reviewed **every three years** alongside the Undergraduate Admissions Policy.