

# ACADEMIC AND CAREER PREPARATION



## Amanda Skillin

English Upgrading (EU)

In the fall of 2014, I enrolled in the CCLS program offered at KPU. This program is designed to provide indepth knowledge into career, education and life goals. It was a very intense and self-reflective course that resulted in a career direction I had never previously considered. I realized that if I was going to pursue this career, I would need to re-acquaint myself with English and academic writing. I graduated from high school 35 years ago, and while my grades at that time were good enough for acceptance into the University of Toronto, they were not up to the current requirements (EngBC12—80%) stated in the program prerequisites. I signed up for the English Upgrading Assessment and was advised to take English 1091. I enrolled and started the class in January 2015. A few weeks into the course, I learned I did not ‘need’ to take the course (I scored high enough on their English test), but I chose to continue with English 1091. I found I was learning so much about academic writing and fine tuning my grammar and writing skills that I would only benefit by continuing. As a mature student, I feel I have a different outlook about my studies. Assignments are not a chore to be completed but rather an exercise for me to learn and grow. For me, it’s not so much about the marks I acquire but instead about how I can do better. My experience at KPU, through both my courses, has been enlightening and challenging. In the end, I feel that I have spent worthwhile time upgrading and working towards my career goals.

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