

New Indigenous-Focused Graduation Requirement



Change to the B.C. Graduation Program

As part of the Province of British Columbia's commitments to truth, reconciliation, and anti-racism, the Ministry of Education is implementing an Indigenous-focused graduation requirement for all students. The proposed model for this change to the Graduation Program would allow secondary students to meet the new requirement through a variety of existing and new course options (*see page 2 for more details*).

The Ministry of Education will be engaging with Indigenous communities, the education sector, and the public on the implementation plan for the new requirement.

Background

This change represents an important next step towards lasting and meaningful reconciliation, building on work to date to incorporate Indigenous content and perspectives into the provincial curriculum, educator professional development, and professional standards for certified educators in B.C. The new graduation requirement will provide all B.C. students with the necessary time and opportunity to develop deeper understandings of the experiences, cultures, and histories of Indigenous peoples in Canada, in support of the K-12 mandate to develop the Educated Citizen.

The Indigenous-focused graduation requirement responds to commitments in the [Draft Action Plan](#) for the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, and is consistent with the obligations in the [BC Tripartite Education Agreement](#). The new requirement also reflects ongoing work by the Ministry of Education, FNESC, and other education partners to build capacity within the public education system to address Indigenous-specific racism.

The First Nations Leadership Council, FNESC, and education partners including the British Columbia School Trustees Association, British Columbia Teachers' Federation, and the British Columbia Association of Institutes and Universities, have previously expressed support for a new Indigenous-focused graduation requirement.

Next Steps

Implementation of the new requirement is expected to involve a phased-in approach that would come into full effect in the 2023/24 school year. An online public engagement process, to gather feedback on the proposed model for the new graduation requirement, will be launched on the [govTogetherBC website](#) on March 7, 2022. The Ministry of Education will also consult with Indigenous communities and the K-12 sector in March and April, and FNESC will facilitate information sharing with First Nations. The results of these activities will inform a finalized implementation plan for the new requirement, that will be made available in August 2022.

Proposed Model for an Indigenous-Focused Graduation Requirement

The proposed change to the B.C. Graduation Program would require that 4 credits of the current 80 credit requirements for the BC Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma) include an Indigenous-focused course(s). Eligible options would include the current provincial Indigenous-focused courses, a locally developed BAA course, or a First Nations language course (*see proposed course list below*). Some of these courses also already satisfy other graduation requirements in Language Arts or Social Studies, and otherwise could be taken as electives.

Provincial Courses

- BC First Peoples 12
- Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12
- English First Peoples – Literacy Studies 10*
- English First Peoples – New Media 10*
- English First Peoples – Spoken Language 10*
- English First Peoples – Writing 10*
- English First Peoples – Literary Studies + New Media 11
- English First Peoples – Literary Studies + Spoken Language 11
- English First Peoples – Literary Studies + Writing 11
- English First Peoples 12

* INDICATES 2 CREDIT COURSE
(WOULD MEET HALF OF THE REQUIREMENT)

Locally Developed Courses

Boards/authorities could authorize locally developed courses totalling four or more credits to enable students to meet this requirement. Engaging local First Nations and /or Indigenous leaders in developing such courses would be strongly encouraged, to help ensure that any such locally developed courses would contain appropriate content that is presented respectfully.

First Nations Language Courses (Grade 10-12 level)

- Gitxsanimx ~ Gitxsanimax 5 to 12 and Introductory Gitxsanimx ~ Gitxsanimax 11
- Halq'eméylem 5 to 12 and Introductory Halq'eméylem 11
- Heiltsuk 5 to 12 and Introductory Heiltsuk 11
- Hul'q'umi'num' 5 to 12 and Introductory Hul'q'umi'num' 11
- Kwak'wala 5 to 12 and Introductory Kwak'wala 11
- Liqwala/Kwak'wala 5 to 12 and Introductory Liqwala/Kwak'wala 11
- nsíylxcən 5 to 12 and Introductory nsíylxcən 11
- Nte?kepmxcin 5 to 12 and Introductory Nte?kepmxcin 11
- Nuučaan'ut 5 to 12 and Introductory Nuučaan'ut 11
- Secwepemctsin (Shuswap Language) 5 to 12 and Introductory Secwepemctsin 11
- SENĆOŦEN 5 to 12 and Introductory SENĆOŦEN 11
- Shashishalhem (Sechelt Language) 5 to 12 and Introductory Shashishalhem 11
- Sim'alga'xhl Nisga'a 5 to 12 and Introductory Sim'alga'xhl Nisga'a 11
- Sm'algyax 5 to 12 and Introductory Sm'algyax 11
- Stát'yemcets 5 to 12 and Introductory Stát'yemcets 11
- Tsek'ene 5 to 12 and Introductory Tsek'ene 11
- Upper St'at'imcets 5 to 12 and Introductory Upper St'at'imcets 11
- Xaayda Kil / Xaad Kil Grades 5 to 12 and Introductory Xaayda Kil / Xaad Kil 11