

Section 2 - The BC Graduation Program

Every province and territory in Canada have their own high school graduation program and curriculum requirements. Never assume they are the same. I will use the BC system as an example of things to consider.

BC Graduation Requirements 2024

The BC Ministry of Education recently did another review of BC's graduation program. The program and its current requirements are

Required courses:

- English 10 – select 2, two credit gr 10 English choices
- English 11 – select 1, four credit gr 11 English choice
- English 12 – select 1, four credit gr 12 English choice
- A Math 10 – if considering post-secondary stick with Foundations and Pre-Calculus
- A Math 11 or 12 - if considering post-secondary stick with Foundations and Pre-Calculus
- Science 10
- A Science 11 or 12 - a Sc 12 such as Anatomy/Physiology 12, Environmental Sc 12 gets you another gr 12
- Social Studies 10
- A Social Studies 11 or 12 – same as Sc, taking a SS 12 such as Law 12, History 12 is a good idea
- A Fine Arts or Applied Skills 10, 11 or 12 – taking a gr 11 in gr 10 gives an opportunity to take a gr 12
- Physical Education 10 – full or partial can sometimes be credited for hockey
- Career Life Education 10
- Career Life Connections 12 – some schools separate CLC 12A and CLC 12B

Minimum required - 52 credits

Elective courses:

- 4 electives at the grs 10, 11, or 12 level – there are opportunities for credit for hockey related courses
- 3 electives at the gr 12 level – if considering post-secondary these should be academic gr 12's

Minimum electives - 28 credits

As of 2024 students must have 4 credits of indigenous focused course work.

Numeracy and Literacy Assessments are required in grade 10 and a Literacy Assessment in grade 12

Minimum total for BC Graduation - 80 credits

Post-Secondary Academic Specifics:

- English
 - I. This is the only subject area where students are required to have 3 years or En 10, 11 and 12 for graduation or 12 credits.
 - II. In the 2018 review of grad requirements BC introduced some choice in English with the addition of Composition, Literary Studies, Creative Writing, New Media and Spoken Language or any First Peoples English.
 - III. A First Peoples English can count as an English credit and the Indigenous Focus requirement.
 - IV. Taking more English courses for additional credits elective is permitted and is advisable if a student enjoys English or wants to explore it further.

- Math
 - I. For graduation in BC students are required to have 8 credits in Math or two Math courses
 - II. There are three streams in BC for Math - Foundations, Pre-Calculus and Workplace Math
 - III. Pre-Calculus is the top Math stream and is accepted for post-secondary admission. Foundations is less theoretical but still accepted by Canadian and US universities.
 - IV. Computer Science and Workplace Math are accepted Math credits for graduation but often NOT accepted for university admission

- Science
 - I. For graduation in BC students are required to have Science 10 plus a science 11 or 12 for a minimum of 8 credits in science.
 - II. Options in grs 11 or 12 include Anatomy and Physiology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Geology, Life Sciences, and Physics.
 - III. There are some post-secondary advantages to having grade 12 vs grade 11 courses and some gr 12 sciences do not have a gr 11 prerequisite.

- Social Studies
 - I. For graduation in BC students are required to have SS 10 plus a SS 11 or 12 for a minimum of 8 credits.
 - II. Options in grs 11 or 12 include Explorations in Social Studies, B.C. First Peoples, Asian Studies, Human Geography, History, Law Studies, Political Studies, Genocide St, and Social Justice.
 - III. There are some post-secondary advantages to having grade 12 vs grade 11 courses and gr 12 social studies courses do not have a gr 11 prerequisite.

- Second Languages
 - I. Second languages are accepted academic courses for graduation and post-secondary.
 - II. Credit may be granted through equivalency, challenge, or other means.
 - III. Only in a few Canadian universities is a second language required and none in the US.

Other relevant things to know and consider!

1. Get to know the graduation requirements before you enter the grad program in gr 10.
2. Be smart and strategic in course selections and scheduling.
3. There are other means of being granted credits through external courses, equivalency, challenge, prior-learning, independent directed studies, Board Approved, and post-secondary policies. Check with your school's administration or counselling department.
4. Hockey students can be granted External Athlete 10, 11 and 12 for achieving different levels in the sport as well as courses approved by boards that are related to the training and skills required. Check your province's Handbook of Procedures.
5. The NCAA Eligibility Center sets the minimum standards for students to be able to participate in Division I and II athletics. It must be remembered that the Eligibility Center sets the standards for a student athlete to be approved for athletic competition. **ITS STANDARDS DO NOT GRANT ADMISSION TO INDIVIDUAL NCAA SCHOOLS.** A student must apply and meet the academic requirements of any school they desire to attend which are often greater than the Eligibility Center's minimum standards for athletic competition.
6. The NCAA Eligibility Center requires 16 grade 9 – 12 academic courses, whereas BC graduation looks at gr 10 – 12 courses and marks. (research NCAA D1 requirements and check provincial or school websites for their specific requirements)
7. The NCAA Eligibility Centre counts only courses on their Approved Courses list for the province that a student took the course. If you took a course in BC and want it to count as one of your 16 courses for the NCAA Eligibility Centre, it must be found on their Approved Courses List for BC.
8. Canadian post-secondary schools consider only gr 11 – 12 academic courses. (research general Canadian university requirements and check university websites for their specific requirements)
9. Non-academic courses such as applied skills or fine arts courses, physical education, business education, career, or trades courses etc. are excellent courses but are not accepted for university admissions nor are they used in the calculation of grade point averages for post-secondary.
10. Some religion courses are accepted for post-secondary but usually only if they are survey or general courses not specific to any one religion.

For Further Information

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/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/classroomlearning/distributed-learning-programs>

Finances and Career Life Education

- www.bcsc.bc.ca/Planning10

Transcripts

- www.studenttranscripts.gov.bc.ca