

# B.C. Graduation Program Implementation Guide

## Grades 10 to 12

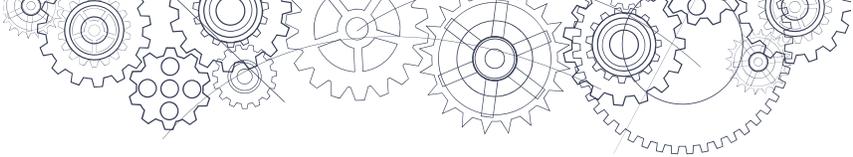
Effective July 2019



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

Ministry of  
Education

December 2018



## MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

British Columbia's (B.C.) education system is consistently one of the best in the world and has been recognized internationally for its excellence. Student success is our number-one goal, and we're achieving it by supporting strong leadership and quality teaching in schools, keeping our standards high, and monitoring our progress and achievement so we can make continuous improvements. We are driving student success forward by introducing a new curriculum with our B.C. Graduation Program that will equip Grade 10-12 students with the skills they need to adapt and thrive well into the future.

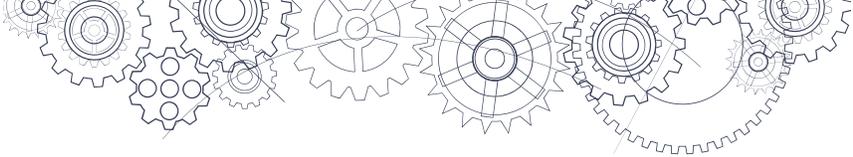
The world is changing rapidly and radically. Today's students will likely experience multiple careers before they retire, in workplaces and industries that are vastly different from the ones we know now. For these students to be successful, we need to teach them to never stop learning, to embrace technology, and to develop skills that are valuable to every career – communication, collaboration, and critical thinking.

The ministry has worked with educators, school districts, post-secondary institutions, and employers from various industries to update B.C.'s Graduation Program to ensure our students have the best possible chance for future success. We've heard what they want from B.C.'s graduates, and this program will help students develop their full potential and meet those expectations.

This Graduation Program will support students through their final years of high school. Through a strong curriculum, students will be proficient in foundational skills like reading, writing, and math, while also developing a range of other skills that employers and post-secondary institutions are looking for – creative and analytical skills, entrepreneurial skills, leadership skills, social and personal awareness skills, and digital and technical skills. The learning standards and assessments will remain rigorous, while also supporting student choice.

All these elements in the B.C. Graduation Program and Grade 10-12 curriculum are supporting our mandate of ensuring students become educated citizens. They'll learn to look at the world in different ways to understand varying worldviews, including Indigenous perspectives. They'll also be encouraged to take ownership of their health, learning, and personal growth, so they can participate and contribute to a healthy society and sustainable economy.

This is an exciting time to be a student in B.C. Under the guidance of this program and their dedicated teachers and school leaders, all students will have the opportunity to explore where they want to go in life and build bright futures for themselves. I wish all students the best on their journey through their graduation years and beyond.



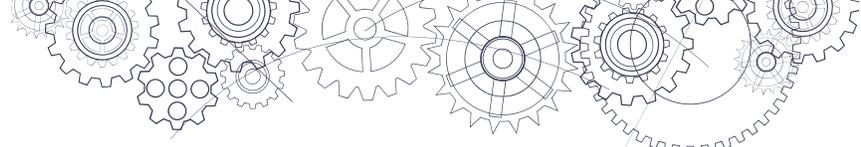
# AT A GLANCE

## What Has Changed

1. **Curriculum** – more learner-focused and flexible, with a focus on Big Ideas, Core Competencies, and Learning Standards; and Indigenous knowledges and perspectives thrive in the curriculum.
2. **New course structures** (see summary in following pages):
  - i. 8-credits of Career Education with flexible delivery options and a Capstone.
  - ii. Courses designed to easily allow different teaching methods and be accessible to all students.
  - iii. Health Education combined with Physical Education.
3. **Three new Provincial Graduation Assessments** – two Literacy Assessments and one Numeracy Assessment aligned with the curriculum.
4. **Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) Guidelines** updated to align with the curriculum.

## What Is Staying the Same

1. High curricular standards focused on foundational skills (reading, writing, math).
2. 80 credits required to graduate (52 required credits and 28 elective credits) representing a breadth of subject areas.
3. Letter grades and percentages appear on formal reports and transcripts for all courses taken.
4. No changes to independent directed studies, external credentials, course challenges, dual credit courses, equivalency credits or scholarships.



## Curriculum Structure

**1 Focus on learner-centred and flexible learning.** Personalized options enable students to participate in choosing course content. An inquiry-based, hands-on approach encourages students to take more personal responsibility for learning.

Teachers have greater flexibility in creating learning environments that are relevant, engaging, and novel, promoting local contexts and place-based learning.

This document serves as a summary guide to assist students, parents, teachers, and administrators with the implementation of the new B.C. Graduation Program.

See the [B.C. Graduation Program Policy Guide](#) for more details.

**2 Curriculum structure has common components**, regardless of subject. These components work together to support deep learning.

- **Core Competencies** (what students will be able to demonstrate) – intellectual, personal, and social proficiencies demonstrated across curricular areas.
- **Big Ideas** (what students will understand) – generalizations, principles, key concepts.
- **Learning Standards – Curricular Competencies** (what students will be able to demonstrate) – skills, strategies, processes demonstrated within a curricular area.
- **Learning Standards – Content** (what students will know) – essential topics and knowledge.

**3 Provide learners with a strong foundation of Core Competencies**, competencies that are driven by global and technological changes. These competencies encompass the intellectual, personal and social skills students need to develop for success in life beyond school and to become educated citizens.

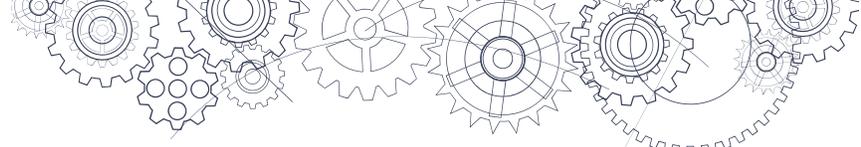
Core Competencies are embedded within the learning standards of the curriculum. They come into play when students are engaged in “doing” in any area of learning. Together, the literacy and numeracy foundations and core competencies contribute to the development of educated citizens. The Core Competencies are:

- **Communication** – the set of abilities that students use to impart and exchange information, experiences, and ideas to explore the world around them, and to understand and effectively engage in the use of digital media.
- **Thinking** – the knowledge, skills, and processes we associate with intellectual development.
- **Personal and Social** – the set of abilities that relate to students’ identity in the world, both as individuals and as members of their community and society.

**4 Courses are not designed to stream students into easier or difficult pathways.** All courses allow for different teaching methods and all students are able to access any course.

**5 Indigenous worldviews, perspectives, and content thrive in all curriculum (K-12).** For example, place-based learning and emphasis on Indigenous ways of knowing reflect the First Peoples Principles of Learning in the curriculum.

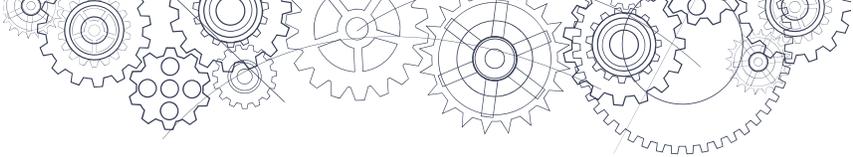
**6 Literacy and numeracy skills are developed through applications in all curricular areas.** A sustained focus is on reading, writing, and math as the core skills necessary for all students, including applications in the graduation years.



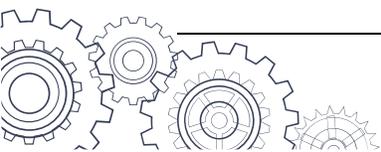
## Course Structures

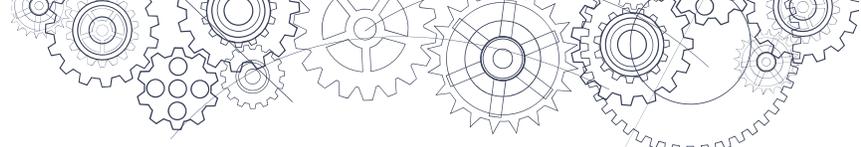
**7** Expanded course options in **each subject area**. The course options reflect a broad diversity and respond to emerging trends and student preference.

- a) English Language Arts and English First Peoples:** Require 12 credits (4 credits in each grade) for graduation. Choices available for students: 9 courses for Grade 10; 8 courses for Grade 11; 7 courses for Grade 12. English Studies 12 or English First Peoples 12 is required by all students for graduation. More flexibility and choice options are available for students in English Language Arts 10, which can be taken as two 2-credit courses.
- b) Français langue première:** Require 12 credits of Français langue première for graduation. Choices available for students: 3 courses for Grade 10; 3 courses for Grade 11; 1 course for Grade 12. More flexibility and choice options are available for students in Français langue première 10 and 11 courses.  
**Français langue seconde-immersion:** Require 12 credits of Français langue seconde-immersion. Choices available for students: 1 course for Grade 10; 4 courses for Grade 11; 5 courses for Grade 12, including 1 required course and 4 optional courses taken as 4-credit courses.
- c) Mathematics:** Require 8 credits for graduation during Grades 10-12 (4 credits in Grade 10 and 4 credits in either Grade 11 or 12). Additional choice options are available for students in Grades 10-12 such as Geometry 12, History of Math 11, and Computer Science 12.
- d) Science:** Require 8 credits for graduation during Grades 10-12 (4 credits in Grade 10 and 4 credits in either Grade 11 or 12). Additional choice options are available for students in Grades 11 and 12, such as Specialized Science 12, Science for Citizens 11, and Environmental Science 11 and 12.
- e) Social Studies:** Require 8 credits for graduation between Grades 10-12 (4 credits in Grade 10 and 4 credits in either Grade 11 or 12). Additional choice options are available for students in Grades 11 and 12, such as Explorations in Social Studies 11, Genocide Studies 12, Asian Studies 12, and Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12. The additional choice options provide greater flexibility when selecting social studies courses for credit toward graduation.
- f) Second Languages:** 9 second languages aligned with curriculum model: American Sign Language, Core French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Punjabi, and Spanish. An updated template is being developed for additional locally developed international languages curriculum.  
**Indigenous Languages:** An updated template being developed for Indigenous languages.
- g) Arts Education:** Require 4 credits for graduation in either Arts Education or Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies, or a combination of both; available as 2- or 4-credit courses in Grade 10, and as 4-credit courses in Grades 11 and 12, depending on school. Additional choice options are available for students in Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts in Grades 10-12.



- h) Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies:** Require 4 credits for graduation in either Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies or Arts Education, or a combination of both; available as 2- or 4-credit courses in Grade 10, and as 4-credit courses in Grades 11 and 12, depending on school. Additional choice options are available for students in Media Design, Business Education, Home Economics, Culinary Arts, Technology Education, and Information and Communications Technology in Grades 10-12.
- i) Career-Life Education:** 8 credits of Career Education required for graduation as two courses – Career-Life Education (CLE) and Career-Life Connections (CLC):
- CLE and CLC do not have a designated grade level, allowing flexible delivery.
  - Courses can be taken as a single 4-credit course, or as two 2-credit courses.
  - A final grade will be provided for CLC (compared to “Requirements Met” used in Graduation Transitions).
  - 30 hours of work experience or career-life explorations included as a component of CLC.
  - A Capstone is included as a component of CLC.
- j) Work Experience and Apprenticeship Training:** Students are able to earn credits toward graduation for work-based hours in a real-world setting, including where students paid and unpaid work employment aligns with their career/educational path. Program guides are being updated to align with curriculum, including updated learning standards and greater flexibility.
- k) Physical and Health Education:** Health Education is combined with Physical Education. Additional choice options are available for students in Grades 11 and 12. Daily Physical Activity is embedded within the curriculum and is no longer a stand-alone graduation requirement.





## Assessment

Three new Provincial Graduation Assessments are being introduced to align with the new curriculum. The assessments provide system-level information (schools, districts, and Province) about student performance in literacy and numeracy and communicate feedback to students on their proficiency in numeracy and literacy.

All courses are fully assessed in the classroom, at the discretion of teachers, with a focus on formative assessment.

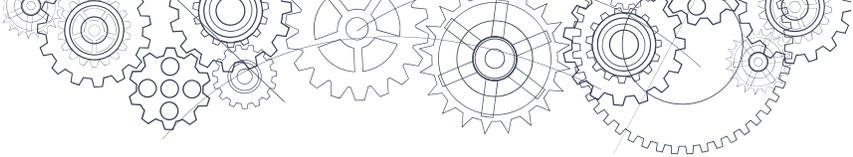
### 8 **Provincial Graduation Assessments**

- Three Provincial Graduation Assessments, aligned with the curriculum, in literacy and numeracy are required for graduation.
- The Graduation Numeracy Assessment was implemented in January 2018. The Grade 10 Graduation Literacy Assessment will be introduced in 2019/20 and the Grade 12 Graduation Literacy Assessment will be introduced in 2020/21.
- The following policies are associated with the new assessments:
  - Required for graduation.
  - Stand-alone assessments (not tied to a specific course).
  - Students are expected to take the Graduation Numeracy Assessment in their Grade 10 year.
  - Students are expected to take a Graduation Literacy Assessment in their Grade 10 and in their Grade 12 year.
  - Students must complete each assessment for graduation. There will be an opportunity for students to re-write the assessments to improve their achievement level.
  - Scored on a proficiency scale.
  - The student's best outcome for each of the Provincial Graduation Assessments will be recorded on their final transcript.

### 9 **Student Progress Reporting**

- No planned changes to the Grades 10-12 reporting policy for 2018/19 or 2019/20.
- Letter grades and percentages continue to appear on formal report cards and transcripts for all courses taken.
- Graduation Numeracy and Literacy Assessments are reported using a proficiency scale.

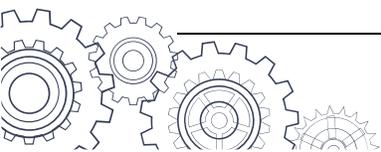
The 2019/20 Handbook of Procedures is being revised to reflect the procedures associated with the updated policies of the B.C. Graduation Program. The revised handbook will be released in August 2019.

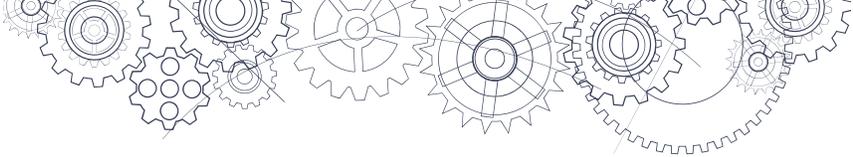


## Graduation Requirements

# 10

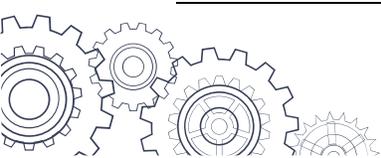
- All students required to obtain at least 80 credits total (52 required credits + 28 elective credits).
- Three mandatory stand-alone provincial assessments: numeracy in Grade 10 and literacy in Grades 10 and 12.
- 8 credits of career education across two courses required for graduation.
- No changes to graduation scholarships.
- No changes to independent directed studies, external credentials, course challenges, dual-credit courses, or equivalency credits.
- BAA courses must now be reviewed periodically and revised according to the new BAA guidelines: July 1, 2018 (Grade 10) and July 1, 2019 (Grades 11 and 12).
- Requirements to graduate with a Dual Dogwood for Francophone and French Immersion students remain the same.





# Implementation Schedule

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
* Students graduating after June 30, 2018, are on the new B.C. Graduation Program.			
<b>Provincial 10-12 Curriculum</b>	Grade 10 provincial curriculum implemented (July 2018) Grade 11/12 provincial curriculum trial (July 2018)	Grade 11/12 provincial curriculum implemented (July 2019)	Full implementation continues (ongoing regular enhancements)
<b>Changes to Provincial Course Structures</b>	Discontinuation of Planning 10 (June 2018) Introduction of Career-Life Education (July 2018)	Discontinuation of Graduation Transitions (June 2019) Introduction of Career-Life Connections (includes Capstone) (July 2019) Career-Life Connections will be graded upon completion (alignment with Student Progress Report Order) (July 2019)	
	Discontinuation of Daily Physical Activity (DPA) requirement for Grade 10 (July 2018) DPA included as part of new Physical and Health Education curriculum for Grades K-10	Discontinuation of DPA requirement for Grade 11/12 (July 2019). No longer a separate requirement within Graduation Transitions (as Graduation Transitions is discontinued) (June 2019)	
	All Social Studies 11 and 12 courses meet requirements for graduation (July 2018)		
<b>Changes to Additional Credit Options</b>	All BAA Grade 10 courses to be aligned with provincial curriculum structure (July 2018)	All BAA Grade 11/12 courses to be aligned with provincial curriculum structure (July 2019)	Incremental enhancements to policies associated with external credentials, dual credit, equivalency, challenge, independent directed studies with the lens of further transformation of the Graduation Program (June 2021)
<b>Provincial Assessments</b>	<b>Full Numeracy Assessment</b> implementation continues Numeracy Assessment – November 2018, January 2019 and June 2019	<b>Full Numeracy Assessment</b> implementation continues	<b>Full Numeracy Assessment</b> implementation continues
		<b>Literacy Assessment is a requirement in Grade 10 for graduation beginning 2019/20</b>	<b>Literacy Assessment 10</b> implementation continues. <b>Literacy Assessment 12 is a requirement in Grade 12 for graduation beginning 2020/21</b> Continuous improvement to align BC's assessment program with global competencies

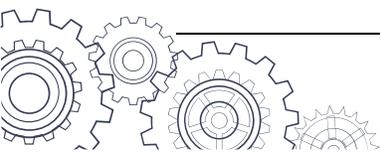


	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
<b>Student Progress Reporting</b>			<i>Possible new 10-12 reporting policy implemented</i>
<b>Scholarships and Transcripts</b>	Scale used to report results on the student transcript for the <b>Numeracy Assessment</b> .	Scale used to report results on the student transcript for the <b>Numeracy Assessment and the Literacy Assessments</b> (June 2020) Possible changes to align <b>Scholarship Program</b> with new provincial assessments (June 2019)	

## Implementation for Students During Transition

### Provincial Graduation Assessments

<p><b>If I'm currently in Grade 9...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2018/19 (Grade 9) – No provincial assessment</li> <li>• In 2019/20 (Grade 10) – Grade 10 Graduation Numeracy Assessment and Grade 10 Graduation Literacy Assessment</li> <li>• In 2020/21 (Grade 11) – No provincial assessment</li> <li>• In 2021/22 (Grade 12) – Grade 12 Graduation Literacy Assessment</li> </ul>
<p><b>If I'm currently in Grade 10...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2018/19 (Grade 10) – Grade 10 Graduation Numeracy Assessment</li> <li>• In 2019/20 (Grade 11) – Grade 10 Graduation Numeracy Assessment (if not already written)</li> <li>• In 2020/21 (Grade 12) – Grade 12 Graduation Literacy Assessment</li> </ul>
<p><b>If I'm currently in Grade 11...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2018/19 (Grade 11) – Grade 10 Graduation Numeracy Assessment (if not already written)</li> <li>• In 2019/20 (Grade 12) – Grade 10 Graduation Numeracy Assessment (if not already written)</li> </ul>
<p><b>If I'm currently in Grade 12...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2018/19 (Grade 12) – Language Arts 12 provincial exam</li> <li>• In 2018/19 (Grade 12) – Grade 10 Graduation Numeracy Assessment (if not already written and if Math 10 provincial exam not written)</li> </ul>



## Career Life Education

For the 2018/19 school year, the following career education courses will be used in all BC schools:

- Career Life Education
- Graduation Transitions

For the 2019/20 school year and beyond, the following career education courses will be used in all BC schools:

- Career Life Education
- Career Life Connections

Students on the B.C. Graduation Program will be able to meet the career education graduation requirement with any of the following combinations:

- Planning 10/Graduation Transitions
- Planning 10/Career Life Connections
- Career Life Education/Graduation Transitions
- Career Life Education/Career Life Connections



We welcome your feedback!

Email your questions  
and comments to  
[curriculum@gov.bc.ca](mailto:curriculum@gov.bc.ca)

