

“Don’t let setbacks keep you from moving forward.”

Thirteen years ago, Veronica left Ecuador to give her three children a better life in Canada. Since then, she has worked hard in cleaning and childcare roles, always striving to do her best and make as much money as she could.

She knew that earning a diploma at Georgian College would offer new opportunities for a professional career; but, with English as her second language and lacking a Grade 12 diploma, she wasn’t sure how to reach her goals.

Veronica heard about the free Academic and Career Preparation (ACP) program at Georgian and learned that achieving her Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) certificate through adult upgrading would allow her to follow her dreams of attending postsecondary.

The language barrier made it challenging and she faced financial barriers, including an inability to pay for parking on campus. However, she was able to access some transportation funding from ACP and her Communications teacher spent extra time working with her and providing reasonable but firm deadlines to keep her on track.

“This was vital to my success in the course,” says Veronica, adding that the flexible and self-directed delivery, coupled with manageable units and tracking sheets, was also helpful.

Veronica is proud to report that she has almost completed her last unit of Communications and will move forward to obtain more credits for her ACE certificate. With these Grade 12 equivalent courses and a new sense of confidence, she will move on to postsecondary at Georgian.



Her advice to those who are thinking about academic upgrading?

“Always remain positive. Don’t let setbacks keep you from moving forward. Take calculated risks. And don’t listen to negativity.”□