



Student Success in Dual Credit Program

In 2009-2010, Kristine Patterson was a Grade 11 student in Similkameen Elementary Secondary School in Keremeos, wondering what she was going to do with her life when she

graduated from High School. In a conversation with her School Career Education Coordinator, she discovered that she could begin her dream of working in the field of Esthetics while still in High School. During the last semester of her Grade 11 year, Kristine began the process of applying to Okanagan College for entrance into the Esthetics and Nail Technician Programs. Both courses were being offered at the O.C. campus in Oliver, B.C. She was registered as a Dual Credit student, which meant she was registered at both secondary school and the college. School District #53 paid for her tuition and a local grant through Okanagan College, SIDIT, assisted her with accommodation.

Oliver is about an hour away from Keremeos, so it meant making arrangements to live away from home for the week and return home for weekends. Kristine was only 16 at the time, so this was a big step to take. Kristine found a room and board situation which worked out very well. She did not have her driver's license, so she depended on her parents to drive her back and forth on weekends.

While spending full days at her program, Kristine also attended the Learning Centre in Oliver to complete her English 12, Math 11 and Grad Transitions.

Kristine graduated with her Similkameen classmates in June 2011, as well as from the Okanagan College Esthetician and Nail Technician Programs. She is presently working at THE GOOD LIFE in Osoyoos, B.C.

