

# British Columbia Educational System

Basic secondary education in British Columbia is usually composed of Grades 10, 11 and 12, though some schools may include Grade 9. This can vary depending on school district.

## DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

In order to graduate, students must successfully complete a minimum of 52 credits in Grades 11 and 12.

A minimum of 28 credits must be earned in Foundation Studies, which includes Language Arts 11 (4 credits), Languages Arts 12 (4 credits), Social Studies (4 credits), Mathematics (4 credits), Science (4 credits), Fine Arts (2 credits), and Career and Personal Planning (4 credits) in which one credit (30 hours) of work experience must be earned in either grade 11 or 12.

A minimum of 24 credits must be earned in the area of Selected Studies, where students choose courses which will support their particular career plans (university or college, vocational, technical, etc.). Of these 24 credits, 10 credits must be for provincial Grade 12 courses.

In order for an international student to receive credit for, and graduate from, a British Columbia secondary course, he/she must attend both Grade 11 and Grade 12 at an accredited British Columbia high school.

High schools specialize in different areas, for example, arts, math, science, athletics, where students can focus on their particular interest, while completing the required courses for graduation.

## HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULING SYSTEM

High schools differ in the choice of semesters or terms, in which students complete their studies. In the semester system, students complete courses taken during a particular semester, while in a term system, courses are distributed over the course of the school year, and credits are assigned accordingly.

Most schools operate on the semester system beginning in September, and the spring semester beginning in late January or early February. Schools operate on a 10-month school year, from September to June, with a two-week break at Christmas, one week break in mid-March, and a 2-month holiday in July and August.

### **Education in British Columbia**

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/bced/>