

Grad Planner

2018/19



Graduation Program

Grad Planner

B.C. Graduation Program

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Welcome to the B.C. Graduation Program!

You're about to start a new chapter in your education – and you have an opportunity to shape your future. You're going to make a lot of choices over your graduation program years. For the most part, you'll get to choose courses that interest you. You'll have choices about where and how you learn. The choices you make will help you realize your potential.

The B.C. Graduation Program provides an opportunity for you to explore and discover possibilities for the future. This document helps you get started. It explains what's required and where you have choices. It also covers exams, scholarships, funding, and links to web sites with helpful information. It's your guide to three of the most important years of your education.

Use these years to learn, discover, grow, explore and try new things. And choose the paths that best reflect your interests and your dreams.

Your future starts here. Only you can make it great!



You're going to make a lot of choices over the next three years.

1 What You Need to Graduate

At a Glance

Starting this year, you have a lot more choice about what you learn. But, in order to graduate with a Dogwood Diploma, every student in the B.C. Graduation Program has to pass certain courses, such as language arts, math and science, and complete Provincial Graduation Assessments.

For Grade 10 students entering the B.C. Graduation Program in 2018/19, the table below provides an overview of what you need to graduate

- 52 credits from required courses
- 28 credits from electives

Preparing now will help ensure you get the credits you need to achieve your goals. For help, talk to your teacher or school counsellor.

Special rules apply to Programme Francophone and French Immersion students pursuing both English and French Dogwood Diplomas (“Dual Dogwoods”). More information can be found in Chapter 3 of the Handbook of Procedures for the Graduation Program at: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/handbook/.

- More information about required courses can be found on page 7.
- More information about elective credits can be found on page 7

REQUIRED COURSES	
SUBJECT AREA	Minimum Credits
Career Life Education (or Planning 10)	4
Career Life Connections (or Graduation Transitions)	4
a Language Arts 10*	4
a Language Arts 11*	4
a Language Arts 12*	4
a Mathematics 10*	4
a Mathematics 11 or 12*	4
an Arts Education and/or Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies 10, 11 or 12*	4
a Social Studies 10	4
a Social Studies 11 or 12*	4
a Science 10	4
a Science 11 or 12*	4
Physical and Health Education 10	4
TOTAL	52 credits
ELECTIVE CREDITS	
Students must earn at least 28 elective credits from Grade 10-12 courses.	28 credits
OVERALL TOTAL	80 credits**
PROVINCIAL GRADUATION ASSESSMENTS	
Numeracy Assessment	
Literacy Assessment	
<small>* See pages 5-8 for eligible courses. ** Of the 80 credits for graduation, at least 16 must be at the Grade 12 level, including a Grade 12 Language Arts course. Others may be required courses or elective credits.</small>	

Required Courses

• Choice is an important part of the B.C. Graduation Program. You have lots of options, even for many required courses.

The following section describes the courses required for graduation. You have some choice within these requirements. For example, there are different math, science, and language arts options. Check which options are available at your school and, if applicable, which ones you need for entry to a post-secondary institution. Certain courses may be necessary for college or university entrance.

Career Life Education and Career Life Connections

In Career Life Education, you will explore post-graduation possibilities in diverse educational, work, and personal life contexts and build the personal career life management skills needed to effectively pursue who and how you want to be in the world.

Graduation Transitions is still in place for the 2018/19 school year. Coming for the 2019/2020 school year, the companion Career Life Connections will be in place. Career Life Connections will provide a continuation from Career Life Education. In Career Life Connections, you will refine your personal career life goals through experiential learning, cultivating community connections, gathering authentic evidence of learning, and reflecting on your competency development. In addition, you will design, assemble, and present a capstone project, sharing your learning journey and preferred next steps for post-graduation planning. Check with your school to find out more about how and when you will be pursuing these required areas of learning.

Note: You will be able to meet this graduation requirement with any of the following combinations:

- Planning 10/Graduation Transitions
- Planning 10/Career Life Connections
- Career Life Education/Graduation Transitions
- Career Life Education/Career Life Connections

If you are interested in learning more about Career Education courses, visit <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/career-education/>

Language Arts 10, 11 and 12

All English Language Arts and English First Peoples courses in Grades 10 through 12 share a similar structure, designed to ensure that you receive a well-rounded and comprehensive language arts education and to provide you with the literacy skills and competencies required for success in further education, in careers, and in everyday life.

There are no prerequisites, and you may move freely between the English Language Arts and English First Peoples courses as you progress through the Grade levels. You may choose any option at any Grade, regardless of which option(s) you have taken in the previous Grade.

You are required to take an English Language Arts Grade 12 course (English Studies 12 or English First Peoples 12), which represents “essential learning” in language arts. The Grade 12 course is taken only once, and it may be taken in either Grade 11 or Grade 12.

The structure of the English Language Arts (ELA) and English First Peoples (EFP) courses for Grades 10 through 12 is shown below.

Courses for Grades 10-12

Grade 10 4 credits	Grade 11 4 credits	Grade 12 4 credits
<p>Choose two options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELA Literary Studies • ELA Composition • ELA Spoken Language • ELA New Media • ELA Creative Writing • EFP Writing • EFP Literary Studies • EFP New Media • EFP Spoken Language 	<p>Choose one option:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELA Literary Studies • ELA Composition • ELA Spoken Language • ELA New Media • ELA Creative Writing • EFP Literary Studies and Writing • EFP Literary Studies and New Media • EFP Literary Studies and Spoken Language 	<p>Choose one option:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Studies 12 • English First Peoples 12 <p>For additional credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELA Literary Studies • ELA Composition • ELA Spoken Language • ELA New Media • ELA Creative Writing

For graduation, you will select two of the courses at the Grade 10 level for a total of four credits, and will select one of the courses at the Grade 11 level for a total of four credits. You are then required to complete English Studies 12 or English First Peoples 12 for a total of four credits. For additional credits, you may also take one or more of the Grade 12 four-credit options.

In Grades 10 and 11, you may opt to select the same option at two different levels – for example, Composition 10 and Composition 11 – to allow you to explore a particular area with greater depth, complexity, and sophistication.

Course restrictions

You may take any two credit courses, but you will only be able to take each two-credit course once for credit.

Students in Grade 10:

- may take any two credits of English Language Arts or any two credits of English First Peoples to achieve the required four credits, as they are distinct courses
- may take similar “focus areas” in English Language Arts and English First Peoples to achieve the required four credits, as they are distinct courses (e.g., you may take ELA New Media 10 for two credits and EFP New Media 10 for two credits to achieve the required four credits, as they are distinct courses)
- are not allowed to take the same course twice to achieve the required four credits (e.g., you may not take ELA New Media 10 for two credits and then take it again for another two credits)

Mathematics 10 and 11 or 12

Mathematics is about more than numbers. It's also about developing mathematical habits of mind, solving problems, and using logic. To graduate, everyone must complete a Grade 10 mathematics course (either **Foundations of Mathematics and Pre-calculus 10** or **Workplace Mathematics 10**), plus a second math course at the Grade 11 or 12 level.

You might choose more math courses depending on your interests and future plans. It will also be helpful to check with post-secondary institutions to determine which math courses they require for admission, if you plan to continue school beyond Grade 12.

Options for Grades 11 and 12 Mathematics are listed below. Check with your school to see which options are available.

Grade 11	Grade 12
Computer Science 11	Apprenticeship 12
Foundations of Mathematics 11	Calculus 12
History of Mathematics 11	Computer Science 12
Pre-Calculus 11	Foundations of Mathematics 12
Workplace Mathematics 11	Geometry 12
	Pre-Calculus 12
	Statistics 12

In order to determine which courses are appropriate for you and your future, talk to your teacher or school counsellor for more detailed information.

Arts Education and Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies 10, 11, 12

These courses focus on experiential learning through applied design and artistic works.

- Arts Education includes Dance, Drama, Music, and Visual Arts, as well as interdisciplinary courses such as Musical Theatre and Media Arts.
- Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies include Business Education, Home Economics and Culinary Arts, Information and Communications, and Technology Education

To graduate, you need four credits in either Arts Education or Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies, or a combination of both.

Check with your school to see which courses are currently available. More information about Arts Education and Applied Design, Skills and Technologies is available at: www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca

Social Studies 10 and 11 or 12

These courses help you understand the world and your place in it. You learn about events, issues and themes from the past and present. You also develop skills that help you think critically and become a responsible citizen.

To graduate, you must complete a Grade 10 Social Studies course. You must also complete a Social Studies 11 or 12 course. Options include Explorations in Social Studies, B.C. First Peoples, Asian Studies, Human Geography, Law Studies, Political Studies, and Social Justice. Check with your school to see which options are available.

Science 10 and 11 or 12

These courses help you understand the natural world. You'll develop skills related to observation, measurement, problem-solving and critical thinking.

To graduate, you must complete a Grade 10 science course. You must also complete a second science course at the Grade 11 or 12 level. Science 10 focuses on four areas of science: biology, chemistry, physics, and earth and space science.

Grade 11 and 12 science course options span all areas of science: biology, chemistry, physics, and earth, space and environmental sciences. Options include Anatomy and Physiology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Geology, Life Sciences, and Physics.

Two new courses have been introduced to the Science Curriculum. These are Science for Citizens and Specialized Science. Check with your school to see what options are available.

Physical and Health Education 10

This course will help you improve your physical health and promote mental and emotional well-being. Physical and Health Education teaches you how to be safe, active, and healthy throughout your life.

To graduate, you must complete Physical and Health Education 10, even if you are actively involved in sports or physical activities outside of school

Elective Credits

- Think about your future when you choose your electives. You may need certain courses to achieve your goals

To graduate, you need at least 28 elective credits from courses numbered 10, 11 or 12. That's in addition to the credits you need from required courses. When you take two required courses in the same subject area, one will count as an elective.

Choose elective credits based on your interests, abilities, plans and courses available to you. If you plan to continue school beyond Grade 12, you may need certain courses to enter the program you want. (You'll learn more about post-secondary entry requirements in Career Life Education.)

To find out what elective courses are available in your school or district, talk to your school counsellor. Check out the "Getting Credits" section of this document to learn about other ways of earning graduation credits.

Provincial Graduation Assessments

Students need to write the following graduation assessments in order to graduate:

- Numeracy Assessment
- Literacy Assessments

You must write each assessment at least once, and you have two opportunities to rewrite each assessment. You can write the numeracy assessment this year, but will only be able to write the literacy assessment starting January 2020. You will learn more about these assessments during the school year. If you have any questions, talk to your school counsellor.

Information about B.C. graduation assessments can be found at: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/provincial-assessment/graduation>

Policies on calculators, disqualification and other graduation assessment related information are in the Handbook of Procedures for the Graduation Program at: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/handbook/

You can use the StudentTranscripts Service to check your assessment results online at: www.studenttranscripts.gov.bc.ca

2 Getting Credits Toward Graduation

In-School Course Credits

You may earn most of your credits toward graduation the traditional way – by successfully completing school-based courses. But there are other ways of earning credits, and some of these might work for you. Read through the following list of other options. For more information, talk to your school counsellor or go to:

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/policy/policies/earning_credit_through.htm

Special rules concerning options for satisfying graduation requirements apply to most international students. If you are an international student, you may want to ask your school counsellor if the rules apply to you.

Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Courses

These courses may appeal to students whose plans include university. There are different options, and choices vary from school to school.

Distributed Learning

Is there a course you'd like to take, but it's not offered in your school or it doesn't fit in your timetable? You can choose from thousands of courses offered by public and independent distributed learning schools in B.C.

Distributed learning occurs primarily at a distance from the teacher. It can be print-based, online, or a mix of both, and may include a face-to-face component. You have the flexibility to learn anytime, anywhere, and at any pace, and most B.C. residents do not pay tuition fees.

For more information visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/ways-to-learn/classroom-learning/distributed-learning-programs> or the LearnNowB.C. portal (www.learnnowbc.ca). LearnNowB.C. services include a province-wide course finder, a trades program finder, free tutoring services for many courses, and academic advising.

Other Options

Equivalency

Have you completed a course outside a B.C. school? Did you earn a certificate that shows substantive learning outside of school? If so, you might qualify for credit for an equivalent course in the B.C. school system. If you can provide documentation of your learning (with a report card or transcript, for example) you can ask the school for an equivalency review.

The review will determine whether you're entitled to credits in B.C. and, if so, how many.

If you went to a school where the classes were taught in a language other than English, you might qualify for credits for equivalent B.C. language courses. To learn more about equivalency, talk to your school counsellor.

Course Challenge

Some students acquire skills or knowledge that is not documented. In other words, they have no paper (certificate, transcript, etc.) that verifies they have the skills or knowledge. If you're in that position, you may be able to earn credits by challenging a course.

Challenge is a process that assesses your knowledge and skills to determine whether you've met the knowledge and skill requirements of a similar course. If you have, you might get credit for the course without having to take it.

Each school board/authority has its own challenge process. Students in public schools should not be charged a fee for challenging a course.

External Credentials (EC)

If you demonstrate a high level of achievement or performance in areas outside school, you may be able to earn credits for these learning activities. Examples include: External Language Certificates (including DELF), Red Cross, Cadets, Lifesaving, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, the Explore Program, some Driver Education courses, involvement in provincial or national sports, and some music and dance courses. Some External Credentials count as "required course" credits, while most count as elective credits.

More information about external credentials can be found at:

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/ext_credentials/

Independent Directed Studies (IDS)

• IDS is an opportunity to develop your own course of study.

If you are interested in a specific subject area, you might want to think about Independent Directed Studies. IDS allows you to shape and follow your own course or courses, with a teacher's approval and supervision. IDS courses count as elective credits toward graduation.

To qualify for IDS, you need the approval of the school principal to explore or expand on the content from any Ministry or Board/Authority Authorized course (the school counsellor can help explain this). Then you'll need to find a teacher to supervise your studies before you initiate your own course. You'll work independently. The teacher will support you and assess your performance.

Post-Secondary Courses

Many courses completed at B.C. post-secondary institutions count toward graduation. The post-secondary transcript is proof of your achievements. You will need to provide this proof to your school.

In most cases, you can earn dual credit. That means you get credit toward your graduation and also toward a post-secondary credential. To get dual credit, you have to take either:

- a post-secondary course from an institution in the British Columbia Transfer System (see www.bccat.bc.ca for a list of institutions) or
- a post-secondary course offered in French in conjunction with Educacentre (www.educacentre.com).

Post-secondary courses count as elective credits at the Grade 12 level.

Career Programs

Many schools offer specialized programs that help you explore careers or gain work experience. Some of these programs also help you develop workplace skills or credentials.

Check to see if your school offers any of the following:

- Some career programs include wages so you can earn while you learn.
- If you're interested in learning a trade, check out the Trades Program Finder on the **LearnNowBC** website at www.learnnowbc.ca

Industry Training Programs:

These programs let you train for work while you're in secondary school, earn graduation credits, and possibly earn some money at the same time. Industry training programs include:

Youth Work in Trades Program: You can earn up to 16 graduation credits and may qualify for a \$1,000 Youth Work in Trades Award.

Youth Train in Trades Program: Credits you earn through this program count towards graduation and also count towards the first level of apprenticeship technical training.

Youth Explore Trades Sampler: This program, which is approved by the Industry Training Authority, provides you with an opportunity to try out several trades through in-depth hands on training combined with an opportunity to visit worksites.

Career Preparation Programs

These help prepare you for the workplace or for further education and training in a specific career pathway.

The programs include coursework and work experience placements (see below) approved by your school. Some career preparation programs also provide entry-level skills for specific job opportunities.

Elective Work Experience courses: These courses provide you with an opportunity to connect what you learn in school with what's required in the world of work, while also learning about an occupation or career.

Cooperative Education Programs

These programs give you hands-on experience in different careers. They combine career exploration and skill enhancement with work experience.

Top Jobs in Demand

- **WorkBC** is the provincial government's access point to help students enter the world of work in B.C. There is a **Blueprint Builder** online that helps you create a customized skills training plan.

The B.C. Government produces a Labour Market Outlook of labour market supply and demand trends. The Outlook is available on the WorkBC website at www.workbc.ca. Included in the Outlook is a projection of high opportunity occupations.

The Ministry of Education has created sector-specific 'Career Zone' resources that provide labour market data and workforce options by sector. There are ten (10) sectors that have been developed, Arts & Entertainment, Aviation & Aerospace, Construction, Energy, Oil and Gas, Health, Information & Communication Technology, Marine, Mining, Sustainable Forestry and Forest Products, Tourism & Hospitality. The Career Zones are available through **BC Career Zone**.

3 Putting It All Together

Planning for Life Beyond Grade 12

Graduating from secondary school is an important step toward a successful future. Grade 12 completion is the minimum requirement for entry to most jobs today. If you also have post-secondary education or training, chances are you'll have more job choices. B.C. has a wide range of post-secondary options. You'll learn more about these in Career Life Education.

Course selection in secondary school can affect your post-secondary education options. For instance, currently most universities require at least English 12 or English 12 First Peoples (not Communications 12), Pre-Calculus 11 and a Language 11 for admission to a degree program. In addition, there can be admission requirements for a particular program, such as Chemistry 11 and Biology 12 for nursing.

Certificate and diploma programs offered by colleges have different admission requirements, depending on the program and the institution. Trades training and apprenticeship programs also have admission requirements that you may want to consider if you are interested in a career in trades. More information about B.C. post-secondary institutions and the programs they offer, including admission requirements, can be found at www.educationplanner.ca. Admissions information can be found by clicking on the "Admissions Info" tab for programs of interest.

Note that the new B.C. curriculum for Grades 11 and 12 will be introduced in 2019/20. Post-secondary institutions are currently reviewing their admission requirements to align with the new curriculum. You may wish to review admission requirements published by the institution to which you are applying, and contact them if you have questions about requirements for admission after 2019/20.

Graduating students who apply for post-secondary admission can send free copies of their transcripts to up to 25 post-secondary institutions (PSIs). Before mid-July of your graduating year, please use the StudentTranscripts Service at www.studenttranscripts.gov.bc.ca to select the PSIs you would like your final transcript sent to.

See the **B.C. Dogwood Planner** for more information on your Grade 12 year and planning for life beyond Grade 12.

Continuing Education

Forgot a course? Need to improve a mark before you apply for post-secondary education?

You can upgrade. Almost all school districts have continuing education centres that provide services to both secondary school graduates and non-graduates. These centres help adult non-graduates complete their schooling. For more information, contact your local school district.

You can also upgrade with courses offered through public or independent distributed learning schools:

- At public distributed learning schools (see <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/ways-to-learn/classroom-learning/distributed-learning-programs>), courses are free to most B.C. residents. For details, please check out the above web site, explore the LearnNowB.C. portal (www.learnnowbc.ca), or contact a public distributed learning school.
- Independent distributed learning schools may charge tuition fees. For details, please contact an independent distributed learning school. To find an independent (or public) school that offers distributed learning, see <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/ways-to-learn/classroom-learning/distributed-learning-programs>.

And here's something to keep in mind if you leave school before completing graduation requirements: graduation requirements change from time to time. If in the future you find that you need a Dogwood Diploma, you may not be able to just pick up where you left off, even if you're only one or two courses away from meeting graduation requirements. You may need to meet the requirements in place at that time to earn your diploma.

4 Scholarships and Awards

It's never too early to think about your future education. If you plan to continue your education beyond Grade 12, you can learn how to access financial support through scholarships available from the Ministry of Education. Scholarship recipients receive vouchers to help with tuition costs at designated post-secondary institutions and authorized trades-training providers. See www.gov.bc.ca/scholarshipsprogram for eligibility requirements and application information.

District/Authority Scholarships

These \$1,250 scholarships are awarded to graduating students with outstanding achievement in one of several areas of interest. The areas include:

- **Indigenous Languages and Culture**, demonstrated at school or in the community
- **Fine Arts** (e.g., Visual Arts, Dance, Drama, Music)
- **Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies** (e.g., Business Education, Information and Communications Technology, Home Economics and Culinary Arts, and Technology Education)
- **Physical Activity** (e.g., Athletics, Dance, Gymnastics, not limited to Physical Education)

- **International Languages**
- **Community Service** (Volunteer Activity), which includes demonstration of local and global issues and cultural awareness
- **Technical and Trades Training** (e.g., Carpentry, Automotive, Mechanics, Cook Training)

Students should apply for these scholarships directly to their local scholarship committee in the year they graduate. Independent school students should apply through the Federation of Independent School Associations.

B.C. Excellence Scholarships

These \$5,000 scholarships are awarded by the Ministry to 55 well-rounded graduates who demonstrate community service, leadership, and commitment to their chosen career paths. Only one student from each secondary school may be nominated. You should speak with your counselor or principal to determine if you are eligible to apply.

B.C. Achievement Scholarships

These \$1,200 scholarships are awarded by the Ministry to graduating students with high achievement in a broad range of courses. These scholarships are based on academic achievement in required and elective courses that meet graduation requirements and are awarded to the top 8,000 graduates in the province.

Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarships

These \$5,000 scholarships recognize 20 exceptional Grade 12 students who plan to become teachers in the K-12 education system. Recipients will receive a scholarship voucher to redeem upon entrance to an approved B.C. Faculty of Education teacher-training program. Students apply to the Ministry of Education for this scholarship.

Youth Work in Trades Awards

These \$1,000 trades awards are available to students in the Youth Work in Trades Program. Students who are eligible for the Youth Work in Trades Award will automatically be considered. There is no need to apply. The program guide has additional information about criteria and procedures related to this award, visit www.bced.gov.bc.ca/careers/apprenticeship_trades.htm for information.

Other Awards

International Education scholarships and awards are available which promote the development of intercultural knowledge and develop and strengthen relationships with foreign partners. Visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/scholarships/scholarships-awards> for more information.

Bursaries are available for residents of the province who take at least 55% of their courses in French while pursuing full-time studies at an accredited post-secondary institution in Canada. Visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/ways-to-learn/french-programs/learn-in-french/learn-in-french-post-secondary-education>.

Thousands of other scholarships and awards are available to graduating students. For a list, go to: www.scholarshipscanada.com

5 Helpful Websites

Throughout this document, you're encouraged to check different web sites for more information. Here's a quick summary that you can refer to as you plan your future.

Graduation Program and Adult Graduation Program

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/

B.C. Ministry of Education policies

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/policy/policies/

Career planning, building work skills and post-secondary options

www.workbc.ca

www.educationplanner.ca

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/careers/

Earning credits through external credentials

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/graduation/getting-credit-to-graduate/external-credentials>

Industry training and trades programs

www.itabc.ca

www.learnnowbc.ca/trades/TradesFinder.aspx

Options for completing graduation requirements via distributed learning

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/ways-to-learn/classroom-learning/distributed-learning-programs>

Finances and Career Life Education

www.bcsc.bc.ca/Planning10

Transcripts

www.studenttranscripts.gov.bc.ca

6 A Few Last Words

As you have seen, this document contains a lot of information, but it will make sense as you work through Career Life Education.

The B.C. Graduation Program encourages you to take more responsibility for your learning decisions. You'll plan and make choices about your future. You'll have an opportunity to develop your potential. Use this document as a reference throughout your graduation years.

The graduation years are exciting. Make the most of this time!

Our commitment to education

Education is the most important investment we can make in our children's lives. The Province of B.C. is committed to building a top-notch system that puts students first.

For more information, visit www.bced.gov.bc.ca





Ministry of
Education