



## Exploring the Redesigned Grade 11 and 12 Curriculum



*The start of a new school year is a time of new beginnings, and this year even more so. The province's redesigned curriculum – introduced for K-9 in September 2016 and for Grade 10 in September 2018 – is now being rolled out for Grades 11 and 12. That means BC students of all grades will now benefit from an engaging and personalized learning environment that better prepares them for a rapidly changing world.*

BC's Grade 11 and 12 students will already be familiar with the competency-driven concept-based focus of the provincial curriculum. With the redesigned Grade 11/12 curriculum now in place, they'll be able to continue building their Core Competencies of Thinking, Communication, and Personal and Social competence while having the flexibility to choose from a wide range of new courses and exploring their interests and life goals in greater depth. They'll graduate from Grade 12 with the foundational skills and competencies that are in high demand from employers and post-secondary institutions, including creative and analytical skills, entrepreneurial skills, social and personal awareness skills, and digital and technical skills.



Here are a few highlights of the new curriculum:

- **Literacy and numeracy skills** are developed across all curricular areas. A sustained focus is on reading, writing and math as the core skills needed by all students, including their application in the graduation years.
- There's a focus on **learner-centred and flexible learning**. Personalized options enable students to engage in inquiry-based, hands-on approaches that encourage students to take more personal responsibility for learning.
- **Indigenous worldviews, perspectives and content** thrive in all curricula and across all courses, from K-12. For example, place-based learning and an emphasis on Indigenous ways of knowing reflect the First Peoples Principles of Learning in the curriculum.
- Teachers have **greater flexibility** in creating learning environments that are relevant, engaging, and novel, responding to local contexts and promoting place-based learning.

## A closer look at the redesigned Grade 11/12 curriculum

As with earlier grades, the Grade 11/12 curriculum is grounded in three common components, regardless of the subject:

1. **Core Competencies** (the proficiencies that students will develop) – These competencies encompass the intellectual, personal and social skills students need to develop for success in life 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. The Core Competencies are:
  - **Communication** – The set of abilities 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 relates to students’ identity in the world, both as individuals and as members of their community and society.
2. **Big Ideas** (what students will understand) – Big Ideas consist of the generalizations, principles and key concepts important within an area of learning. Big Ideas represent what students will understand at the completion of their grade in each area of learning. These concepts extend beyond a single grade and help build a broad base for a student’s future understanding.



### 3. Learning Standards (what students will demonstrate)

Learning Standards contain two distinct elements:

- **Curricular Competencies** are explicit statements of what students will be able to demonstrate at each grade level in each area of learning. Curricular Competencies are the skills, strategies and processes students develop over time and apply to their ongoing lifelong learning. Curricular Competencies are unique to each area of learning. Students are expected to be able to demonstrate (do) the Curricular Competencies.
- **Content** is the essential knowledge that students must learn at each grade level. Students are expected to know the content.

#### Example: Life Science 11

In Life Sciences 11, the **Big Ideas** include:

- Life is a result of interactions at the molecular and cellular levels
- Evolution occurs at the population level
- Organisms are grouped based on common characteristics

The **Curricular Competencies** include six broad organizers for the learning standards, including:

- questioning and predicting
- planning and conducting
- processing and analyzing data and information
- evaluating
- applying and innovating
- communicating



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## Expanded course options in each subject area

Courses are designed to allow for different teaching methods and learning opportunities that can be tailored to meet the needs of all students. **Over 200 new courses** have been introduced to broaden the offerings and respond to emerging trends and student preferences. These new courses include Digital Media Development, History of Math, Science for Citizens, Asian Studies, Genocide Studies, Contemporary Indigenous Studies, Environmental Science, Remotely Operated Vehicles and Drones, Directing and Script Development, and Dance Foundations. In addition, students can choose from a number of new Indigenous-focused courses.

There are also **two new compulsory Career Education courses** to give students the opportunity to go deep in exploring their interests and consider potential post-graduation pathways. See the [Guiding students on their career-life journey](#) article published in the May issue of *Learn* for more.

To graduate, students are still required to complete 80 credits from Grades 10 to 12, of which 52 are required credits and 28 are electives. Report cards will show letter grades and percentages for all courses.

## Three new provincial graduation assessments

Students must also complete three Provincial Graduation Assessments that replace the course-based provincial exams of the past. Rather than evaluating content-based knowledge in one particular field of study, these assessments evaluate the essential numeracy and literacy abilities students will have developed across many areas of learning and grades. The provincial assessments are:

- [Grade 10 Graduation Literacy Assessment](#);
- Grade 10 Graduation Numeracy Assessment; and
- Grade 12 Graduation Literacy Assessment

The graduation assessment results will be reported as stand-alone items on student transcripts.

## New resources for teachers

In partnership with the First Nations Education Steering Committee, Métis Nation BC, and the British Columbia Teachers' Federation, the ministry is also working on two new resources for teachers to support increased integration of Indigenous knowledge, perspectives, and content in K-12 classrooms. Working collaboratively with local Indigenous community to create resources and bring local Indigenous knowledges and perspectives into the classroom is also addressed. In addition, a number of Indigenous-focused courses are among the range of new courses students can choose from.

Teachers will also be supported with new resources that have been developed to help with the implementation of the new curriculum. The Ministry of Education worked with teachers and key education partners to create resources to help teachers in delivering the redesigned Physical and Health Education



curriculum with guides for elementary and secondary teachers. These guides, along with a curated list of existing resources, will provide teachers with a variety of instructional suggestions and tips for teaching important health topics such as consent, stress and anxiety, safe sex, mental health stigma, cyberbullying and online safety.

## Learn more

- › Visit the [BC's New Curriculum website](#) to learn more about the redesigned 11-12 curriculum and the updated B.C. Graduation Program
- › Learn more about the grad program in the [BC Graduation Program Implementation Guide](#)
- › Read the news release [New grades 11-12 curriculum helps students reach their potential](#)