

# 1 What You Need to Graduate

## At a Glance

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

For Grade 10 students entering the Graduation Program in 2017/18, the table below provides an overview of what you need to graduate:

- 52 credits from required courses
- 28 credits from electives

Preparing now will help ensure you get the credits you need to achieve your goals. Graduation requirements are introduced in Planning 10. For more help, talk to your teacher or school counsellor.

Special rules apply to Programme Francophone and French Immersion students pursuing both English and French Dogwood Diplomas (“Dual Dogwoods”). Speak to your counsellor for information.

- More information about required courses can be found on Page 5.
- More information about elective credits can be found on Page 7.

REQUIRED COURSES	
SUBJECT AREA	Minimum Credits
Planning 10	4
Career Life Connections (Capstone Project)	4
a Language Arts 10*	4
a Language Arts 11*	4
a Language Arts 12*	4
a Mathematics 10*	4
a Mathematics 11 or 12*	4
a Fine Arts and/or Applied Skills 10, 11 or 12*	4
a Social Studies 10	4
a Social Studies 11 or 12*	4
a Science 10	4
a Science 11 or 12*	4
Physical Education 10	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52</b>
ELECTIVE CREDITS	
Students must earn at least 28 elective credits from Grade 10-12 courses.	<b>28</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>80 credits**</b>
* See pages 5-7 for eligible courses.	
** Of the 80 credits for graduation, at least 16 must be at the Grade 12 level, including a Grade 12 Language Arts course. Others may be required courses or elective credits.	

GRADUATION ASSESSEMENTS	
Numeracy Assessment	
Literacy Assessment	

## Important Notice Regarding Upcoming Changes to Graduation Requirements

Graduation requirements will be changing a bit in the near future. The biggest change involves replacing Planning 10 and Graduation Transitions with new Career Education courses. But rest assured courses that you take in 2017/18 that count toward graduation will still count toward graduation under the new requirements. Information can be found at <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/graduation-info>. If you have any questions, talk to your school counsellor.

## Required Courses

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

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

### Planning 10

This course helps you build the skills you need to make informed choices about your future. In Planning 10, you plan for your Graduation Program. The skills you develop in Planning 10 will also 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.

### Career Life Connections & Capstone Project

Career Life Connections and your Capstone Project require you to reflect on your knowledge and abilities, and to plan for life after graduation. You will learn about this course in Planning 10, check with your school to find out how and when you will complete this required course.

Career Life Connections (including your Capstone Project) will replace Graduation Transitions in the 2019/20 school year, when graduation requirements change. Your school will provide you with information about the new required course. Until graduation requirements change, students are expected to engage in and record at least 150 minutes per week of moderate to vigorous physical activity, which is a required component of Graduation Transitions.

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

### Language Arts 10, 11 and 12

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

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

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

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

### Mathematics 10 and 11 or 12

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Fine Arts and Applied Skills 10, 11, 12

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

- Fine Arts include Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts.
- Applied Skills include Business Education, Home Economics, Information Technology, Technology Education, and Work Experience (including Youth Work in Trades).

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

### Social Studies 10 and 11 or 12

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

To graduate, you must complete a Grade 10 Social Studies course. You must also complete a Social Studies 11 or 12 course, such as Social Studies 11, Civic Studies 11 or BC First Nations Studies 12.

- Fine Arts include Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts.
- Applied Skills include Business Education, Home Economics, Information Technology, Technology Education, and Work Experience (including Youth Work in Trades Program).

- Check with your school to see which options are available.

## Science 10 and 11 or 12

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

To graduate, you must complete a Grade 10 science course. You must also complete a second science course at the Grade 11 or 12 level. Some options are agriculture, applications of physics, biology, chemistry, earth science, forestry, geology, and science and technology. Check with your school to see what options are available.

## Physical Education 10

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

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

# Elective Credits

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

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

Choose elective credits based on your interests, abilities, plans and courses available to you. If you plan to continue school beyond Grade 12, you may need certain courses to enter the program you want. (You'll learn more about post-secondary entry requirements in Planning 10.)

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

# Graduation Assessments

Students starting the Graduation Program (that is, entering Grade 10) in the 2017/18 school year will need to write two graduation assessments in order to graduate:

- numeracy assessment
- literacy assessment

These assessments are currently being developed. You will be able to write the numeracy assessment starting January 2018, and the literacy assessment starting January 2020. You will learn more about these assessments during the school year as information becomes available. If you have any questions, talk to your school counsellor.

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

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

Assessment results can be accessed on the Ministry transcript website at: [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/transcript](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/transcript).