

GUIDING YOUR EDUCATION JOURNEY

A Handbook for First Nations Families



February 2023 REVISED EDITION



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Guiding Your Education Journey: A Handbook for First Nations Families

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INTRODUCTION

▶ “WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?”

This is a serious question for students who are in secondary school. Finding the right path through secondary education, onto higher education, and then to employment can be challenging but also very exciting. And early planning makes it much easier.

Goals of this Handbook

This Handbook has been prepared by the BC First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) and First Nations Schools Association (FNSA):

- ▶ To provide information to help families make the best decisions possible about what courses to take – especially in Grades 10, 11, and 12.
- ▶ To help First Nations families plan for post-secondary education and training, and future careers.

Using the Handbook

Families are encouraged to read this Handbook when students are in Grade 7 – or even earlier – and then revisit it every year through secondary school.

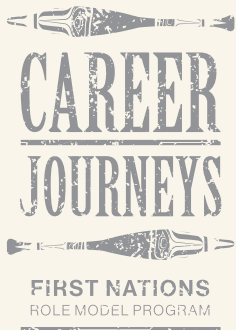
The Handbook has six parts:

- ▶ **Part 1:** How Parents and Families Can Support Children’s Education
- ▶ **Part 2:** Making Effective Choices in Secondary School
- ▶ **Part 3:** Education and Career Planning Depends on Making Informed Choices in Secondary School
- ▶ **Part 4:** Career Planning
- ▶ **Part 5:** Financial Planning and Supports to Help With the Transition to Post-Secondary
- ▶ **Part 6:** Student Workbook
- ▶ **Part 7:** Conclusions

This Handbook also includes an Appendix that is specific for Participating First Nations – meaning First Nations that have signed education self-government agreements as part of the First Nations education jurisdiction initiative.

A short note about terminology used in this Handbook.

This Handbook generally uses the term “secondary school,” although some people commonly refer to the upper grade levels as “high school.” In most cases, “secondary” includes grades 9 – 12, although some programs relate specifically to grades 10, 11 and 12. Whenever possible, this Handbook clarifies if information relates to specific grade levels only.



Career Journeys

This Handbook complements the Career Journeys First Nations Role Model Program, which includes Role Model posters and videos in which successful Indigenous role models share their experiences in their jobs, and describe their career paths and inspirations. Some of the Role Models are showcased in this Handbook.

The videos are available online at www.fnesc.ca/careerjourneys.





The First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) is committed to supporting First Nations in their efforts to improve the success of all First Nations students in BC. FNESC facilitates collaborative services related to advocacy, research, professional development, program administration, and information sharing.

See www.fnesc.ca



The First Nations Schools Association (FNSEA) represents First Nations controlled schools in BC and has a mandate to support those schools in creating effective, nurturing, and linguistically and culturally appropriate education environments that provide students with a positive foundation in all academic areas.

More information is available at www.fnsea.ca.

PART ONE

HOW PARENTS AND FAMILIES CAN SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN IN EDUCATION

A strong education is one of the most important factors in lifelong success, and the support and encouragement that parents and families provide at home contribute to student achievement in invaluable ways.

Parents and families play a key role in the education of their children.

- ▶ Parents and families are their children's first and most important teachers.
- ▶ Parents and families are the primary shapers of children's social skills.
- ▶ Parents and families are fundamental to children developing self-confidence and a positive self-identity. Parents transmit their values and culture to their children, which is key to children's overall development and educational success.

First Nations parents and guardians also have a right to be involved in all decisions about their children's education. Parental rights are the foundation of First Nations control of First Nations education, and parents must be fully informed and involved in determining and guiding their children's education.

Parents and families are central to promoting their children's access to educational opportunities that:

- ▶ build their confidence in their self-identity and traditional values, languages and cultures;
- ▶ give them the skills they need to thrive in today's society, including relevant technological skills; and
- ▶ prepare them for any opportunities they choose for higher learning, employment and lifelong success.

Helping students come to school regularly, on-time, and ready and eager to learn are fundamental to educational success. Parents and families are vital to making that happen. Given the impact of the COVID pandemic on student achievement, strong school attendance is more important than ever – and this is an issue that families can help address.

Many parents think that their support is less important when their children are in grades 10, 11 and 12, but that is not true. Family support for secondary students is invaluable.

Fortunately, supporting children’s healthy growth and development and being involved in the education process can be very rewarding. Sometimes, however, it can also be challenging.

For that reason, FNEC and FNSA have created a Parent Toolkit, which includes information to help parents and families work with the school system to support their children’s education. The Toolkit also offers suggestions for how to help support education at home.



“Pure stubbornness is the only way you can get through school. There are always distractions wherever you go. You have to maintain your goal!”

Dr. Nicole Jamieson, Veterinarian



“I still find that passion for learning new things exhilarating, because my mom and my dad instilled that in me. It’s inside me. My mom and dad put it in there, and it hasn’t gone away!”

June Williams, Water Technician





How can you make connections with the school?

- Attend parent teacher meetings whenever opportunities arise.**
 - ▶ These meetings provide a chance to learn about your child's progress and the programs they are taking.
 - ▶ They also provide a chance for you to share your insights about your child's needs and how they learn best. You know your child better than anybody else. Your understandings are invaluable.
 - ▶ Stay in regular contact with your child's teachers.
- Call or e-mail when you have questions.**
 - ▶ Contact the teacher if there is some information about your child you think they should know.
 - ▶ It is valuable to get to know the teacher early in the school year, in case challenges arise and you need extra help as the year goes on.
- If you are concerned about something, reach out to a teacher or counsellor.**
 - ▶ Don't hesitate to ask for a meeting or any assistance you need.
 - ▶ Teachers and counsellors are there to help families.

Tips for Parent-Teacher Conferences

Prepare ahead.

- ▶ Before you attend a meeting, think of questions to ask and write them down.
- ▶ Talk with your children about their experiences in school and how they are feeling about their progress.
- ▶ Be ready to share any concerns so you can work with the teacher to help your child succeed.

Take someone with you.

- ▶ Bring along a friend or an adult family member for additional support.

Expect everyone to talk and to listen.

- ▶ The meeting should be a two-way conversation.
- ▶ It should focus on how well your child is doing, and how they can improve.
- ▶ You can share your child's interests, skills and hopes with their teachers.
- ▶ Students get the best support possible when parents and teachers work together as a team.

Take notes so you remember what was said.

Ask questions.

- ▶ Are your children reading and performing at grade level? Are they receiving grade level instruction?
- ▶ Are their assignments complete?
- ▶ How is their attendance?
- ▶ What does the teacher see as your child's strengths and challenges? What is your child doing well and what could be improved?
- ▶ How can you and the school work together as partners to support your child? What home supports would be beneficial?
- ▶ If your student is in Grade 9 or above:
 - How is your child progressing towards graduation?
 - Is your child on the Dogwood Diploma path? If not, why not, and what has to happen to get them back on that path?

Follow up. Write down an action plan of what you and the teacher will do to support your child.

- ▶ Share what you talked about with your child.
- ▶ Arrange more meetings with teachers and other support people if needed.

If difficulties arise, check out the Parents Toolkit (www.fnesc.ca). The Toolkit outlines suggested steps if you are experiencing challenges with the school.

PART TWO**MAKING EFFECTIVE CHOICES IN
SECONDARY SCHOOL**

The first step in planning for a successful career is having a successful secondary school experience. Along the way, students are faced with important decisions about the courses they should take.

This section includes some important information about secondary school course planning.

KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 7	GRADES 8 AND 9	GRADES 10 TO 12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ All students study the same subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Students make some course choices. ▶ Students need to take a language course in Grade 8 to graduate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Students have many choices to make. They choose courses and also choose a program. ▶ Almost all students should choose the Graduation Program.

PROGRAM CHOICES IN SECONDARY SCHOOL

There are a number of different paths that students can take in secondary school. They often seem similar, but they lead to very different outcomes. It is very important to understand what path a student is on.

GRADUATION PROGRAM (i.e. the 80 credit “Dogwood Diploma” path)

- ▶ Students must take specific courses in Grades 10, 11, and 12 in order to receive the 80 credit BC Certificate of Graduation, usually called the “Dogwood Diploma”.
- ▶ A Dogwood Diploma is the secondary school graduation certificate students receive if they complete all of the provincial graduation requirements. The Dogwood should be the goal for almost all students.

- ▶ Parents should regularly check whether their children are taking courses that will lead to the Dogwood Diploma.

EVERGREEN

- ▶ If students are not taking the courses required for the Dogwood Diploma, they may receive the British Columbia School Completion Certificate (“Evergreen Certificate”) instead of the Dogwood. The Evergreen is intended to celebrate success in learning but it is not recognized as a certificate of graduation. Many post-secondary programs will not accept students who finish Grade 12 with a School Completion Certificate.
- ▶ The Evergreen is intended for students who have very serious special learning needs and have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). It is not meant for the majority of students.
- ▶ Parental consent is required for students to be put in an Evergreen Program, and this decision should not normally be made prior to Grade 10. Every effort should be made to support students in achieving the Dogwood Diploma.

ADULT DOGWOOD (20 credits)

- ▶ Some students who do not meet the requirements of a Dogwood Diploma may receive an “Adult Dogwood.” The Adult Dogwood may not provide students the same opportunities for post-secondary. The Adult Dogwood is meant for adult learners (18 years of age and older) who want to complete secondary school with a diploma. The Adult Dogwood is not meant for school-age students. Parental consent should be received before a school-age student is put on this path.
- ▶ The minimum requirement for the Adult Dogwood is 20 credits (5 courses), but adult students are not limited to taking 5 courses. Non-graduated adults are entitled to take as many courses as they need to meet their career and education goals.



Parents should know ...

- ▶ If your child is on a path for the Evergreen or Adult Dogwood Diploma, ask questions.
- ▶ Who made the decision and why? Why is your child not on a path to the Dogwood Diploma?
- ▶ Remember, your agreement is needed about any decisions that will impact your child’s future choices.

MODIFIED PROGRAMS

It is important to know if students are on a modified program. A modified program may be appropriate for some students who have very serious special needs, but it is not necessary for the majority of students.



Parents should know ...

- ▶ If your child is going to be placed on a modified program, find out why.
- ▶ Ask questions. Make sure you have a full explanation about the reasons for the decision before you agree.
- ▶ Students on a modified program will graduate with the School Completion Certificate (Evergreen), not the Dogwood. This will affect their future opportunities.

And remember ...

- ▶ Just because students meet all of the course requirements to earn a Dogwood Diploma, it doesn't necessarily mean that they will meet requirements for post-secondary.
- ▶ For example, Workplace Math 11 meets the math requirement for graduating with a Dogwood Diploma. However, it does not meet the entrance requirements of most post-secondary institutions or specific post-secondary programs.



Parents should know ...

- ▶ If you have questions about the courses your child is taking, talk to the school counsellor or the teacher.
- ▶ Graduation requirements can change over time. Keep asking if your child is on track to graduate with the Dogwood Diploma and whether they are taking courses that will lead them to the post-secondary or training opportunities that are right for them.

ALTERNATE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Many schools offer alternate programs for students who experience challenges in the regular school system. Alternate programs can be a good choice for some students. But before deciding to enter an Alternate program, a student should think about what type of learning environment works best for them.

- ▶ Some people think that it is easier to graduate through alternate programs, but this is often not the case.
- ▶ In a regular classroom the teacher does a lot of the planning and helps students organize their work.
- ▶ Many alternate programs require students to work by themselves for a long time every day without getting distracted.
- ▶ Students who find it difficult to schedule time, organize their work, and work by themselves may find alternate education programs are not a good fit for them.

Parents should know ...

- ▶ While alternate programs may be the right choice for some students, the majority of First Nations students who go through an alternate program graduate a few years after their peers. Sometimes they don't graduate at all. If you are considering this option, find out the success rate of the alternate program in your area – especially their success with First Nation students
- ▶ It is also critical to know what path a student is on if they are in an alternate education program – the Dogwood (80 credits), the Adult Dogwood (20 credits) or the Evergreen (which likely should not be the case).

IF YOU HAVE ...	ASK...	THESE QUESTIONS...
a student in Grade 12	immediately	▶ What Graduation Program is my child on? If it is not a Dogwood Diploma track, why, when was that decision made, and was I notified?
a student in Grade 11	as soon as possible	▶ How is my child progressing? What are their strengths, and are there any challenges?
a student in Grade 10	before the end of the school year	▶ What can be done, by any and all of us, to support my child's strengths and help address any challenges?

PLANNING COURSES AT THE SECONDARY LEVEL

Students today have many choices to make about what courses to take in secondary school.

Generally, students need to ask two important questions when they are planning their courses.

- ▶ What courses do I need to graduate with a Dogwood Diploma (80 credits)?
- ▶ What courses do I need to get into post-secondary or follow my career plans?

The following sections will help students to answer those questions.

To begin, you will need to find out which courses are offered in your school. Some schools do not offer all of the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care courses every year. Some schools offer other courses that have been created to reflect local issues.

Online Courses

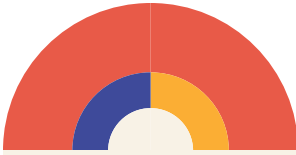
- ▶ If your school does not offer one or more of the courses you need, you may consider Online Courses. Online Courses are taken virtually, with limited or no in-person interactions.
- ▶ Online Courses generally require that students, with support from their families, are able to work very independently, stay organized, keep track of scheduled tests and assignment deadlines, and learn with less direct instruction from a teacher. In many cases, completion rates for Online Courses are very low, and significant attention and monitoring is often needed for students to succeed with this option. Online Courses aren't for everyone!
- ▶ But if you think the option would work for your family, and some courses you need are not offered in-person at your school, it may be valuable to find out what Online options might be available.



“Understand your barriers and you can overcome every one of them.”

Carey Stewart, Educator

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BC CERTIFICATE OF GRADUATION: THE DOGWOOD DIPLOMA



Tips for Course Planning

Check with the school about when course planning for each year happens.

Beginning in Grade 8, students usually select their courses each spring for the following year.

Grade 10 to 12 Course Requirements

- ▶ Total of 80 credits
- ▶ At least 16 credits must be Grade 12 level courses

Note: Most courses are 4 credits, but some courses are two credits. In some cases a student will need to take two courses to fulfill a 4 credit course requirement.

Required Courses (Total 52 credits)

- ▶ Two (2 credit) English First Peoples 10 or English 10 courses (4 credits total)
- ▶ English First Peoples 11 or English 11 (4 credits)
- ▶ English First Peoples 12 or English Studies 12 (4 credits)
- ▶ Social Studies 10 (4 credits)
- ▶ One Social Studies course at the 11 or 12 level (4 credits)
- ▶ Science 10 (4 credits)
- ▶ One Science course at the 11 or 12 level (4 credits)
- ▶ One Mathematics 10 course:
 - Either Foundations of Mathematics and Pre-calculus 10 OR
 - Workplace Mathematics 10 (4 credits)
- ▶ One Mathematics course at the 11 or 12 level (4 credits)
- ▶ Physical and Health Education 10 (4 credits)
- ▶ Career Education: 4 credits each of Career-Life Education AND Career-Life Connections (8 credits total)
- ▶ One or two Arts Education and/or Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies (ADST) courses at the Grade 10, 11 or 12 level (4 credits total)

Elective Courses (Total at least 28 credits)

Students may choose from other Grade 10, 11 or 12 BC courses. They may also select locally developed courses that have been approved for credit. This may include approved First Nations language courses offered in your area or school.



First Nations Graduation Requirement

The BC Ministry of Education is implementing an Indigenous-focused graduation requirement for all secondary students beginning in the 2023/2024 school year.

- ▶ This transformative change to the Graduation Program represents an important next step toward lasting and meaningful reconciliation.
- ▶ It will ensure that all BC students have an opportunity to develop deeper understandings of the experiences, cultures, and histories of Indigenous peoples in Canada.
- ▶ The new requirement also reflects ongoing work by the Ministry of Education, FNEESC, and other education partners to build capacity within the education system to address Indigenous-specific racism.

The change to the graduation program involves adding a requirement for secondary students to complete 4 credits of Indigenous-focused coursework in order to graduate.

Students can earn these credits by successfully completing:

- ▶ One of the existing Indigenous focused provincial courses (English First Peoples 10-12 (8 courses to choose from), BC First Peoples 12, and Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12)
- ▶ An approved First Nations language course at the Grade 10 to Grade 12 level
- ▶ A locally-developed, Indigenous-focused course that has been approved for this purpose

There is no change to the total number of credits required to graduate with the Dogwood Diploma (80). In some instances, an Indigenous focused course may also satisfy specific Language Arts, Social Studies, or elective course requirements, in addition to the new requirement.

Provincial Graduation Assessments

Students must complete three required tests to graduate with a Dogwood Diploma:

- ▶ Graduation Numeracy Assessment in Grade 10, and
- ▶ Graduation Literacy Assessments in Grade 10 and Grade 12

What Happened to Provincial Exams?

- ▶ Students in BC no longer take provincial exams for courses like English, Social Studies, Science or Math. Their total mark is now determined by the teacher using classroom assessments.
- ▶ Students are still assigned a letter and a percentage grade for all courses, and their grades for their secondary courses are shown on their final transcripts (which is the certified record (inventory) of a student's course of study, including all courses attempted and grades earned). Transcripts are sent to post-secondary institutions when a student applies for acceptance.
- ▶ Students also must take three tests called Provincial Graduation Assessments in order to graduate.
- ▶ All students take these three tests, no matter what courses they are taking.

Graduation Numeracy Assessment

- ▶ Students show their understanding of numbers and mathematics to solve problems.

Graduation Literacy Assessments

- ▶ Students show their understanding of reading and writing. **There are two Literacy tests – Grade 10 and Grade 12 Literacy Assessments.**

- ▶ Students must complete all 3 Assessments (Literacy 10, Numeracy 10, Literacy 12) to graduate.
- ▶ It is intended that students will first attempt the Numeracy 10 and Literacy 10 Assessments in Grade 10.
- ▶ Students have up to three opportunities to write the Assessments: an initial write (required) and up to two rewrites (optional).
- ▶ The Assessments are scored out of 4.
- ▶ The student's best outcome for each of the Provincial Graduation Assessments will be recorded on their final transcript.
- ▶ It is important for students to take the Assessments as soon as they can, so they have opportunities to retake the test if they want to improve their results.

"Finish high school and go right into university, to get it out of the way and keep that mind frame."

Krisandra Gomez, Registered Nurse



IMPORTANT COURSE CHOICES

Should I take English First Peoples (EFP) 12 or English Studies 12?

In order to graduate, students need to take English Language Arts courses in Grades 10, 11, and 12. There are two groups of English courses: students can choose English First Peoples (EFP) courses, or other English courses.

In Grade 10, students can take a mix of English First Peoples (EFP) and English courses.

In Grade 12, students must choose either English First Peoples (EFP) 12 or English Studies 12.

- ▶ EFP courses are similar to standard English courses, but they use a wide variety of oral and written literature and resource materials that are directly related to First Peoples.
- ▶ EFP courses are not “easy” courses. They are the academic equivalent of English courses. Students learn the same skills, but using different content.
- ▶ EFP 12 is designed to satisfy the Grade 12 English Language Arts graduation program requirement and to satisfy the entrance requirements for a full range of post-secondary educational programs.

Choosing Electives

Elective courses give students a chance to:

- ▶ specialize in one subject
- ▶ prepare for admission into post-secondary
- ▶ learn more about their interests

There are many courses to choose from, and there are even some interesting options for earning elective credits, such as Independent Directed Studies and External Credentials. See <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/graduation/getting-credit-to-graduate> for more information. The number of elective courses taken in each grade will depend on the courses offered in each school each year, and each students' choices.

Academic Courses

Academic courses include: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. Students can take more than the required number of courses in any of these subject areas. For example, a student could take English First Peoples (EFP) for their English Language Arts required credit, and English Studies 12 as an elective.

First Nations Languages and Second Languages

- ▶ Some schools offer accredited courses in the local First Nations language. That means these courses are accepted for entrance to colleges and universities.
- ▶ Second language courses are not required for graduation, but they may be needed in order for students to be accepted into some university programs.

SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSES FOR A DOGWOOD DIPLOMA

	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	REQUIRED CREDITS
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	PICK TWO COURSES - 2 CREDITS EACH	PICK ONE COURSE - 4 CREDITS EACH	PICK ONE COURSE - 4 CREDITS EACH	12 CREDITS TOTAL
English First Peoples (EFP) and/or English Studies	<input type="checkbox"/> EFP Writing 10 <input type="checkbox"/> EFP Literary Studies <input type="checkbox"/> EFP New Media <input type="checkbox"/> EFP Spoken Language <input type="checkbox"/> Composition 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Writing 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Literary Studies 10 <input type="checkbox"/> New Media 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Spoken Language 10	<input type="checkbox"/> EFP Literary Studies and Writing 11 <input type="checkbox"/> EFP Literary Studies and New Media 11 <input type="checkbox"/> EFP Literary Studies and Spoken Language 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Composition 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Writing 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Literary Studies 11 <input type="checkbox"/> New Media 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Spoken Language 11	<input type="checkbox"/> EFP 12 <input type="checkbox"/> English Studies 12	
MATHEMATICS	PICK ONE COURSE - 4 CREDITS EACH	PICK ONE COURSE IN GRADE 11 OR GRADE 12 - 4 CREDITS EACH		8 CREDITS TOTAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> Foundations of Mathematics and Pre-calculus 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Workplace Mathematics 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Foundations of Mathematics 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-calculus 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Workplace Mathematics 11 <input type="checkbox"/> History of Mathematics 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Science 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Foundations of Mathematics 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Apprenticeship Mathematics 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-calculus 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Calculus 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Geometry 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Statistics 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Science 12	
SCIENCE	REQUIRED COURSE - 4 CREDITS	PICK ONE COURSE IN GRADE 11 OR GRADE 12 - 4 CREDITS		8 CREDITS TOTAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> Science 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Physics 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Life Sciences 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Earth Sciences 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Science 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Science for Citizens 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Physics 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Anatomy and Physiology 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Geology 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Science 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Specialized Science 12	

	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	REQUIRED CREDITS
SOCIAL STUDIES	REQUIRED COURSE - 4 CREDITS	PICK ONE COURSE IN GRADE 11 OR GRADE 12 - 4 CREDITS		8 CREDITS TOTAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> Science 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Explorations in Social Studies 11 <input type="checkbox"/> BC First Peoples 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Comparative Cultures 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Comparative Religions 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Theory 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Human Geography 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Geography 12	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Studies 12 <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century World History 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Studies 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Genocide Studies 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Political Studies 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Law Studies 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Social Justice 12	
ARTS EDUCATION AND ADST	PICK 4 CREDITS IN EITHER GRADE 10, GRADE 11, OR GRADE 12			4 CREDITS
	<input type="checkbox"/> Arts Education (see page 20 for list of courses) <input type="checkbox"/> Applied Design, Skills and Technologies (see page 21 for list of courses)			
CAREER EDUCATION	REQUIRED COURSES. 4 CREDITS EACH. THEY CAN BE TAKEN IN GRADE 10, 11, OR 12.			8 CREDITS
	<input type="checkbox"/> Career-Life Education <input type="checkbox"/> Career-Life Connections. This includes 30 hours of work experience or career- life exploration.			
PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION	REQUIRED COURSE. 4 CREDITS			4 CREDITS
	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical and Health Education 10			
TOTAL REQUIRED CREDITS FOR GRADUATION WITH A DOGWOOD				52 CREDITS
ELECTIVES	Students take courses of their own choice in Grades 10, 11, and 12. They need at least 28 Elective credits to graduate. See "Choosing Electives" on page 17 more information about Electives.			28 CREDITS
TOTAL CREDITS FOR GRADUATION WITH A DOGWOOD				80 CREDITS

* At least 4 credits must meet the Indigenous Focused Graduation Requirement (effective July 1, 2023)

Arts Education

The following are the provincial courses in Arts Education. *Not all schools offer all of the options below.* Available electives vary from school to school.

Dance Curriculum	Drama Curriculum	Music Curriculum	Visual Arts Curriculum
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance Choreography 10 • Dance Company 10 • Dance Foundations 10 • Dance Technique and Performance 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama 10 • Theatre Company 10 • Theatre Production 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choral Music 10 (Concert Choir, Chamber Choir and Vocal Jazz) • Contemporary Music 10 • Instrumental Music 10 (Concert Band, Orchestra, Jazz Band or Guitar) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Studio 10 • Photography 10 • Studio Arts 2D 10 • Studio Arts 3D 10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance Choreography 11 • Dance Company 11 • Dance Conditioning 11 • Dance Foundations 11 • Dance Technique and Performance 11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directing and Script Development 11 • Drama 11 • Film and Television 11 • Theatre Company 11 • Theatre Production 11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choral Music 11 (Concert Choir, Chamber Choir and Vocal Jazz) • Composition and Production 11 • Contemporary Music 11 • Instrumental Music 11 (Concert Band, Orchestra, Jazz Band or Guitar) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Studio 11 • Graphic Arts 11 • Photography 11 • Studio Arts 2D 11 • Studio Arts 3D 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance Choreography 12 • Dance Company 12 • Dance Conditioning 12 • Dance Foundations 12 • Dance Technique and Performance 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directing and Script Development 12 • Drama 12 • Film and Television 12 • Theatre Company 12 • Theatre Production 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choral Music 12 (Concert Choir, Chamber Choir and Vocal Jazz) • Composition and Production 12 • Contemporary Music 12 • Instrumental Music 12 (Concert Band, Orchestra, Jazz Band or Guitar) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Studio 12 • Graphic Arts 12 • Photography 12 • Studio Arts 2D 12 • Studio Arts 3D 12
Cross-disciplinary and Interdisciplinary			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media Arts 10 • Media Arts 11 • Media Arts 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musical Theatre 10 • Musical Theatre 11 • Musical Theatre 12 		

Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies (ADST)

The following are the provincial courses in Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies (ADST). *Not all schools offer all of the options below.* Available electives vary from school to school.

Business Education	Home Economics and Culinary Arts	Information and Communications Technologies	Technology Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrepreneurship and Marketing 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baking and Pastry 10 • Culinary Arts 10 • Family and Society 10 • Food Studies 10 • Textiles 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Studies 10 • Media Design 10 • Web Development 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting 10 • Electronics and Robotics 10 • Metalwork 10 • Power Technology 10 • Technology Explorations 10 • Woodwork 10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounting 11 • Marketing and Promotion 11 • Tourism 11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baking and Pastry 11 • Culinary Arts 11 • Food Studies 11 • Interpersonal and Family Relationships 11 • Textiles 11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Information Systems 11 • Computer Programming 11 • Digital Communications 11 • Graphic Production 11 • Media Design 11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automotive Technology 11 • Drafting 11 • Electronics 11 • Engineering 11 • Metalwork 11 • Robotics 11 • Woodwork 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounting 12 • Business Computer Applications 12 • E-Commerce 12 • Economics 12 • Entrepreneurship 12 • Financial Accounting 12 • Tourism 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baking and Pastry 12 • Child Development and Caregiving 12 • Culinary Arts 12 • Fashion Industry 12 • Food Studies 12 • Housing and Living Environments 12 • Specialized Studies in Food 12 • Textiles 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Information Systems 12 • Computer Programming 12 • Digital Media Development 12 • Graphic Production 12 • Media Design 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Metal and Jewelry 12 • Automotive Technology 12 • Drafting 12 • Electronics 12 • Engine and Drivetrain 12 • Engineering 12 • Furniture and Cabinetry 12 • Industrial Coding and Design 12 • Machining and Welding 12 • Mechatronics 12 • Metalwork 12 • Robotics 12 • ROVs and Drones 12 • Woodwork 12

OTHER PROGRAMS TO CONSIDER

DUAL CREDIT

Do you want to start your post-secondary journey in secondary school? Through dual credit, students can take secondary and post-secondary courses at the same time!

How does it work?

- ▶ You can take courses from a local college or other post-secondary institution while you are still completing Grade 11 or 12.
- ▶ The courses will count as credit for both your Dogwood Diploma and post-secondary.
- ▶ You can take trades, technology or academic courses.

What do you need?

- ▶ You need to apply and be accepted into a post-secondary institution.

Where to start?

- ▶ Check with your school counsellor, or principal for more information on this program.

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPRENTICESHIP (SSA)

You can go to secondary school and learn a trade at the same time!

What is it?

- ▶ An apprenticeship program is for students age 15 years or older, who want to work and learn on the job.
- ▶ When you finish, you get 16 credits towards graduation.

Who is it for?

- ▶ Students who are willing to work hard for themselves and their employer. It's not just an easy way to get credits!

How do you start?

- ▶ Find an employer who will take you on (and pay you) as an apprentice while you are still in school.

What's next?

- ▶ Register with the Industry Training Authority (ITA) as a Youth Apprentice.

Find out more at <http://www.itabc.ca>

Find apprenticeship programs that are available in your area or school. Check out:

<http://www.learnnowbc.ca/trades/TradesFinder.aspx>.



Ask your school counsellor or principal for more information about these programs.

PART THREE

EDUCATION AND CAREER PLANNING DEPENDS ON MAKING INFORMED CHOICES IN SECONDARY

For students and parents, Grade 12 is a busy and exciting year.

Not only do students want to do their best in all their courses, but they also need to prepare for what happens after they graduate. And don't forget about Grad ceremonies and celebrations! There is a lot going on.

It is important to think about what happens after Grade 12. There are big decisions to make. Find a job, or go on to post-secondary education? What are your expectations?

The choices you make early impact on the options you have later.

For that reason, is it important to take courses in secondary school that open the door to all kinds of opportunities.

For some people, their education and career journey is not a straight path, but if you graduate with the right courses, you can try different routes and change your mind along the way.

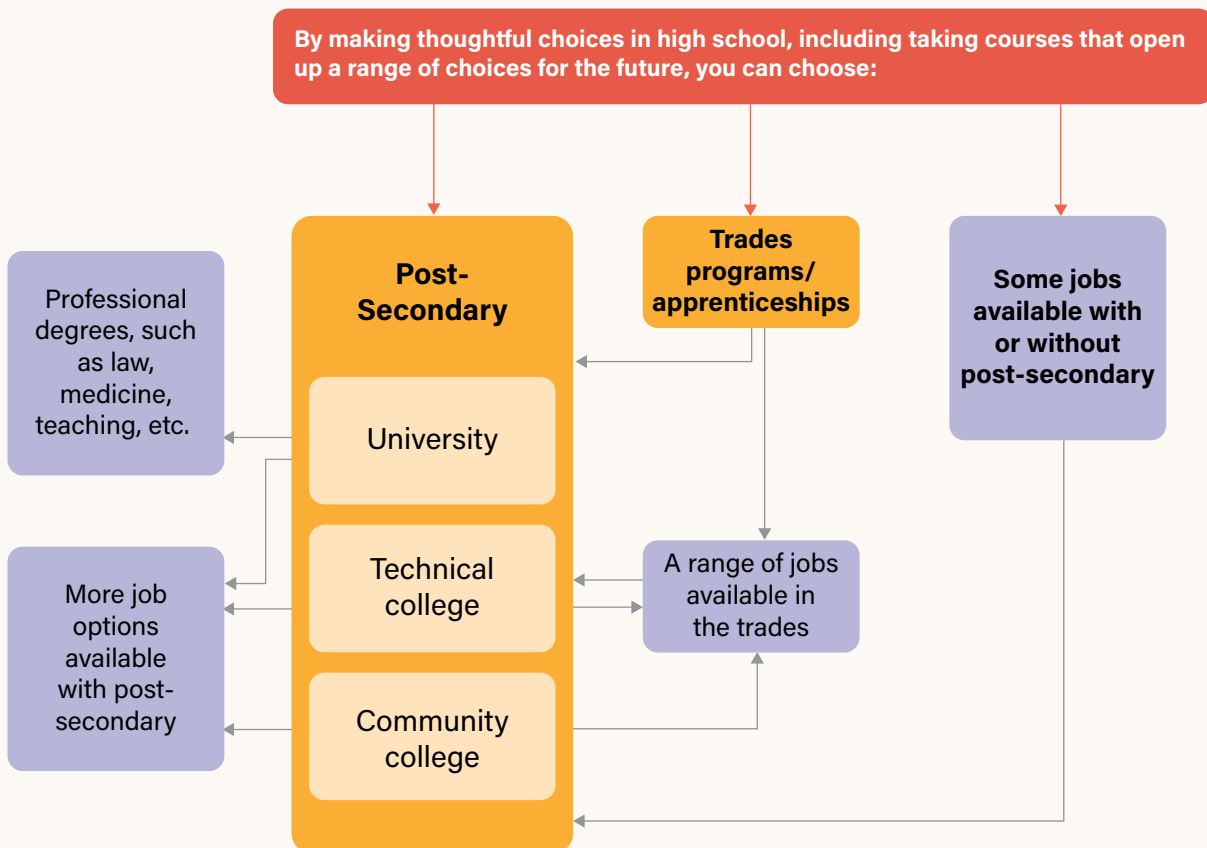
For example, post-secondary studies can open up a wide range of opportunities, it can enhance one's quality of life, and it can often lead to more satisfying jobs that pay higher wages. That makes it an important goal for students who want to continue learning and access a variety of careers that require higher levels of education.

But post-secondary education does not have to be the immediate answer for everyone who graduates from secondary school. There are many valid reasons why some people decide to try a trade or find a job right after they graduate, and going

to work right after graduation doesn't mean you can't decide to pursue higher education after trying a trade ... or while you are working ... or after you have worked for some time. Many post-secondary students successfully balance work and study. Many adults also return to post-secondary a few years after they graduate.

Most people will change careers several times in their life. It is important for teens to keep their options open as they plan for the future, so they can change paths along the way if their circumstances and choices change.

Therefore, even if you don't think post-secondary is right for you now, it is very helpful to still think carefully about what courses you are taking in Grade 10, 11 and 12 to keep the door open if you want to attend post-secondary at some time in your future.

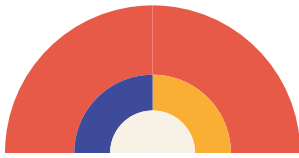


Choosing Courses in Secondary School

The courses students choose in Grades 10, 11, and 12 may depend on how well they know what they want to do in their post-secondary studies.

What secondary school courses do teens need, in order to be ready for post-secondary? Here are some ideas to discuss together.

<p>“I’m not sure what I want to do yet”</p>	<p>Not sure? If you haven’t chosen a career path</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ In secondary school, take a wide range of courses in different subject areas. ▶ If you are aiming for university, take mostly academic courses. ▶ Review the entrance requirements for some possible post-secondary options so you are aware of the common requirements.
<p>“I know what subject areas I like and don’t like”</p>	<p>Do you know your preferences? Many teens know what general area they would like to study or what field attracts them most.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Do you like science courses or do you prefer social studies? Are you better at art, or do you like learning about technology? ▶ Take a variety of courses in the subject areas you prefer to explore those options more.
<p>“I know exactly what I want to study”</p>	<p>Do you have definite career goals? Students who have a clear career goal can choose courses that focus directly on the relevant post-secondary program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Find the specific program you want to study at college or university to understand what courses you should take in secondary school. ▶ If your school does not offer some of the courses you want or need, talk to your school counsellor to find out what options exist for accessing the course.



Tips for Course Planning

Start by looking at the post-secondary requirements for the program area that interests you, and work back to understand the courses you need to take in secondary school.

Think Ahead, Work Back

Students need to think about post-secondary education when they choose courses in Grades 10, 11, and 12. Each post-secondary institution has different requirements that students need to meet in order to be accepted. Knowing these requirements can help students decide what courses to take in Grades 10, 11, and 12.

- ▶ Most post-secondary institutions set “minimum grade requirements” for admission. Students will need to achieve the grade levels required for each program in order to be admitted. But remember: often, depending on the number of applicants and the number of spots available in a program, students who achieve the “minimum” grades may not be accepted. It is important for students to get the best grades possible, in case getting into the program they want is competitive.
- ▶ Colleges and universities set “course prerequisites” – which means the courses students must have completed before being accepted into each program. There are different levels of prerequisites:
 - General Admission: These are the basic requirements everyone needs to enter a specific post-secondary institution. Usually this includes a Dogwood Diploma and a good mark in English First Peoples (EFP) 12 or English Studies 12.
 - Program Admission: All post-secondary programs have specific requirements for admission.
 - Following are some examples of programs and their course prerequisites.



Important Notes:

- ▶ This information was updated as of February 2023. It could change. It is important to look at College and University web sites for the latest information.
- ▶ Also, in the following example the “grades required” are the *minimum* acceptable.
- ▶ The grades are shown below to illustrate that minimum grade requirements are often set to ensure that students will have the necessary skills to succeed in a program.

Bachelor of Athletic & Exercise Therapy Program, Camosun College

Requirements – note grades are the minimum

- ♦ C+ in English 12 (EFP 12 or English Studies 12)
- ♦ C + an advanced math
- ♦ Anatomy and Physiology 12
- ♦ C in Chemistry 11
- ♦ C+ in Biology 12
- ♦ Minimum B grade point average

Related courses

Students might also choose Grade 11 and 12 courses in Physical and Health Education.

Aboriginal Leadership in the Justice System Certificate Nicola Valley Institute of Technology

Required courses, all with a C+ minimum

- ♦ EFP 12 or English Studies 12
- ♦ Pre-calculus 11
- ♦ Minimum grade point average of 2.33

Related courses

Students might also choose Social Studies courses such as BC First Peoples 12, Law Studies 12 and Social Justice 12.

Applied Coastal Ecology Diploma Coast Mountain College

Required courses

- ♦ English 12 (EFP 12 or English Studies 12)
- ♦ Foundations of Math 11
- ♦ Life Sciences 11
- ♦ Chemistry 11

Related courses

Students might also choose Grade 11 and 12 courses in Physical and Health Education.

Bachelor in Design in Architecture University of British Columbia

Required courses

- ♦ English 12 (EFP 12 or English Studies 12)
- ♦ A Grade 11 Language course, including an Indigenous language course
- ♦ Foundations of Math 12 or Pre-calculus 11
- ♦ Any Grade 11 Science course
- ♦ Grade 12 history or geography course recommended

Related courses

Students might also choose Grade 11 and 12 courses in EFP or English Studies and arts courses.

Food Technology Diploma British Columbia Institute of Technology

Required courses

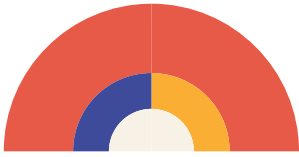
- ♦ English 12 (EFP 12 or English Studies 12 – 67%)
- ♦ Pre-Calculus 12 (67%) or Foundations of Math 12 (73%)
- ♦ Chemistry 11 (67%)

“Motivation goes a long way, and a positive attitude. Be a sponge. Take every bit of knowledge you can gain out there. You never know who’s going to give you key knowledge.”

Jamie Fletcher, Construction Business Owner



Planning for Post-Secondary



Tips for Applying to Post-Secondary

Not sure you will be accepted into the program you want? It might be worth applying even if you are not sure you will meet all of the requirements. You might be successful after all!

And what if you don't get accepted into the program you want? You can always attend a program that is your second or third choice, and reapply the next year. This is a common path for many students.

Where to Study?

- ▶ For some students, a local college or university will be the best choice. Other students may have to go further away from home to access the programs they want.
- ▶ Students can use the Worksheet "Where to Go" in the attached Student Workbook to think about where they want to go for post-secondary studies.

Know the Deadlines and Apply Early

- ▶ Once students know what schools they want to attend, they should apply for admission as soon as possible.
- ▶ Find out the deadlines and what documents are needed.
- ▶ ***Students usually need to begin submitting applications to universities and colleges by January for programs starting the following September.***
If possible, they should apply in the fall.
 - Deadlines vary for each institution, so make sure you find out what the deadlines are.
 - The earlier you apply the better, especially for popular programs.
- ▶ Try to find someone who is familiar with the process of applying for post-secondary studies. It can be confusing and sometimes it can feel intimidating. Perhaps a family member, a guidance counsellor, or staff of your First Nation might be able to help.

Know How Much You Will Be Charged To Apply

- ▶ Most institutions charge an application fee. You pay the fee when you apply. It can be anywhere from \$35 to \$75. Some schools do not charge a fee to apply.
- ▶ *Students often apply to more than one institution at the same time. A separate application fee is paid for each application.*

How to Apply

- ▶ For most BC post-secondary institutions, students can apply online at the Education-PlannerBC website. To use the site, students will need to sign up for an account. Applications and fee payments are completed using the website. Payment is by credit card.
- ▶ Go to <https://apply.educationplannerbc.ca/>
- ▶ Students can also send in written applications. Application forms are available on institution websites.

Early Admission

- ▶ Early Admission lets students pre-register for post-secondary programs. This option is usually completed by February.
- ▶ Qualified applicants will be given conditional admission. Final decisions on admissions are made when a student's final grades are submitted.

Apply for Scholarships and Bursaries

- ▶ Students should apply for as many scholarships or bursaries as possible. Many scholarships do not receive a large number of applications, so the chances of a student being successful are good.
- ▶ Ask for help if you can. Perhaps your school or your First Nation's staff can assist you with applications.
- ▶ The time invested in applying for scholarships can be well worth the effort.
- ▶ For more about scholarships and bursaries, see page "Bursaries and Scholarships" on page 36.

Apply for First Nation Funding If Available

- ▶ Are you eligible for post-secondary funding from your First Nation? Make sure you find out. Learn about your First Nation's funding policies so there are no surprises.
- ▶ Find out the deadlines as soon as possible and apply early. See Part Five for more information.

Budget for Graduation Expenses

- ▶ Most students look forward to the events surrounding graduation with excitement, but there are expenses.
 - Graduation fees (often included with general school fees)
 - Photographs
 - Special events
 - A graduation outfit
- ▶ Some First Nations assist graduating students with these expenses. Check to see what your Nation offers.

Graduation Year Planning Timetable

Here are some of the key dates for students in Grade 12 who are planning to go on to post-secondary the following September.

END OF GRADE 11

Meet with counsellor to review your graduation program.

Do you have the right courses to graduate?

FALL OF GRADE 12 YEAR

Research and decide on post-secondary institutions to apply to.

Students often apply to more than one school.

Begin applying to post-secondary institutions. Find out deadlines and what documents you need.

Example: UBC online application opens late August, closes January 31.

To apply, use BC's Post-Secondary Application Service online at:
<https://apply.educationplanner.bc.ca/>

Research scholarships and bursaries to apply for.

Some have deadlines in December.

JANUARY - FEBRUARY OF GRADE 12 YEAR

Submit applications for early admission to post-secondary institutions.

Most universities have closing dates of February 28.

MARCH OF GRADE 12 YEAR

Begin self-reporting your grades to post-secondary institutions.

You can send transcript information to some post-secondary institutions using the Online Post-Secondary Institutions Selections form between October and June.

JUNE OF GRADE 12 YEAR

Return all text books and library books.

Graduation is not complete until this is done.

PART FOUR

▶ CAREER PLANNING

Finding the right career path can be exciting, but also challenging. Early planning makes it much easier.

Parents and families can play a key role in helping teens make important decisions in planning a future career and possible post-secondary training.

This section provides some tips for career planning. A Student Workbook is also attached, which includes a number of activities to help teens explore their interests, possible career choices, and training requirements.

THINKING ABOUT CAREERS

Some students have a good idea of what kind of career they want. But many students are not sure. Here are some suggestions to help teens consider future jobs.

Explore interests and options

- ▶ Find role models and mentors. Do you know someone who does a job that interests you?
- ▶ Join clubs in your school and community.
- ▶ Volunteer to try working in community roles that interest you.
- ▶ Think about your interests and skills and write them down.
- ▶ See the Student Workbook: Personal Profile worksheet attached. Students can fill in the Personal Profile to guide their thinking about their skills and interests.

Connect Interests and Careers

- ▶ What types of careers match your skills and interests?

▶ See the Student Workbook: Career Explorations worksheet attached.

Exploring Careers

- ▶ Students can explore some careers in more depth to learn about job expectations, average salaries, and what kind of training is needed.

▶ See the Student Workbook: Career Explorations worksheet attached.

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES FOR EXPLORING CAREER OPTIONS



EducationPlannerBC.ca

- ▶ Students can use this site to explore career options and plan for post-secondary education, as well as applying to post-secondary institutions. It is run by the BC government.
- ▶ Students can search for a job or career they are interested in. The site shows post-secondary institutions that have programs that might work for them.
- ▶ Students can compare courses, find out admission requirements, and look up tuition fees for each institution.
- ▶ The site is easy to use and works on any computer. You can browse without logging in, or you can sign up to save data.
- ▶ You will need to sign up for an account if you plan to use the site to apply to post-secondary institutions.
- ▶ Go to <https://www.educationplannerbc.ca/> to get started.



WorkBC.ca

- ▶ [EducationplannerBC.ca](https://www.educationplannerbc.ca/) links to the WorkBC site, but you can also access it through www.workbc.ca.
- ▶ This website showcases career profiles for hundreds of occupations in BC. It includes detailed information about things like salaries, duties of the job, the work environment, and employment outlook, which are all important things to think about when choosing a career path. Many profiles also include video interviews of people on the job.
- ▶ To get to the career profiles, go to the "Job Seekers" tab on the home page, then click on the link "Explore Careers & Industries" to investigate various career profiles.



myblueprint.ca

- ▶ My Blueprint is an education and career / life planning program that contains a comprehensive career and post-secondary database.
- ▶ The site includes tools to create a graduation plan that is connected to post-secondary or career opportunities post-graduation.
- ▶ The site also outlines opportunities to learn about other life-skills to support student success after graduation.

PART FIVE

▶ FINANCIAL PLANNING AND OTHER SUPPORTS TO HELP WITH THE TRANSITION TO POST-SECONDARY

One of the biggest challenges in pursuing post-secondary education is the cost. *It is important to plan your finances as early as possible.*

HOW MUCH MONEY DO YOU NEED?

To help with financial planning, it is a good idea to estimate how much money is needed for the first year of post-secondary education.

Major student costs include:

- ▶ tuition
- ▶ housing and living expenses
- ▶ books and supplies
- ▶ travel to and from the institution, if it is not local
- ▶ contingency funding in case of emergencies

A worksheet is included in the attached Student Workbook to help with planning finances for the first year of post-secondary. It can help you estimate how much money you will need for living and school expenses, and it also lists possible sources of income.

FUNDING OPTIONS

There are a number of ways that students can help finance their studies. These include:

- ▶ **First Nation Funding:** funding provided to students by First Nations for eligible post-secondary costs, as determined by each First Nation.

- ▶ **Bursaries and Scholarships:** Grants to assist students, which do not need to be repaid.
- ▶ **Government Grants:** Grants from the federal and provincial government that do not have to be repaid.
- ▶ **Student Loans:** Special loans from the government that are not repaid until after students finish school.
- ▶ **Registered Educational Savings Plan:** Savings plans through banks that allow parents to save for their children's education.
- ▶ **BC Tuition Waiver Program:** A tuition waiver available to former children and youth in care attending post-secondary.

The following pages provide details about each of these options.

BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- ▶ Please note: the following information was updated as of February 2023.

Provincial Government Scholarships and Awards

School District/Authority Awards

- ▶ These scholarships are awarded to 5,500 high school graduates who show excellence in an area of interest or strength. For example, a student who shows a strong interest and achievement in Indigenous Languages and Culture could be eligible for this award.
- ▶ In 2023, the award was \$1,250. Students are provided with a voucher, and after they pay tuition at a designated post-secondary institution or authorized trades training provider, they can submit the voucher to the BC government for reimbursement.
- ▶ Students attending a public school must apply through their school or a school district office. Students attending an independent school must apply through the Federation of Independent School Associations.

▶ **BC Achievement Scholarship**

- ▶ This scholarship is awarded to the top 8,000 high school graduates.
- ▶ In 2023, the award was \$1,250. Students are provided with a voucher, and after they pay tuition at a designated post-secondary institution or authorized trades training provider, they can submit the voucher to the BC government for reimbursement.
- ▶ Students do not need to apply for these scholarships. If students qualify, they are notified directly.

BC Excellence Scholarships

- ▶ These scholarships are awarded each year to 55 high school graduates from around the province who are recognized as being excellent students and leaders both in their school and community.
- ▶ In 2023, the award was \$5,000. Students are provided with a voucher, and after they pay tuition at a designated post-secondary institution or authorized trades training provider, they can submit the voucher to the BC government for reimbursement.
- ▶ Students are nominated by their secondary school. Students can ask to be considered for nomination.

Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarships

- ▶ These scholarships are awarded to 20 outstanding high school graduates in BC who show a talent and commitment to becoming teachers.
- ▶ In 2023, the award was \$5,000. Students are provided with a voucher, and after they pay tuition for an approved teacher education program at a BC post-secondary institution, they can submit the voucher to the BC government for reimbursement. Students have seven years to redeem this voucher.

Other Bursaries and Scholarships

- ▶ There are numerous other financial awards provided by government, post-secondary institutions and private entities for students who meet specific requirements. Some are for students attending a specific post-secondary institution or for students who are interested in pursuing a certain field of study.
- ▶ There are many bursaries and scholarships out there, and it is well worth the time to research what is available. Apply for as many as possible!
- ▶ Schools should have a list of local scholarships and bursaries that are available.
- ▶ A number of awards for Indigenous students can also be found on Aboriginal Learning Links by visiting: <https://www.aboriginal-learning.ca/>

Tuition Waiver Program

- ▶ This provincial government Program waives tuition for former children and youth in care who are studying full- or part- time in an approved undergraduate program at a BC public post-secondary institution, the Native Education College, or one of ten approved trades training providers.
- ▶ To apply, students submit a Provincial Tuition Waiver Program Application form through the financial aid office at their post-secondary institution.

Student Loans and Grants

Student Loans

The provincial government offers Student Loans through [StudentAid BC](#).

Grants

Various types of grants are available to assist with students' post-secondary tuition and expenses. Students who apply for student loans are automatically considered for grants, which do not need to be repaid.

In addition to grants provided through a student loan agreement, students may also apply for a number of other government grants through StudentAid BC.

- ▶ For more information on student loans and grants, go to <https://studentaidbc.ca/>

Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP)

The Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) is a tax-sheltered account that can help families save for a child's post-secondary education. Parents, or others, set up a plan naming the child as "beneficiary." If the plan earnings are withdrawn to cover qualifying post-secondary education expenses, they are taxable to the beneficiary, not to the person who set up the account.

EDUCATION FUNDING PROVIDED THROUGH FIRST NATIONS

Indigenous Services Canada provides non-repayable funding to First Nations to support students who are attending post-secondary through the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) and University and College Entrance Preparation Program (UCEPP).

- ▶ PSSSP funding is intended to assist students who are ready to enroll in an eligible post-secondary institution and work toward a recognized post-secondary education credential.
- ▶ UCEPP funding is provided to support students who are taking courses to prepare them for entrance into a post-secondary degree or diploma credit program.

Funding through PSSSP and UCEPP is limited, and First Nations have the authority to administer their funding in accordance with their available budget, priorities, and eligibility requirements.

Students can contact their First Nations' education department in order to apply for PSSSP/ UCEPP funding. They cannot apply directly to Indigenous Services Canada.

Steps To Take To Access First Nation Post-Secondary Funding

While the process for applying for funding will differ for each First Nation, the following steps are recommended.

1. Contact your First Nation's Post-Secondary Education Coordinator, and stay in touch through each step of the process. Let them know how things are going with your education planning.
2. Make sure that your chosen post-secondary program and institution are eligible for funding. Confirm this with your Post-Secondary Education Coordinator.
3. Apply to the institution for the specific program you want. Students must be accepted before being funded.
4. Once you are accepted, provide a copy of your acceptance letter along with your application for funding to your First Nation. If you need to complete upgrading before entering the program, make this clear.
5. Make sure your application is complete and submitted by the deadline, with all required documentation. Ask when you will know whether or not your application is approved.

If your application is approved for funding, confirm the total amount of funding you have been approved for and the costs your First Nation will cover.

Note: Students who have status but do not have First Nation membership or affiliation with a First Nation can apply for this funding through the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres at <https://bcaafc.com/education/psssp/>. Funding provided through the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres is limited and is not for students who have not successfully accessed funding from their First Nation.

OTHER SUPPORTS TO HELP WITH THE TRANSITION TO POST-SECONDARY

In addition to funding, many First Nations students benefit from other supports to help them make a successful transition to post-secondary education.

For many students, moving to post-secondary is challenging, as it often means moving away from their homes, families, friends, and their communities. Moving to larger, sometimes more urban centres can be difficult – especially for young people who are used to living in smaller, more remote places. Students may miss their connections to the people they know and to the land they come from.

Parents, families and communities can help students make successful transitions in a number of ways.

- ▶ Education and career fairs are an excellent way for students to increase their awareness of post-secondary options, and there are often representatives of colleges and universities in attendance who can talk to students about what they can expect in post-secondary and what supports will be available for them if they attend.
- ▶ Helping students prepare for a significant change is key. Families can visit post-secondary institutions together, if possible, to experience the location and walk around campuses to feel more comfortable. And if in-person visits aren't possible, even going on virtual tours using college and university web sites can help. Some students have also posted videos to Youtube, showing student residence buildings and talking about their favourite places on campus.
- ▶ Sometimes students have to take placement tests or other types of assessments before they attend school. That can be intimidating, and family encouragement can be invaluable in helping students feel more confident about their skills and knowledge.
- ▶ Considerable paperwork is required when students are beginning post-secondary. Students who have disabilities or exceptionalities, in particular, may be asked to submit information from their doctors, their secondary school, or other service providers. Helping students navigate the forms and other informational requirements associated with post-secondary is critical – even if it is just offering to look through paperwork together, or offering an understanding ear if things become frustrating.
- ▶ Many supports are available to First Nations students who attend post-secondary. Some colleges and universities have set up First Nations student gathering places or specific support groups. Some have mentoring programs for new students, or Elder-in-Residence programs that can help students feel more comfortable and supported. Families and community staff can help new students learn more about the various supports and opportunities that are available.
- ▶ Family encouragement is more important than most people think. Simply knowing that their families support them and are proud of their efforts helps students persevere and succeed. Students benefit immensely from just knowing they can call home to hear a friendly voice if things become difficult.

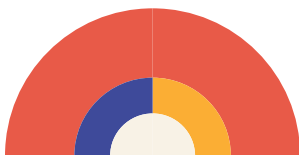
PART SIX

▶ STUDENT WORKBOOK

Use these activities in the way that suits you and your family. There is no particular order in which they should be completed, and don't feel you have to use all of them.

Here is a list of the workbook pages.

- ▶ **Secondary School Course Planning Worksheet:** A worksheet to help you work backwards from a career goal to the courses you need in secondary school.
- ▶ **Dogwood Graduation Requirements:** A blank form to keep track of the courses you need for graduation.
- ▶ **Personal Profile:** A worksheet to help you build a profile of your interests, skills and achievements.
- ▶ **Connecting Interests to Potential Careers:** A tool to help you think about possible careers.
- ▶ **Career Exploration:** A worksheet to use when researching careers to record key details.
- ▶ **My Post-Secondary Education Plan:** A worksheet to record your educational decisions.
- ▶ **Where to Go?:** Some questions to help you think about which post-secondary institution to attend.
- ▶ **Financial Planning Worksheet:** A form to help you budget for your first year at post-secondary.
- ▶ **Checklist: Building Your Career Path:** A quick checklist to make sure you have all your bases covered.

**Please note:**

Many of these worksheets can be used to fulfill components of the Career-Life Connections course and students' Capstone Project.

The Capstone Project includes, but is not limited to, three components:

1. **Self-assessment and critical analysis:** Students reflect on their experiences in school and out of school, assess their development in the Core Competencies, and share highlights of their learning journey and preferred next steps.
2. **Process and representation:** Informed by their critical analysis, and connecting to their plans for post-graduation, students engage in a deeper learning process as they design, assemble, and share their capstone representation.
3. **Showcase and celebrate:** Students present their learning journey, including plans for post-graduation, to a relevant audience.

SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSE PLANNING WORKSHEET

CAREER GOAL

PROGRAM

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION

CREDENTIAL

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO PROGRAM

WHAT COURSES ARE PREREQUISITES FOR THESE GRADE 12 COURSES?

Grade 11

Grade 10

DOGWOOD GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Use this table to keep track of the courses you need to graduate. See Part Two of this Handbook for the full description of courses and requirements.

When you have completed a course, write it down in the table.

GRADE 10 TO 12 COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Total of 80 credits - most courses are 4 credits
- At least 16 credits must be Grade 12 level courses
- At least 4 credits must meet the Indigenous Focused Graduation Requirement (beginning July 1, 2023)

REQUIRED COURSES (TOTAL 52 CREDITS)	COMPLETED COURSES	
	NAME OF COURSE	COMPLETION DATE
English First Peoples 10 or English 10		
2 courses needed		
English First Peoples 11 or English 11		
English First Peoples 12 or Eng. Studies 12		
Mathematics 10		
Mathematics 11 or 12		
Science 10		
Science 11 or 12 course		
Social Studies 10		
Social Studies 11 or 12 course		
Physical and Health Education 10		
Career Life Education		
Career Life Connections		
Arts Education or ADST course		
Elective Courses (minimum 28 credits)		

PERSONAL PROFILE

INTERESTS

Things I like to do for enjoyment

SKILLS

Things I know I do well

VALUES

Things that are important to me

FAVOURITE SUBJECTS

The courses I enjoy the most / am most successful in

AWARDS, CERTIFICATES AND HONOURS

Things that I have earned (awards, trophies, certificates, licenses)

CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Groups and activities that I participate in and volunteer for, or things I do to help my community or Elders

THIS INFORMATION CAN ALSO HELP WITH SOME SCHOLARSHIP, BURSARY AND POST-SECONDARY APPLICATIONS.

CONNECTING INTERESTS TO POTENTIAL CAREERS

YOUR PERSONAL INTERESTS

CAREERS THAT MIGHT BE RELATED TO YOUR INTERESTS

OTHER CAREERS YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

POST-SECONDARY PROGRAMS THAT CONNECT WITH YOUR PERSONAL AND/OR CAREER INTERESTS

Use Education planner ([EducationPlanner.ca](https://www.educationplanner.ca)) to explore career options and post-secondary programs.

CAREER EXPLORATION #1

Use the website WorkBC.ca to explore some career options. Choose two or three that interest you and use these pages to record information about them.

WHAT I FOUND OUT ABOUT THE JOB

SOME OF THE DUTIES OF THE JOB

EXPECTED SALARY

JOB WORKPLACE / LOCATION

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING REQUIRED

SECONDARY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

WHY I THINK I MIGHT ENJOY THIS CAREER

CAREER EXPLORATION #2

WHAT I FOUND OUT ABOUT THE JOB

SOME OF THE DUTIES OF THE JOB

EXPECTED SALARY

JOB WORKPLACE / LOCATION

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING REQUIRED

SECONDARY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

WHY I THINK I MIGHT ENJOY THIS CAREER

CAREER EXPLORATION #3

WHAT I FOUND OUT ABOUT THE JOB

SOME OF THE DUTIES OF THE JOB

EXPECTED SALARY

JOB WORKPLACE / LOCATION

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING REQUIRED

SECONDARY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

WHY I THINK I MIGHT ENJOY THIS CAREER

MY POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION PLAN

AREA OF STUDY

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION

PROGRAM

APPLICATION DEADLINE

INSTITUTION ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

SPECIFIC COURSE PREREQUISITES (IF ANY)

BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS TO APPLY FOR

WHERE TO GO?

When choosing a post-secondary institution, you might want to think about other things in addition to the programs and courses they offer. Use these questions and your answers to help you decide what post-secondary institution is a good fit for you. Compare your preferences to the information you find about potential post-secondary institutes.

LOCATION

- Do you want a local institution near home, or do you want to move away?
- Do you want to be in the big city or a smaller town?
- Do you want to stay in BC or are you willing to go outside of the province to access the best program?
- Do you want to attend a First Nation controlled institution?

SIZE

- Would you prefer a large campus or a smaller campus?
- Will you be able to handle large classes of several hundred students, or would you prefer a program that has fewer students per instructor?

HOUSING

- Do you want to live in student housing if it is available?

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- What types of activities would you like to participate in: sports, drama, student newspaper, student council? (Note that larger institutions usually have more opportunities.)

FIRST NATIONS FOCUS

- How important is it for you to attend an institution or a program that has a First Nations or Indigenous focus? Some post-secondary institutions are run by First Nations. Other institutions include programs and courses based on First Nations content.

FINANCIAL PLANNING WORKSHEET

How much do you need to budget for the first year after you graduate? You will need to do some research on estimated costs depending on what part of the province you will be living/going to school in.

LIVING EXPENSES	MONTHLY AMOUNT
HOUSING	
Rent	
Electricity/Gas	
Cable/Internet	
Insurance	
TRANSPORTATION	
Bus	
Car payments	
Gas	
Insurance	
Parking	
Travel to and from home community	
FOOD	
PERSONAL CARE	
Toiletries	
Hair & skin products	
Clothing	
Laundry	
ENTERTAINMENT	
MISCELLANEOUS	
Travel home	
Gifts	
Other	
Funding for emergencies	
TOTAL PER MONTH	
Estimate costs by the month, then multiply by 12 for average yearly estimate.	
TOTAL LIVING EXPENSES FOR YEAR	

EDUCATION EXPENSES	AMOUNT
Tuition	
Books and Supplies	
TOTAL EDUCATION EXPENSES	
ADD: LIVING EXPENSES	
TOTAL YEARLY EXPENSES	

INCOME	AMOUNT
Employment	
Scholarships/Bursaries	
First Nations Funding	
Savings	
Family Contribution	
Student Loans	
Other	
TOTAL INCOME	

BUDGET CALCULATION
TOTAL INCOME
MINUS
TOTAL EXPENSES
EQUALS
BALANCE

CHECKLIST: BUILDING YOUR CAREER PATH

- I know my interests and skills
- I know the general field that I would like to work in
- I have set my career goal
- I know what Grade 10, 11, and 12 courses I need for graduation
- I know the difference between the Dogwood Diploma and the Evergreen Certificate
- I know the difference between the Dogwood Diploma (80 credits) and the Adult Dogwood Diploma (20 credits)
- I have researched post-secondary options
- I understand the types of courses I will need to take at the post-secondary level
- I know the course prerequisites I need for my post-secondary choices
- I know the post-secondary entrance requirements

PART SEVEN

▶ CONCLUSIONS

The topic of career and education planning is very important. First Nations students should be able to dream big, and they should receive adequate support so they can achieve their goals.

Education and career planning can be complicated. Today's world is changing rapidly. New technologies and businesses will continue to create exciting new opportunities. Career paths are continually evolving; what is needed for success in the work force is constantly shifting, and many of the post-secondary programs that exist today are different from those of the past.

Making positive choices requires careful planning. Teachers, parents and students need to work together to understand the range of options available to students. It is also important to know what questions to ask, who can offer help, and how to address any challenges that might arise.

First Nations students can be prepared to find paths that are right for them. That's why this resource was developed. It is meant to provide some useful suggestions for getting started on the education and career planning journey. We hope that it helps students, parents, and families – working with teachers – start preparing for the future, no matter what stage of schooling students are at. It is never too early – and never too late – to begin thinking carefully about where students want to go and how they can get there.

We wish everyone all the best in navigating this exciting time of life, with all the possibilities ahead.

APPENDIX ONE

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS OPERATED BY A PARTICIPATING FIRST NATION

Some First Nations in BC that have signed education self-government agreements as part of the First Nations education jurisdiction initiative have now become Participating First Nations (PFNs).

- ▶ Students enrolled in First Nations schools that are operated by a PFN can continue to receive the Dogwood Diploma issued by the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care, which requires that the students earn all of the credits and fulfill the requirements for the Dogwood Diploma described throughout this Handbook.
- ▶ In addition, at the request of a PFN, the First Nations Education Authority (FNEA) (which is the regulatory body that is responsible for implementing some key First Nations education jurisdiction responsibilities for PFNs) may issue an FNEA Graduation Certificate to students who meet the specific requirements for that certificate.
- ▶ Students may receive the Dogwood Diploma and the FNEA Graduation Certificate if they meet the requirements for both.

In order to receive an FNEA Graduation Certificate, a student must complete the following.

REQUIRED COURSES (64 CREDITS)	MINIMUM CREDITS
First Nations Language and Culture 10	4
First Nations Language and Culture 11	4
First Nations Language and Culture 12	4
English First Peoples 10*	4
English First Peoples 11 *	4
English First Peoples 12*	4
A Mathematics 10 *	4

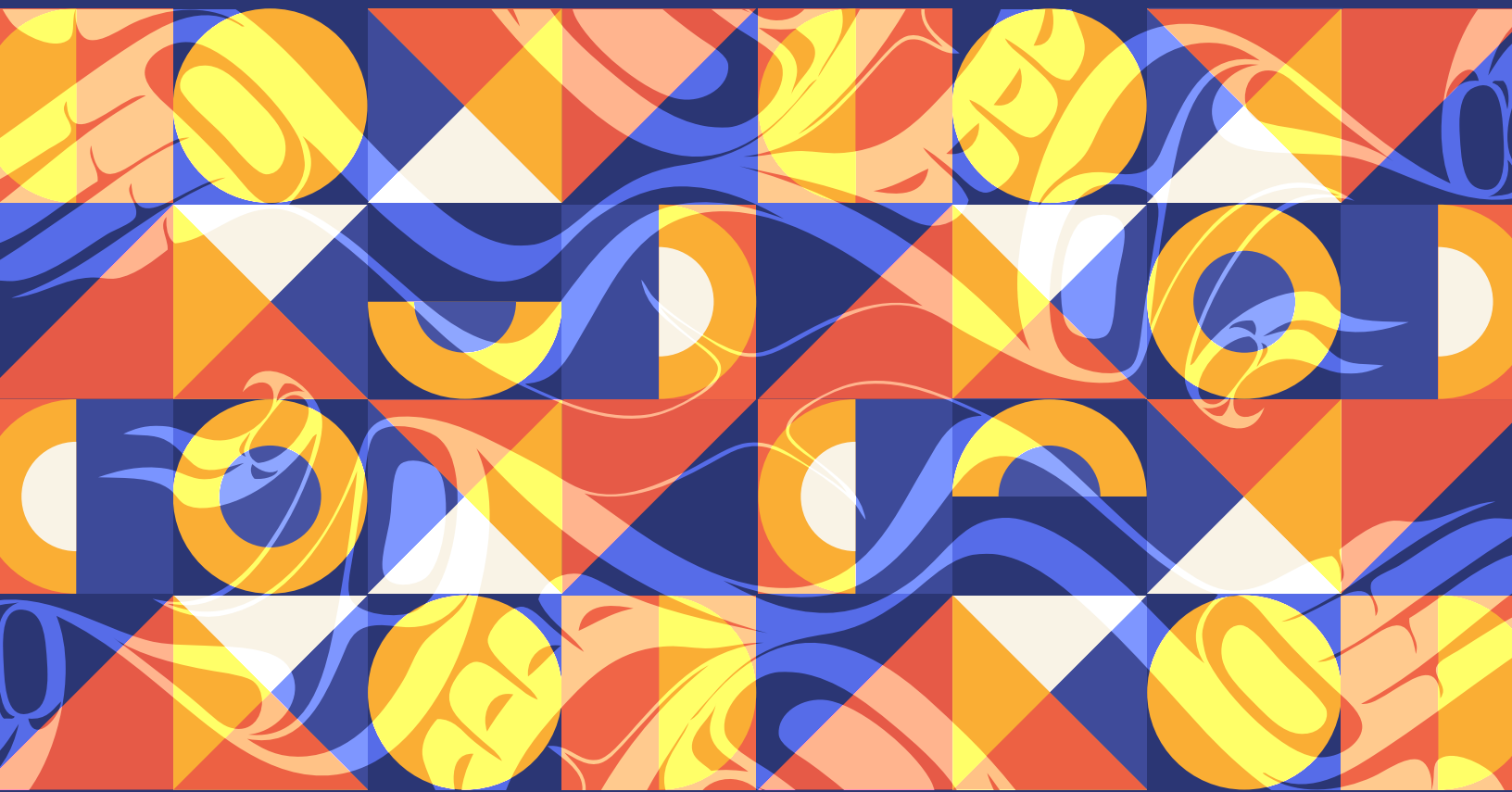
REQUIRED COURSES (64 CREDITS)	MINIMUM CREDITS
A Mathematics 11 or 12 *	4
Arts Education OR Applied Design, Skills, and Tech 10, 11 or 12 *	4
Social Studies 10 *	4
BC First Peoples 12 or Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12 *	4
Career-Life Education AND Career-Life Connections *	8
Science 10 *	4
A Science 11 or 12 *	4
Physical and Health Education 10 *	4
ELECTIVE COURSES (16 CREDITS)	
Four additional Grade 10-12 courses	

*Explanatory Note: In order for a student to be granted both the FNEA Graduation Certificate and the Ministry of Education Dogwood Diploma, the courses indicated with an * above must be BC Ministry of Education-developed courses. Additionally, as described in this Handbook, in order to be awarded the Dogwood Diploma, students must complete a minimum of 16 credits at the Grade 12 level, including a required Language Arts 12 course and Career Life Connections, and at least 4 credits must have an Indigenous focus. The Dogwood Diploma also requires that students write the Ministry of Education Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment and Grades 10 and 12 Literacy Assessments, described in this Handbook, as well.

PFNs may also choose to offer their own PFN Graduation Certificate. In that case, the requirements would be determined by the PFN.

- ▶ Any families who are members of a PFN are welcome to contact the FNEA for further information at graduation@fneajurisdiction.ca.





FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION STEERING COMMITTEE
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