

Grad Planner

2014/15



Graduation Program

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Welcome to the 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 Graduation Program provides an opportunity for you to discover what you want to do in 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 path that best reflects 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 Graduation Program has to pass certain basic courses, such as English, math and science.

The table provides an overview of what you need to graduate:

- 48 credits from required courses
- 28 credits from electives
- 4 credits from your Graduation Transitions Program

Preparing now will help ensure you get the credits you need to achieve your goals. Graduation requirements are introduced in Planning 10. For more 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"). Speak to your counsellor for information.

- More information about required courses can be found on page 5.
- More information about elective credits can be found on page 7.
- More information about Graduation Transitions can be found on page 7.

REQUIRED COURSES	
SUBJECT AREA	Minimum Credits
Planning 10	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
a Fine Arts and/or Applied Skills 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 Education 10	4
TOTAL	48 credits
ELECTIVE CREDITS	
Students must earn at least 28 elective credits from Grade 10-12 courses.	Minimum Credits
Additional Grade 10-12 credits.	28 credits
GRADUATION TRANSITIONS	
Students must earn 4 credits for Graduation Transitions.	4 credits
OVERALL TOTAL	80 credits**
* See pages 5-7 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.	

Required Courses

- Choice is an important part of the 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.

Planning 10

This course helps you build the skills you need to make informed choices about your future. The skills you develop in Planning 10 will help you well beyond graduation, as you move forward with your adult life. You'll do research, set goals and start to make informed decisions about health topics and issues, education and career options, and ways to finance those options.

In Planning 10, you plan for your Graduation Program. You also start collecting evidence of your accomplishments for your Graduation Transitions presentation. (See page 7 for information concerning Graduation Transitions.) Your school will have guidelines about the process and type of demonstration that will meet the expectations for the Graduation Transitions presentation.

Language Arts 10, 11 and 12

These courses are all about providing you with opportunities in the areas of speaking, listening, reading, viewing, writing and representing. Gathering, organizing and presenting information effectively are also important communication skills.

Language Arts 10, 11 and 12 are required for graduation. In Grade 10, your choices include English 10, English 10 First Peoples, or Français langue première 10. In Grade 11, common choices are English 11, English 11 First Peoples, Français langue première 11, or Communications 11. In Grade 12, you can choose from English 12, Français langue première 12, English 12 First Peoples, Communications 12, and others that might be offered at your school. (You can take more than one course at each Grade level.)

Students enrolled in Programme Francophone must successfully complete the following Language Arts courses to receive both a French Dogwood Diploma and a Dogwood Diploma:

- Français langue première 10 and English Language Arts 10;
- Français langue première 11 and English Language Arts 11;
- Français langue première 12 and English Language Arts 12.

Mathematics 10 and 11 or 12

Mathematics is about more than numbers. It's also about space and shape, statistics, reasoning, solving problems and using logic. To graduate, everyone must complete a Grade 10 mathematics course plus a second math course at the Grade 11 or 12 level. You might need more math courses if you plan to continue school beyond Grade 12. Check with post-secondary institutions to determine which math courses they require for admission.

The following three Mathematics pathways are available (note that the Foundations of Mathematics pathway and the Pre-Calculus pathway are combined into a single Foundations of Mathematics and Pre-Calculus pathway at the Grade 10 level):

Apprenticeship and Workplace Mathematics: These courses provide the mathematics identified as important for entry into the majority of trades, and for direct entry into the workforce.

Foundations of Mathematics: These courses provide the mathematics identified as important for post-secondary studies in programs that do not require the study of theoretical calculus, such as arts and humanities.

Pre-Calculus: These courses provide the mathematics identified as important for post-secondary studies in programs that require the study of theoretical calculus, such as science and engineering.

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

Fine Arts and Applied Skills 10, 11, 12

These courses help you understand and appreciate applied learning and creative works. Both areas emphasize hands-on learning.

- Fine Arts include Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts.
- Applied Skills include Business Education, Home Economics, Information Technology and Technology Education.

To graduate, you need four credits in either Fine Arts, Applied Skills or a combination of both.

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, such as Social Studies 11, Civic Studies 11 or BC First Nations Studies 12.

• 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. Some options are agriculture, applications of physics, biology, chemistry, earth science, forestry, geology, and science and technology. Check with your school to see what options are available.

Physical Education 10

This course will help you attain and maintain an active, healthy lifestyle.

To graduate, you must complete Physical Education 10, even if you are actively involved in sports or physical activities outside of school. You must also meet the Daily Physical Activity standard for Graduation Transitions during your graduation years. See below for more information about Graduation Transitions.

Elective Credits

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

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

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 Planning 10.)

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.

Graduation Transitions

Four of the 80 credits you need for graduation come from Graduation Transitions. Graduation Transitions encourages you to:

- take ownership of your health and learning
- examine and demonstrate connections between your learning and your future
- create a plan for your growth and development as a skilled, healthy, knowledgeable, participating citizen
- exhibit attributes of a model B.C. graduate

Graduation Transitions expects you to reflect on your knowledge and abilities, and to plan for life after graduation by collecting evidence of your achievements in the following required areas:

Personal Health

You will demonstrate the attitudes, knowledge and positive habits needed to be a healthy individual, responsible for your own physical and emotional well-being, by:

- engaging in and recording at least 150 minutes per week of moderate to vigorous physical activity in each of Grades 10-12, and
- developing a long-term personal healthy living plan appropriate to your lifestyle.

Community Connections

You will demonstrate the skills required to work effectively and safely with others and to succeed as an individual and collaborative worker, by:

- participating in at least 30 hours of work experience and/or community service, and
- describing the duties performed, the connections between the experience and employability and life skills, and the benefits to yourself and the community.

Career and Life

You will demonstrate the confidence and competence needed to be a self-directed individual, by:

- developing a comprehensive plan that indicates you are prepared to successfully transition from secondary school, and
- presenting selected components of your transition plan to members of the school and/or community.

• You'll learn about Graduation Transitions in Planning 10.

More information about Graduation Transitions is available at:
www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/grad_certificate.htm



2 Getting Credits Toward Graduation

In-School Course Credits

- Studying for short periods of time over several days or weeks is more conducive to retaining information than a single period of concentrated study (“cramming”).

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 www.bced.gov.bc.ca/dist_learning/ or the LearnNowBC portal (www.learnnowbc.ca). LearnNowBC services include a province-wide course finder, a trades program finder, free tutoring services for many courses, and academic advising.

Other Options

Equivalency (documented prior learning)

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 document 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 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.

- When studying for hours at a time, take a break every hour or so to clear your mind and allow what you’ve learned to sink in.

External Credentials

- Writing down what you've learned in your own words helps to ensure that you understand and can recall the material.

If you achieve a high level of performance in areas outside school, you might earn credits for these learning activities. Examples include: computer certification courses, Cadets, some driver education courses, involvement in provincial or national sports teams, 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/

Course Challenge

- When you have several different things to study, vary the material studied every so often in order to maintain interest and aid concentration.

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 learning outcomes for a similar course. If you have, you might get credit for the course without having to take it.

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

Independent Directed Studies (IDS)

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.

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

To qualify for IDS, you need the approval of the school principal to expand on one or more learning outcomes 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

- 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/trades/TradesFinder.aspx

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:

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 SSA and ACE IT.

Secondary School Apprenticeship (SSA) Program: You can earn up to 16 graduation credits and qualify for a \$1000 SSA scholarship.

Accelerated Credit Enrolment in Industry Training (ACE IT): Credits you earn through ACE IT are equivalent to the first level of apprenticeship technical training. They count towards graduation.

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 approved by your school. Some career preparation programs also provide entry-level skills for specific job opportunities.

Cooperative Education Programs

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

3 Putting It All Together

• Focus Areas can help you plan for life after Grade 12.

Planning Your Future With Focus Areas

Focus Areas, which you learn about in Planning 10, help you consider a broad range of education and career choices. They also help you choose an area of interest to pursue during the Graduation Program. Think about your Focus Area(s) when you select courses for Grades 11 and 12. Do the courses support your goals?

Based on your own interests and aptitudes, you may concentrate your studies in one or more of the following Focus Areas:

- Business and Applied Business
- Fine Arts, Design, and Media
- Fitness and Recreation
- Health and Human Services
- Liberal Arts and Humanities
- Science and Applied Science
- Tourism, Hospitality, and Foods
- Trades and Technology

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 Planning 10.

More information about B.C. post-secondary institutions and the programs they offer can be found at: www.educationplanner.ca.

Graduating students who apply for post-secondary admission can have the Ministry of Education send **free** copies of their transcripts to many post-secondary institutions (PSIs) in Canada. Before mid-July of your graduating year, please make your PSI Selections on the Student Secure Web at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/tsw/tsw/student/. Transcripts are sent automatically to your PSI Selections at the end of July.

For more information about PSI selections for graduating students, see the *BC Dogwood Planner* (PDF) at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/docs/bc-dogwood-planner and talk to your school counsellor.

Oops!

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 www.bced.gov.bc.ca/dist_learning/), courses are free to most B.C. residents. For details, please check out the above web site, explore the LearnNowBC portal (www.learnnowbc.ca), or contact a public distributed learning school.
- Independent distributed learning schools may charge tuition fees. For details, please check out www.bced.gov.bc.ca/independentschools/bc_guide/dl_program.htm or contact an independent distributed learning school.

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 Exams, Awards and Scholarships

Graduation Program Exams

You will probably write five graduation program exams. Graduation program exams apply to courses in the following subject areas:

- Grade 10 Language Arts
- Grade 10 Science
- Grade 10 Mathematics
- Grade 11 or 12 Social Studies
- Grade 12 Language Arts

Provincial exam results are blended with the classroom mark to generate the final course mark. All provincial exams count for 20% of the final mark, except in Grade 12 Language Arts, where the exam counts for 40% of the final mark.

With the exception of certain IB courses, exams are mandatory for all the courses that you take in these areas; for example, if you take Social Studies 11 and BC First Nations Studies 12, you must write the associated provincial exam for both courses.

Information about provincial exams can be found at:

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/student.htm

Policies on calculators, disqualification and other exam issues are in the *Handbook of Procedures for the Graduation Program* at:

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/handbook/

Sample exams are found at:

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/search/

Student exam results can be accessed on the Student Secure Web at:

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/tsw/tsw/student/

• You'll learn about financing your future in Planning 10.

Financing Your Future

It's never too early to think about how you'll pay for your future education. If you plan to continue your education beyond Grade 12, you can start earning money from awards and scholarships even before you graduate. See www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards/

Graduation Program Examinations Scholarships

Students who write provincial exams might qualify to win scholarships worth \$1,000 or \$2,500. The awards are based on academic achievement. The money can only be used for tuition at designated post-secondary institutions.

District/Authority Awards

These \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to graduating students who excel in:

- Fine Arts (Visual Arts, Dance, Drama, Music)
- Applied Skills (Business Education, Technology Education, Home Economics)
- physical activity (not limited to Physical Education)
- second languages (including aboriginal languages)
- technical and trades training
- community service

Students must apply for these scholarships at their school or district office.

Secondary School Apprenticeship Scholarships

These \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to graduating secondary school apprentices who:

- successfully complete SSA 11A, 11B, 12A and 12B
- maintain a C+ average or better in their Grade 12 courses
- continue working or training full-time in the trade for at least five months (or 900 apprenticeable hours) after secondary school graduation

Other Awards

Thousands of other scholarships and awards are available to graduating students. For a list (searchable by name, school, field of study or scholarship provider), go to:

www.scholarshipscanada.com

Helpful Web Sites

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.

For information on the Graduation Program and Graduation Transitions
www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/grad_certificate.htm

For information on B.C. Ministry of Education policies
www.bced.gov.bc.ca/policy/policies/

To learn more about career planning, building work skills and post-secondary options
www.workbc.ca

www.educationplanner.ca

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

For information on earning credits through external credentials
www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/ext_credentials/

For information about industry training and trades programs
www.itabc.ca

www.learnnowbc.ca/trades/TradesFinder.aspx

To explore options for completing graduation requirements via distributed learning
www.bced.gov.bc.ca/dist_learning/ or http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/independentschools/bc_guide/dl_program.htm

For information about finances and Planning 10
www.bcsc.bc.ca/Planning10

A Few Last Words

As you have seen, this document contains a lot of information, but it will make sense as you work through Planning 10.

The 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