

Grad Planner

Graduation
Program



GRAD PLANNER: GRADUATION PROGRAM

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Welcome to the Graduation Program!

You're about to start a new chapter in your education – and that means you have a real chance to shape your future. For one thing, you're going to make a lot of choices over your graduation program years. For the most part, you'll get to choose the subjects that interest you. You'll have some choice about where and how you learn. Best of all, you have a chance to make the most of your potential.

The Graduation Program is a chance for you to discover what you want to do in the future. This guide 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 – not just as a student, but as a unique individual.

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, every student in the Graduation Program has to pass certain basic courses, like English, math and science. The table below is an overview of what you need to graduate:

- > 48 credits from required courses
- > 28 credits from elective courses
- > 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 your Planning 10 class. For more help, talk to your teacher or school counsellor.

FOR MORE ON REQUIRED COURSES, SEE PAGE 4. FOR MORE ON ELECTIVE COURSES, SEE PAGE 7. FOR MORE ON GRADUATION TRANSITIONS, SEE 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
Social Studies 10	4
a Social Studies 11 or 12*	4
Science 10	4
a Science 11 or 12*	4
Physical Education 10	4
Total	48 credits
ELECTIVE COURSES	
Students must earn at least 28 elective credits for Grade 10-12 courses.	Minimum Credits
<i>Additional Grade 10-12 credits**</i>	28 credits
GRADUATION TRANSITIONS	
Students must earn 4 credits for Graduation Transitions.	4 credits
OVERALL TOTAL	80 credits
* See pages 4 – 6 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 or elective courses.	

Required Courses

The following section describes the courses required for graduation. You have some choice within these requirements. For example, there are three different types of math as well as different 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 are necessary for college or university entrance.

CHOICE IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE GRADUATION PROGRAM. YOU HAVE LOTS OF OPTIONS, EVEN IN REQUIRED COURSES.

Planning 10

This course helps you build the skills you need to make smart 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 start to plan your Graduation Program. You also start collecting evidence of your accomplishments for your Graduation Transitions presentation. (For more on Graduation Transitions, see page 7.) 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 and 11 or 12

These courses are about communication. You succeed in school and life by reading and writing effectively. Gathering, organizing and presenting information effectively are also important communication skills.

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



Mathematics 10 and 11 or 12

Mathematics is about more than numbers. It's also about 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. Depending on the school you attend, there could be many mathematics options available to you. Three common options for math courses in Grades 10-12 are:

Essentials of Mathematics: This course prepares you to use math at work and in your everyday life. It also prepares you for some post-secondary training, like applied programs and trades training.

Applications of Mathematics: This course helps you use math in daily life and in a variety of careers. It prepares you for post-secondary programs that do not require calculus.

Principles of Mathematics: This is a more theoretical math course, and you will probably need it for university entrance. It prepares you for the formal study of calculus in higher grades.

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 courses.
- > Applied skills include business education, home economics, information technology and technology education.

CHECK WITH YOUR SCHOOL TO SEE WHICH OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE.

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 become a responsible citizen.

To graduate, you must complete Social Studies 10. You must also pass either Social Studies 11, Civic Studies 11 or BC First Nations Studies 12.

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 Science 10. 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, forests, geology, physics, and science and technology. Check with your school to see what options are available.

THINK ABOUT YOUR
FUTURE WHEN
YOU CHOOSE YOUR
ELECTIVES. YOU
MAY NEED CERTAIN
COURSES TO ACHIEVE
YOUR GOALS.

Physical Education 10

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

To graduate, you must complete Physical Education 10. You must also meet the physical activity standard for Graduation Transitions during your graduation years. For more on Graduation Transitions, see below.

Elective Courses

To graduate, you need 28 credits from elective 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.

Electives are courses you choose based on your interests, abilities, plans and what's available in your school or district. 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 booklet 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 the BC graduate

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

Personal Health

It is expected that 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 at least 80 hours of moderate to vigorous physical activity in addition to PE10, and
- > developing a long-term personal healthy living plan appropriate to your lifestyle

Community Connections

It is expected that 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 your employability and life skills, and the benefits

YOU'LL LEARN ABOUT GRADUATION TRANSITIONS IN PLANNING 10.

THE GRADUATION TRANSITIONS PRESENTATION IS A CHANCE TO SHOWCASE YOUR UNIQUE ACHIEVEMENTS IN WHATEVER WAYS YOU CHOOSE.



Career and Life

It is expected that you will demonstrate the confidence and competency 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.

For more information, go to

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/grad-transitions/welcome.htm

2 | Getting Credits Toward Graduation

Course Credits

You'll probably earn most of your credits towards graduation the usual 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 list of options below. For more information, talk to your school counsellor or go to:

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

Other Options

Distributed Learning

Is there a course you'd like to take, but can't get in your school? Now you can choose from hundreds of courses offered by over 60 distributed learning schools in B.C. Distributed learning is learning that takes place at a distance from the teacher.

It can be print-based, online, or a mix of both. You have the flexibility to learn anytime, anywhere, and at any pace ... for free. To find out more about this option, check out the LearnNow BC website:

www.learnnowbc.gov.bc.ca

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. For more on equivalency, talk to your school counsellor.



THERE ARE
DIFFERENT
WAYS TO EARN
CREDITS TOWARD
GRADUATION.

External Credentials

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. For more information, go to:

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduationcourseinfo/

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

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

Course Challenge

Some students have important skills or learning that can’t be verified. In other words, they have no paper (certificate, transcript, etc.) that verifies they took a course or met certain requirements. 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 in certain areas. The goal is 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 district has its own challenge process. Students in public schools cannot be charged a fee for challenging a course.

DID YOU KNOW?
THAT A GOOD WAY TO
LEARN SOMETHING
IS TO TEACH IT TO
SOMEONE ELSE?

DID YOU KNOW?
THAT STANDING
UP WHILE YOU
STUDY HELPS
YOUR BRAIN GET
MORE OXYGEN AND
REMEMBER MORE
INFORMATION?

IDS IS A CHANCE TO
DEVELOP YOUR OWN
COURSE OF STUDY.

Independent Directed Studies (IDS)

If you have a particular interest in a specific subject area, you might want to think about Independent Directed Studies. This approach allows you to shape and follow your own course or courses, with a teacher's approval and supervision. IDS course credits count as electives.

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

THAT STUDYING OUT LOUD CAN HELP YOU REMEMBER UP TO FOUR TIMES BETTER?

DID YOU KNOW?

THAT YOUR BRAIN REMEMBERS THE FIRST AND LAST THINGS YOU LEARN BEST?

Post-Secondary Courses

Most courses you complete at a B.C. post-secondary institution count toward graduation. The transcript is proof of your achievements. You will need to provide this proof to your school.

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

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

The above 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.

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.

Secondary School Apprenticeship Program (SSA)

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 in-school courses and work experience placements arranged 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

Planning Your Future With Focus Areas

Focus areas help you learn about 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 when you select courses for Grades 11 and 12. Do the courses support your goals? Based on your own interests and aptitudes, you will 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

FOCUS AREAS CAN
HELP YOU PLAN
FOR LIFE AFTER
GRADE 12.

Use Focus Areas to research post-secondary programs at:
www.educationplanner.bc.ca

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 most jobs in today's market. 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. To get you started, here's a list of different types of institutions:

- > **Institutes** are organized according to career, vocational and technical specialties, covering a variety of occupations. They may offer credentials from a certificate to a full degree.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION
ON B.C. POST-
SECONDARY
INSTITUTIONS,
GO TO [WWW.
EDUCATIONPLANNER.
BC.CA](http://www.educationplanner.bc.ca)

- > **Colleges** provide courses and programs leading to certificates, diplomas and associate degrees in vocational, career, technology, trades and academic areas. Most B.C. colleges also offer university transfer programs.
- > **University-Colleges** offer degree programs in specialized subject areas, as well as many of the same certificate and diploma programs as colleges.
- > **Universities** provide undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Some B.C. universities also offer specialized certificates and diplomas in selected professional fields.

For more information on B.C. post-secondary institutions, go to: www.educationplanner.bc.ca

Oops!

Forgot a course? Need to improve a mark before you apply for post-secondary? You can upgrade your high school diploma.

Almost all school districts have continuing education centers that provide services to both secondary school graduates and non-graduates. For a fee, graduates over 19 years of age can upgrade their courses. These centres also help adult non-graduates to finish their schooling. For more information, contact your local school district.

You can also upgrade with courses offered through distributed learning schools participating in LearnNow BC (www.learnnowbc.gov.bc.ca).

Most courses are free to most students.

For additional details, please check out the LearnNow BC site and contact a distributed learning school.

4 | Exams, Awards and Scholarships

Graduation Program Exams

You are required to write five graduation program exams. Graduation program exams are mandatory for every course in the following subject areas:

- > Grade 10 Language Arts
- > Grade 10 Science
- > Grade 10 Mathematics
- > Social Studies 11, Civic Studies 11 or BC First Nations Studies 12
- > Grade 12 Language Arts

Provincial exam results are blended with the classroom mark to generate the final course mark. Grade 10 and 11 exams count for 20% of the final mark. Grade 12 exams count for 40% of the final mark.

The above 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 12, you must write the associated provincial exam for both courses.

All other Grade 12 exams are optional. In other words, you can take a Grade 12 course that has an optional graduation program exam, and choose not to take the exam. In that case, 100% of your final mark comes from your classroom work. If you choose to write an optional Grade 12 exam, it counts for 40% of the final mark. Your classroom work counts for 60%.

MOST GRADE
12 EXAMS ARE
OPTIONAL, BUT YOU
MAY NEED TO WRITE
THEM TO REACH
YOUR GOALS.

Please note that some post-secondary institutions require Grade 12 exam scores for entrance. Writing Grade 12 exams also means you could qualify to win provincial scholarships.

Consider these facts carefully as you plan your courses in the coming years.

Information about provincial exams can be found at:

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

Policies on calculators, cheating and other exam issues are at:

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

For information about cheating, see:

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

Sample exams are found at:

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

Student exam results can be accessed at:

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/tsw/tsw/student/welcome.jsp?

For more on scholarships and awards, go to

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards/ or keep reading the section of this booklet titled “Financing Your Future.”

Financing Your Future

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

Passport to Education

To offset the cost of tuition fees, Grade 10 and 11 students can earn \$250 for each school year, based on academic and non-academic achievements.

Grade 12 students can earn \$500 for their Passport to Education Award. Check with your school for specific requirements.



Provincial Scholarships

Students who write provincial exams in Grade 12 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 Scholarships

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

- > fine arts (visual arts, dance, drama or music)
- > applied skills (business education, technology education and home economics)
- > physical activity (not limited to physical education)
- > second languages (including aboriginal languages)

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 1,100 apprenticeable hours) after secondary school graduation

Other Awards

Thousands of other scholarships and awards are available to graduating students. For a list (searchable by keywords, areas of interest or application deadlines), go to:

www.bcawardsonline.sd61.bc.ca/

Helpful Web Sites

Throughout this booklet, 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 A LIST OF AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE IN B.C., GO TO **WWW.BCAWARDSONLINE.SD61.BC.CA/**

YOU'LL LEARN MORE ABOUT FINANCING YOUR FUTURE IN PLANNING 10.

For information on the Graduation Program

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/grad2004.htm

For details about Graduation Transitions

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/grad-transitions/welcome.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.workinfontet.bc.ca

www.jobfutures.ca

www.careercruising.ca

www.destination2020.org

www.educationplanner.bc.ca

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/careers

www.bccat.bc.ca

For information on earning credits through external credentials

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/courseinfo/

For information about industry training and trade programs

www.itabc.ca

To explore options for completing graduation requirements via distributed learning

www.learnnowbc.gov.bc.ca

For information about finances and Planning 10

www.bcsc.bc.ca



A Few Last Words

As you can tell from reading this booklet, Grade 10 is an exciting new experience for you as a student. There is a lot of information, but it will make sense as you move through the year and especially 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 a chance to develop your potential. Use this booklet 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.AchieveBC.ca



Ministry of
Education