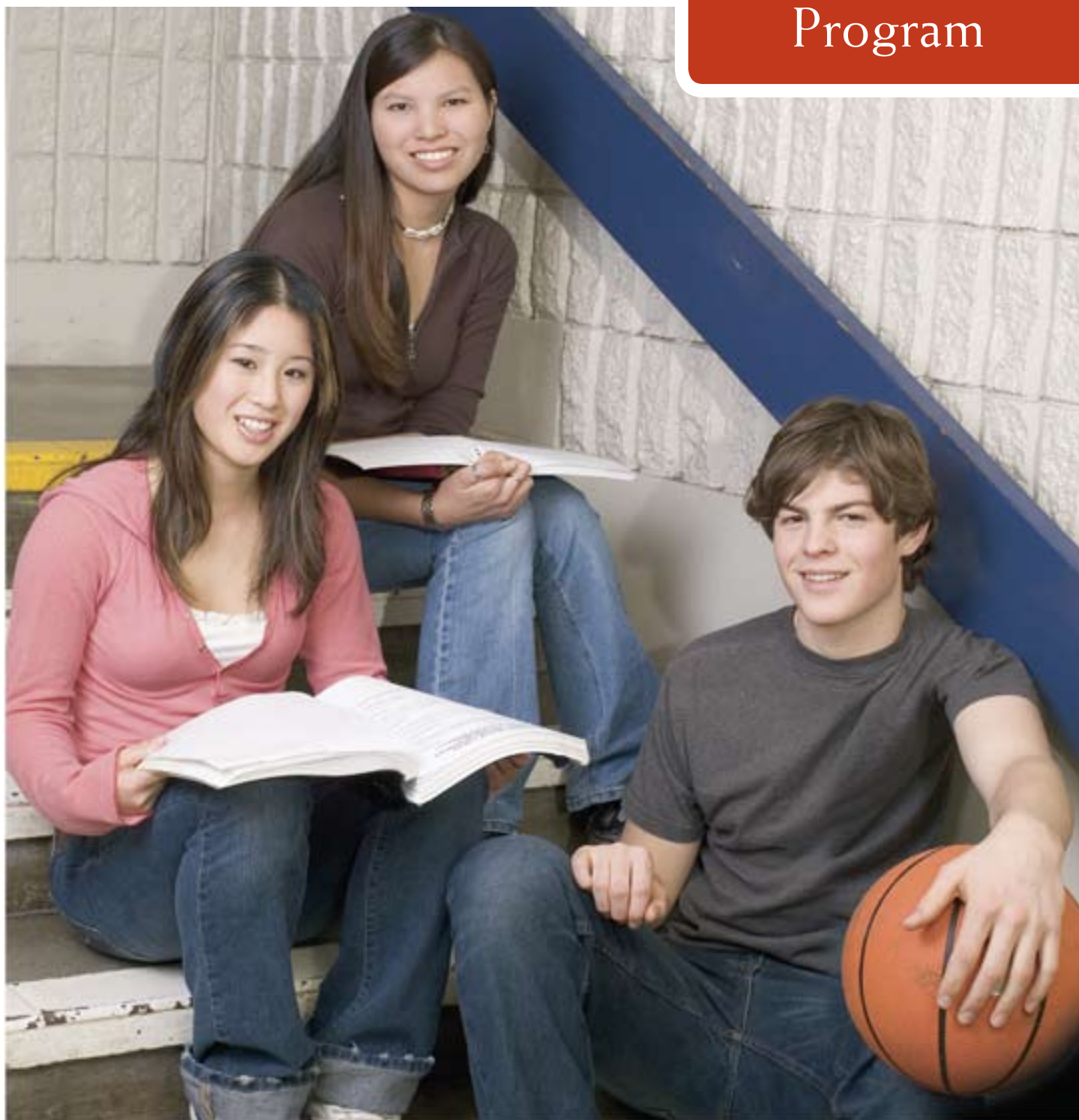


Grad Planner

2004
Graduation
Program



Welcome to the “2004” Graduation Program

You’re about to start a new chapter in your education – and that means you have a real chance to shape your future. For one thing, you’re going to make a lot of choices over the next three years. You’ll get to choose the subjects that interest you. You’ll have some choice about where and how you learn. Best of all, you have a chance to make the most of your potential. The Graduation Program is a chance for you to discover what you want to do in the future. This guide helps you get started. It explains what’s required and where you have choices. It also covers exams, scholarships, funding, and links to web sites with helpful information. It’s your guide to three of the most important years of your education – not just as a student, but as a unique individual. Use these years to learn, discover, grow, explore and try new things. And choose the path that best reflects your interests and your dreams. Your future starts here. Only you can make it great!

GRAD PLANNER: 2004 GRADUATION PROGRAM

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1 | What You Need to Graduate

At a Glance

Starting in Grade 10, you have a lot of choice about what you learn. But, in order to graduate with a Dogwood, every student in the Graduation Program has to pass certain basic courses, like English, math and science. The table below gives an overview of what you need to graduate:

- > 48 credits from required courses
- > 28 credits from elective courses
- > 4 credits for your Graduation Portfolio

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

Required Courses

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

Planning 10

This course helps build the skills you need to make smart choices about your future. The skills you develop in Planning 10 will help you 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.

In Planning 10, you start to plan your Graduation Program. You also start collecting evidence of your accomplishments for your Graduation Portfolio. (For more on Portfolios, see pages 7-9).

REQUIRED COURSES	
SUBJECT AREA	Minimum Credits
English 10	4
a Language Arts 11	4
a Language Arts 12	4
Social Studies 10	4
Social Studies 11 or BC First Nations Studies or Civic Studies 11	4
Science 10	4
a Science 11 or 12	4
a Mathematics 10	4
a Mathematics 11 or 12	4
Physical Education 10	4
Planning 10	4
a Fine Arts and/or Applied Skills 10, 11 or 12	4
Total	48 credits
ELECTIVE COURSES	
Students must earn at least 28 elective credits for Grade 10-12 courses.	28 credits
GRADUATION PORTFOLIO	
Students must earn 4 credits for Graduation Portfolio.	4 credits
OVERALL TOTAL	80 credits
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 or elective courses.	

Language Arts 10, 11 and 12

These courses are about communication. People succeed in school and life by reading and writing effectively. Gathering, organizing and presenting information effectively are also important communication skills. Language Arts 10 is required for graduation. At the Grade 11 level, some common choices are: English 11, Français Langue Première 11 or Communications 11. In Grade 12, you can choose from English 12, Français Langue Première 12, Technical and Professional Communications 12, Communications 12, or others that might be offered at your school. (You can take more than one; the list above refers to the minimum requirements.)

Mathematics 10, and 11 or 12

Math is about more than numbers. It's also about reasoning, solving problems and using logic. To graduate, everyone must complete a Grade 10 math 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. Depending on the school you attend, there could be many math options available to you. Three common options for math courses in grades 10-12 are:

Essentials of Mathematics: This course prepares you to use math at work and in your everyday life. It also prepares you for some post-secondary training, like applied and trades programs.

Applications of Mathematics: This course helps you use math in daily life and in a variety of careers. It prepares you for post-secondary programs that do not require calculus.

Principles of Mathematics: This is a more theoretical course, and you will probably need it for university entrance. It prepares you for the formal study of calculus in higher grades.

Fine Arts and Applied Skills 10, 11, or 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 courses.
- > Applied skills include business education, home economics, information technology and technology education.

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 become a responsible citizen. To graduate, you must complete Social Studies 10. You must also pass either Social Studies 11, Civic Studies 11 or BC First Nations Studies 12.

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

YOU'LL LEARN MORE ABOUT FINANCING YOUR FUTURE IN PLANNING 10.

DURING THE GRADUATION PROGRAM, YOU CAN SHAPE YOUR OWN FUTURE.

FOR A LIST OF AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE IN B.C., GO TO [WWW.BCAWARDSONLINE.SD61.BC.CA/](http://www.bcawardsonline.sd61.bc.ca/)

Physical Education 10

This course will help you maintain an active, healthy lifestyle. To graduate, you must complete Physical Education 10. You must also meet the physical activity standard for your Graduation Portfolio during grade 11 or 12. (For more on Portfolios, see pages 7-9.)



Elective Courses

To graduate, you need 28 credits from elective courses numbered 10, 11 or 12. That's in addition to the credits you need from required courses and your Graduation Portfolio. When you take two required courses in the same subject area, one will count as an elective. Electives are courses you choose for yourself, based on your interests, abilities, future plans, and what's available in your school or district. If you plan to continue school beyond Grade 12, remember that 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 booklet to learn about other ways of earning graduation credits.

Graduation Portfolio – What You Need to Know

Four of the 80 credits you need for graduation come from your Graduation Portfolio. It's a collection of evidence that proves you've developed more than academic skills. In today's world, you need all kinds of skills to succeed. You'll start work on your Portfolio this year and continue through Grade 12. Each Portfolio is unique, but all have these common elements:

- > Core (30%)
- > Choice (50%)
- > Presentation (20%)

Portfolio Core

30 per cent of your Graduation Portfolio mark comes from Portfolio Core. To graduate, you must complete all of the following six requirements. In each case, the heading refers to an Organizer.

Underneath is a brief description of what you'll have to do:

- > **Arts & Design** - Respond to an art, performance, or design work
- > **Community Involvement & Responsibility** - Participate cooperatively and respectfully in service activities
- > **Education & Career Planning** - Complete a graduation transition plan
- > **Employability Skills** - Complete 30 hours of work or volunteer experience
- > **Information Technology** - Use information technology skills
- > **Personal Health** - Complete 80 hours of moderate to intense physical activity

You'll learn more about meeting these requirements during Planning 10.

IDS IS A CHANCE TO DEVELOP YOUR OWN COURSE OF STUDY.

Portfolio Choice

Fifty per cent of your Graduation Portfolio mark comes from Portfolio Choice. This is your chance to expand on what you did in Portfolio Core. Choose one or more of the six Organizers listed above (in Portfolio Core). Then create or collect evidence to meet criteria related to those Organizers.

DID YOU KNOW?
THAT STUDYING OUT LOUD CAN HELP YOU REMEMBER UP TO FOUR TIMES BETTER?

Portfolio Presentation

Twenty per cent of your Graduation Portfolio mark comes from a final Presentation. This is your chance to highlight what you've accomplished. Your Presentation could take a variety of forms, including:

- > an interview
- > an event (like a Portfolio fair)
- > an electronic or multimedia presentation
- > a performance
- > a community event
- > a panel led by a teacher

DID YOU KNOW?
THAT YOUR BRAIN REMEMBERS THE FIRST AND LAST THINGS YOU LEARN BEST?

You will probably make your presentation in the second half of your Grade 12 school year. Decisions about the timing and format are made by individual schools.

Portfolio Assessment

Teachers assess your Portfolio throughout grades 10-12. You need 50 % to pass. You can meet most portfolio standards (except for the Presentation, physical activity requirements and graduation transition plan) at any time during your Graduation Program. The Grade 12 Passport Award of \$500 is based primarily on the Graduation Portfolio. For more on Graduation Portfolios, go to: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/portfolio

For more on Passport Awards, see: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards

The Graduation Portfolio For Families is a helpful booklet that you and your family can refer to over the next three years, as you assemble your Portfolio. To download a pdf file of the Family Guide, go to: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/portfolio/resources

2 | Getting Credits Toward Graduation

Course Credits

You'll probably earn most of your credits toward graduation the usual way – by successfully completing courses. But there are other ways of earning credits, and some of these might work for you. Read through the list of options below. For more information, talk to your school counsellor or go to: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/policy/policies/earning_credit_through.htm

Other Options

Equivalency (documented prior learning)

Have you completed a course outside a B.C. school? Did you earn a certificate that shows substantive learning outside school? If so, you might qualify for credit for an equivalent course in the B.C. school system. If you can document your learning (with a report card or transcript, for example) you can ask the school for an equivalency review. The review will determine whether you're entitled to credits and, if so, how many. If you went to a school where the classes were taught in a language other than English, you might qualify for credits for equivalent B.C. second language courses. For more on equivalency, talk to your school counsellor.

External Credentials

If you have achieved a high level of performance in areas outside school, you might earn credits for certain extra-curricular or learning activities. A few examples include: computer certification courses, Cadets, some driver education courses, involvement in provincial or national sports teams, and some music and dance courses. You might earn credit for these types of activities if you're active in them now or were in the recent past. Some external credentials count as "required course" credits, while others count as elective credits. For more information go to:

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/courseinfo/

Advanced Placement (AP) + International Baccalaureate (IB) Courses

These are for students whose future plans include university. There are lots of different options, and choices vary from school to school.

Course Challenge

Some students have important skills or learning that can't be verified. In other words, they have no paper (certificate, transcript, etc.) to verify that they took a course or met certain requirements. If you're in that position, you may be able to earn credits by challenging a course. Challenge is a process that assesses your knowledge and skills in certain areas. The goal is to determine whether you've met the learning outcomes for a similar course. If you have, you might get credit for the course without having to take it. Each school district has its own challenge process. Students in public schools cannot be charged a fee for challenging a course.

Independent Directed Studies (IDS)

If you have a particular interest in a specific subject area, you might want to think about Independent Directed Studies. This approach allows you to shape and follow your own course or courses, with a teacher's approval and supervision. IDS course credits count as electives. To qualify for IDS, you need the approval of the school principal to expand on one or more learning outcomes from any Ministry or Board/Authority Authorized course. (The school counsellor can help explain this.) Then you'll need to find a teacher to supervise your studies before you initiate your own course. You'll work independently. The teacher will support you and assess your performance.



Post-Secondary Courses

Most courses you complete at a B.C. post-secondary institution count toward graduation. The transcript is proof of your achievements. You will need to provide this proof to your school. In most cases, you can earn dual credits. That means you get credits toward your graduation and also toward a post-secondary credential. To get dual credits, you have to take either:

- > a post-secondary course from an institution in the British Columbia Transfer System (for a list of institutions, go to www.bccat.bc.ca) or
- > a post-secondary course offered in French in conjunction with Educacentre (www.educacentre.com).

The above post-secondary courses count as elective credits at the Grade 12 level.

Career Programs

Many schools offer specialized programs that help you explore careers or gain work experience. Some of these programs also help you develop workplace skills or credentials. Check to see if your school offers any of the following:

Industry Training Programs

These programs let you train for work while you're in secondary school, earn graduation credits, and possibly earn some money at the same time.

Secondary School Apprenticeship Program

You can earn up to 16 graduation credits and qualify for a \$1000 SSA scholarship.

Accelerated Credit Enrolment in Industry Training (ACE-IT)

Credits you earn through ACE-IT are equivalent to the first level of apprenticeship technical training. They count towards graduation.

Career Technical Centre Programs

These programs combine secondary and post-secondary courses in a range of applied technology and trades areas. You earn credits toward secondary school graduation and a post-secondary credential.

Career Preparation Programs

These help prepare you for the workplace or for further education and training in a specific career pathway. The programs include in-school courses and work experience placements arranged by your school. Some career preparation programs also provide entry-level skills for specific job opportunities.

Cooperation Education Programs

These programs give you hands-on experience in different careers. They combine career exploration and skill enhancement with work experience.

THERE ARE DIFFERENT WAYS TO EARN CREDITS TOWARD GRADUATION.

DID YOU KNOW?
THAT A GOOD WAY TO LEARN SOMETHING IS TO TEACH IT TO SOMEONE ELSE?

DID YOU KNOW?
THAT STANDING UP WHILE YOU STUDY HELPS YOUR BRAIN GET MORE OXYGEN AND REMEMBER MORE INFORMATION?

3 | Putting it All Together

Planning Your Future With Focus Areas

Focus Areas help you learn about the broad range of education and career choices. They also help you choose an area of interest – or several – to pursue during the Graduation Program. Think about your Focus Area when you select courses for grades 11 and 12. Do the courses support your goals? Based on your own interests and aptitudes, you will concentrate your studies in one or more of the following Focus Areas:

- > Business and Applied Business
- > Fine Arts, Design and Media
- > Fitness and Recreation
- > Health and Human Services
- > Liberal Arts and Humanities
- > Science and Applied Science
- > Tourism, Hospitality and Foods
- > Trades and Technology

Use Focus Areas to research post-secondary programs at: www.educationplanner.bc.ca. As you learn about Focus Areas during Planning 10, you'll choose one or more to focus on during grades 11 and 12.

Focus Areas and the Graduation Portfolio

Focus Areas help you plan and complete your Graduation Portfolio. For example, the work you do to choose a Focus Area (or areas) will help you meet a Portfolio Choice requirement for Education and Career Planning. For more on Focus Areas, including lists of sample courses, options and related skills and interests, check out the Graduation Portfolio Program Guide. Go to: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/focus.htm and click on “Focus Area Descriptors.”

FOCUS AREAS CAN HELP YOU PLAN FOR LIFE AFTER GRADE 12.

CHOICE IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE GRADUATION PROGRAM. YOU HAVE LOTS OF OPTIONS, EVEN IN REQUIRED COURSES.

FOR MORE ON REQUIRED COURSES, SEE PAGE 3. FOR MORE ON ELECTIVE COURSES, SEE PAGE 6. FOR MORE ON GRADUATION PORTFOLIO, SEE PAGE 7.

Planning for Life Beyond Grade 12

Graduating from secondary school is an important step toward a successful career and future. Grade 12 completion is the minimum requirement for most jobs in today's market. If you also have post-secondary education or training, chances are you'll have more job choices. B.C. has a wide range of post-secondary options. You'll learn more about these in Planning 10. To get you started, here's a list of different types of institutions:

- > Institutes are organized according to career, vocational and technical specialties, covering a variety of occupations. They may offer credentials from a certificate to a full degree.
- > Colleges provide courses & programs leading to certificates, diplomas & associate degrees in vocational, career and academic areas. Most B.C. colleges offer university transfer programs.
- > University-Colleges offer degree programs in specialized subject areas, as well as many of the same certificate and diploma programs as colleges.
- > Universities provide undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Some B.C. universities also offer specialized certificates and diplomas in selected professional fields.

For more information on B.C. post-secondary institutions, go to: www.educationplanner.bc.ca

Oops!

THINK ABOUT YOUR FUTURE WHEN YOU CHOOSE YOUR ELECTIVES. YOU MAY NEED CERTAIN COURSES TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS.

Forgot a course? Need to improve a mark before you apply for post-secondary? You can upgrade your secondary school diploma. Almost all school districts have continuing education centres that provide services to both secondary school graduates and non-graduates. For a fee, graduates over 19 years of age can upgrade their courses. These centres also help adult non-graduates to finish their schooling. For more information, contact your local school district. For more information on B.C. post-secondary institutions, go to: www.educationplanner.bc.ca

CHECK WITH YOUR SCHOOL TO SEE WHICH OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE IN REQUIRED COURSES.

4 | Exams, Awards and Scholarships

Graduation Program Exams

SOME CAREER PROGRAMS INCLUDE WAGES, SO YOU CAN EARN WHILE YOU LEARN.

As a student on the 2004 Graduation Program, you are required to write at least five provincial exams. Exams are mandatory for every course in the following subject areas:

- > Grade 10 Language Arts
- > Grade 10 Science
- > Grade 10 Mathematics (based on the course you choose)
- > Social Studies 11 or 12 (based on the course you choose)
- > Grade 12 Language Arts (based on the course you choose)

Exam results are blended with the classroom mark to generate the final course mark. Grade 10 and 11 exams count for 20% of the final mark. Grade 12 exams count for 40% of the final mark. The above exams are mandatory. All other Grade 12 exams are optional. In other words, you can take a Grade 12 course that has an optional graduation program exam and choose not to take the exam. In that case, 100% of the final mark comes from your classroom work. If you choose to write an optional Grade 12 exam, it counts for 40% of the final mark. Your classroom work counts for 60%. Please note that some post-secondary institutions require Grade 12 exam scores for entrance. Writing Grade 12 exams also means you could qualify to win provincial scholarships. Consider these facts carefully as you plan your courses over the next three years. For more on Graduation Program exams go to: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams

For policies on calculators, cheating and other exam issues go to: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/handbook/

For more on scholarships and awards, go to: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards/ or check out the section of this booklet titled “Financing Your Future.”

Financing Your Future

It's never too early to think about how you'll pay for your future education. If you plan to continue school beyond Grade 12, you can start earning money from awards and scholarships even before you graduate. See www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards/

Passport to Education

To offset the cost of future tuition fees, Grade 10 and 11 students can earn \$250 each school year, based on academic and non-academic achievements. Check with your school for specific requirements. Starting in the 2006/07 school year, Grade 12 students can earn a \$500 Passport stamp based primarily on their Graduation Portfolio achievements.

Provincial Scholarships

Students who write provincial exams in Grade 12 might qualify to win scholarships worth \$1,000 or \$2,500. The awards are based on academic achievement. The money can only be used for tuition at designated post-secondary institutions.

District Scholarships

These \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to graduating students who excel in:

- > fine arts (including courses like visual arts, dance, drama or music) or
- > applied skills (including courses like business, technology education and home economics).
- > physical education and sport (not limited to P.E. courses)

Secondary School Apprenticeship Scholarships

These \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to graduating secondary school apprentices who:

- > successfully complete SSA 11A, 11B, 12A and 12B
- > maintain a C+ average or better in their Grade 12 numbered courses
- > continue working or training full-time in the trade for at least six months after secondary school graduation

Other Awards

Thousands of other scholarships and awards are available to graduating students. For a list (searchable by keywords, areas of interest or application deadlines), go to:

www.bcawardsonline.sd61.bc.ca/



Helpful Web Sites



Throughout this booklet, you're encouraged to check different web sites for more information. Here's a quick summary that you can refer to as you plan your future.

For information on the Graduation Program
www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/grad2004.htm



For details about the Graduation Portfolio
www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/portfolio/
www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/focus.htm

For information on B.C. Ministry of Education policies (including things like course challenge)
www.bced.gov.bc.ca/policy/policies/



For information on earning credits through external credentials
www.bced.gov.bc.ca/courseinfo/

To learn more about career planning and post-secondary options
www.educationplanner.bc.ca
www.bced.gov.bc.ca/careers
www.bccat.bc.ca

About industry training and trade programs
www.itabc.ca

A Few Last Words

As you can tell from reading this booklet, Grade 10 is an exciting new experience for you as a student. It's a lot of information all at once, but it will make more sense as you move through the year and especially as you work through Planning 10. The Graduation Program encourages you to take more responsibility for your learning decisions. You'll plan and make choices about your future. You'll have a chance to develop your potential. Use this booklet as a reference throughout your graduation years. The graduation years are exciting. Make the most of this time!

Our commitment to education:

Education is the most important investment we can make in our children's lives. The Province of B.C. is committed to building a top-notch system that puts students first. For more information, visit AchieveBC.ca