

## **THE GRADUATION PROGRAM POLICY**

Welcome to the world of choices! That is the emphasis from the Ministry of Education over the next three years for High School students in grades 10-12. We have designed a flexible program for those students that wish to graduate with a Dogwood Diploma while studying at home.

Each student is an individual and is uniquely gifted by God to fulfill a wonderful purpose. The Planning 10 course and the Grad Transitions 12 course are designed to assist students to know more about themselves, God's gifts and talents, and opportunities to develop them in and outside of a school environment.

Each student in grades 10-12 has an overall teacher, or teachers. As well, each student has a teacher who is a Graduation Counsellor. Mr. Langley is the counsellor advisor and teacher for Planning 10 and the Transitions 12 course. You can contact him at [mlangley@regentonline.ca](mailto:mlangley@regentonline.ca).

### **What Students Need To Graduate**

Starting in grade 10, students have a lot of choices about what they need to 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 the courses and credits needed to graduate:

- 48 credits from required courses
- 28 credits from elective courses
- 4 credits from your Graduation Transitions course

Students are introduced to the graduation requirements in Grade 10 as the first module in the Planning 10 course.

<b>REQUIRED COURSES</b>	
<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Minimum Credits</b>
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48 credits</b>
<b>ELECTIVE COURSES</b>	
Students must earn at least 28 elective credits for Grade 10-12 courses	<b>28 credits</b>
<b>GRADUATION TRANSITIONS 12</b>	
Students must earn 4 credits for Grad Transitions Portfolio	<b>4 credits</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>80 credits</b>
Of the 80 credits for graduation, at least 16 must be at the Grade 12 Level, including a Grade 12 Language Arts course. Specific courses may be required for entry into some post-secondary institutions.	

Required Courses

Planning 10

RCOA utilizes a great online course to help students build the skills and to make wise choices about the future with their parents, and according to God’s word. It is a compulsory course to graduate. We have integrated our Christian faith to guide each student through some of the challenging choices and decisions that each student will have to make. Planning 10 also provides students with the beginning work on their Grad Transitions Portfolio, which is worth another 4 credits in grade 12. The portfolio is a collection of evidence that demonstrates that each student has developed more than just academic skills. We have actually included a spiritual component to the Portfolio organizers. To find out more about this great course review the following outline of RCOA’s Planning 10 course. Please see below.

**UNIT 1: The Graduation Program**

- Lesson 1: An overview
- Lesson 2: Grad Transitions Course

**UNIT 2: Education & Careers**

- Lesson 3: Personal Interests and Attributes
- Lesson 4: Post Secondary Education and Training
- Lesson 5: Labour Market Information
- Lesson 6: Job Seeking and Job Keeping
- Lesson 7: Employment Standards and Workplace Safety
- Lesson 8: Support Networks and Resources

**UNIT 3: Health**

- Lesson 9: Healthy Living & Health information
- Lesson 10: Wellness and Healthy Relationships
- Lesson 11: Healthy Relationships Part 2
- Lesson 12: Health Decisions

**UNIT 4: Finances**

- Lesson 13: Financial Literacy
- Lesson 14: Costs of Education and Career Option, Financial Plan
- Lesson 15: Transition Plan

During this course, you will also be creating an E-Portfolio that will showcase your personal growth and accomplishments. This will be an ongoing project that you will design and refine over the next three years!

This course will take you about 115 hours to complete and is worth 4 credits.

**Resource List:**

- Online School Guidance Counsellor
- Grad Planner Booklet
- Horizons 2000 Text
- Ministry and/or Board Approved Web Sites

RCOA has made the recent decision, in light of the Ministry of Educations delay/change concerning the Portfolio requirements for grade 12, that the Portfolio is a very valid and quality way to support growth and thinking in each graduate, and therefore we will be asking for the completion of this Transitions Portfolio course for Graduation. It is worth 4 credits and will be linked to the Passport To Education Scholarship, as well. Please see RCOA counsellor, Mr. Langley, for more details. For more information on the Grad Transitions Course, please go to [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/grad-transitions/welcome.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/grad-transitions/welcome.htm)

**Language Arts 10, 11 and 12**

These courses are about communication, gathering, organizing and presenting information effectively. Language Arts 10 is required for graduation. At the Grade 11 level, some common choices are: English 11 or Communication 11. In Grade 12, students can choose from English 12 or Communication 12.

### **Mathematics 10, and 11 or 12**

Math is a valuable tool, it is important in every day life but it also teaches students to reason and solve problems logically. To graduate, everyone must complete a Grade 10 math course plus a second math course at the Grade 11 or 12 levels. Some students might need certain math courses for specific college programs. Careful examination of college entrance requirements is recommended here.

The three options for math courses in grades 10-12 are:

- **Essentials of Mathematics:** This course prepares students to use math at work and in everyday life. It also prepares them for some post-secondary training, such as some applied and trades programs.
- **Applications of Mathematics:** This course helps students use math in daily life and in a variety of careers. It prepares them for most post-secondary programs that do not require calculus.
- **Principles of Mathematics:** This is a more theoretical course, and students will probably need it for university entrance.

### **Fine Arts and Applied Skills 10, 11 and 12**

These courses help students understand and appreciate applied learning and creative works. Both areas emphasize hands-on learning.

Fine arts include dance, drama, music and visual arts courses. Several external qualifications are eligible for credit in fine arts. For example, The Royal Conservatory of Music Grade 4 Practical and Rudiments 1 is the equivalent of 4 credits for Fine Arts 10. Applied skills include business education, home economics, information technology and technology education.

To graduate, students need four credits in either fine arts or applied skills or a combination of both.

### **Social Studies 10 and 11 or 12**

These courses help students understand the world and their place in it. They also develop skills that help them to become responsible citizens. To graduate, students must complete Social Studies 10. They must pass either Social Studies 11, Civics 11 or BC First Nations Studies 12.

### **Science 10 and 11 or 12**

These courses help students understand the natural world.

To graduate, students must complete Science 10. They must also complete a course at the grade 11 or 12 level. Some options are physics, biology, chemistry, earth science and geology. Geography does not qualify as a science.

### **Physical Education 10**

This course helps students maintain an active, healthy lifestyle. To graduate, they must complete Physical Education 10. PE 11 and 12 are not compulsory; however, students must meet the physical activity standard for the Graduation Portfolio during grade 11 or 12. (For more on Portfolios, see pages...)

### **Graduation Program Exams**

Students on the 2004 Graduation Program 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 and students 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 classroom work. If the students choose to write an optional Grade 12 exam, it counts for 40% of the final mark. Note that some post-secondary institutions require Grade 12 exam scores for entrance.

Writing Grade 12 exams may also mean that students could qualify to win provincial scholarships. For more on scholarships and awards, go to <http://www.bcawardsonline.sd61.bc.ca/> or <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards/>

Practice Exams (with the answer keys) can be found on the Ministry website at <http://www.bced.gov.ca/exams/search/>. Exam schedules can be found at [http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/handbook/06\\_07\\_exam\\_schedule.pdf](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/handbook/06_07_exam_schedule.pdf)

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

For choices of Online Courses from grades 10-12 that RCOA offers, please go to the [BC Online Schools Site](#) for a listing and description of the courses.

### **Post-Secondary Options**

At the beginning of Grade 12 students will be making choices, if they have not already done so, about which college or university to attend, or what kind of training they need.

The following list provides information on the publicly funded universities and colleges in BC. Students may apply to any of 24 colleges and universities in BC through one portal called PASBC

(<https://portal.bccampus.ca/tag.473e9fcff92c6fad.render.userLayoutRootNode.target.36-3.uP>). This can save a lot of time if students are applying for more than one institution.

### **Universities**

All the universities in BC offer students places on the basis of their academic performances in Grade 10-12. In other words they select students based on transcript grades and portfolio submissions. For many university programs entry is a highly competitive process.

The main universities in BC are:

University of British Columbia, Vancouver (<http://www.ubc.ca>)

Simon Fraser University, Burnaby (<http://www.sfu.ca>)

University of Victoria, Victoria (<http://www.uvic.ca>)

Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops (<http://www.tru.ca>)

University of Northern BC, Prince George (<http://www.unbc.ca>)

Many of universities have campuses around the province and serve students in less urban areas.

### **University College**

There are three university colleges in BC that offer vocational training and degree programs. Some of the programs are based on selective entry, whereas others are on a first come, first served basis. There are also many university transfer programs available at these colleges.

Kwantlen University College, Lower mainland campuses in Richmond, Surrey, Cloverdale and Langley. (<http://www.kwantlen.bc.ca/>)

University College of the Fraser Valley, Chilliwak, Mission and Abbotsford campuses. ([http://www.ucfv.bc.ca/Home\\_Page.htm](http://www.ucfv.bc.ca/Home_Page.htm))

Malaspina University College, Vancouver Island campuses in Nanaimo, Duncan, Powell River and Parksville (<http://www.mala.ca/homepage/index.asp>)

### **Institutes**

There are five institutes offering vocational training and degree programs:

BCIT, Burnaby, Technology, trades, business and health sciences ([www.bcit.ca](http://www.bcit.ca))

## Regent Christian Online Academy

Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, Vancouver, Visual Arts, Media Arts and Design ([www.eciad.bc.ca](http://www.eciad.bc.ca))

Institute of Indigenous Government, Burnaby. A blend of conventional education and indigenous culture ([www.indigenous.bc.ca](http://www.indigenous.bc.ca))

Justice Institute of BC, New Westminster. Criminal and social justice, public safety and social services. Campuses in Victoria and Maple Ridge. ([www.jibc.bc.ca](http://www.jibc.bc.ca))

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, Merritt. Aboriginal post-secondary institution. ([www.nvit.bc.ca](http://www.nvit.bc.ca))

### **Colleges**

There are 12 colleges throughout the province that provides training and education at the post-secondary level.

Capilano College, North Vancouver, Squamish, Sechelt ([www.capcollege.bc.ca](http://www.capcollege.bc.ca))

Camosun College, Victoria, (<http://www.camosun.bc.ca/>)

College of New Caledonia, Prince George, (<http://www.cnc.bc.ca>)

College of the Rockies, Cranbrook, (<http://www.cotr.bc.ca>)

Douglas College, New Westminster, (<http://www.douglas.bc.ca>)

Langara College, Vancouver, (<http://www.langara.bc.ca>)

Okanagan College, Kelowna, (<http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/site15.aspx>)

North Island College, Courtenay, (<http://www.nic.bc.ca>)

Northern Lights College, Dawson Creek, (<http://www.nlc.bc.ca>)

Northwest Community College, Terrace, (<http://www.nwcc.bc.ca>)

Selkirk College, Castlegar, (<http://www.selkirk.bc.ca>)

Vancouver Community College, Vancouver, (<http://www.vcc.bc.ca>)

### **Christian Colleges and Universities**

Trinity Western University, Langley, ([www.twu.ca](http://www.twu.ca))

Regent Christian Online Academy

Columbia Bible College, Abbotsford, (<http://www.columbiabc.edu/>)

Christ for the Nations, Surrey ([www.crenc.ca](http://www.crenc.ca))

Regent College, Graduate Studies, UBC Campus, (<http://www.regent-college.edc/>)

There are also numerous private colleges in BC. A full list can be obtained at [www.universource.com/be.htm](http://www.universource.com/be.htm)

### **Employment**

Many students choose to find employment immediately following Grade 12 on a permanent basis or more frequently to save for college or university.

RCOA provides ongoing career support throughout Grade 11 and 12 with advice, resume and cover letter proof reading, references and so on from the home teachers and Graduation and Portfolio coordinators.

### **Non-University careers and Apprenticeships**

There are currently more than 150 trades and industry career choices in BC overseen by the Industry Training Authority (ita – <http://www.itabc.ca>) Upon successfully completing a training program students earn a government-recognized credential. This is often referred to as certification or a “ticket” and someone who has certification is often referred to as a “journeyperson.”

Some of the major areas include: construction, automotive and mechanical work, aerospace, metal work, graphic arts, horticulture and motion picture theatre. What these occupations have in common is that they require specialized skills, and involve “hands on” work as well as academic skills. And the training for them is largely done on-the-job.

Trades and industry occupations are becoming increasingly popular due to worker shortages in many areas vital to the economy.

The most direct way to train for a trade or industry career is to find work in the field, with an employer who will commit to an apprenticeship. Through the Secondary School Apprenticeship Program students can begin training while still in high school, and earn dual credit and a scholarship. Many people also take Entry Level Trades Training at a college or other training institute. With the SSA Program you can earn up to 16 credits and qualify for a \$1000 SSA Scholarship. Please see Mr. Langley for details.

### **Work Experience Credits**

Students can earn credits in grade 11 and/or 12 towards graduation through a work placement initiative paid employment. For more information, please go to [http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/careers/work\\_experiences.pdf](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/careers/work_experiences.pdf) and talk with your school counsellor, Mr. Langley.

### **RCOA Options for Earning Graduation Credits.**

Most students earn credits toward graduation by completing regular courses. However, the Ministry of Education has given us a number of creative way to achieve additional credits.

### **Other Options**

#### **Equivalency (documented prior to learning)**

You may ask RCOA for an equivalency review if you can document substantive learning outside school. This could include coming from another province, or country. Please talk to Mr. Langley for more info.

#### **External Credentials**

If you have achieved a high level of performance in areas outside school, such as computer certification courses, Cadets, Driver Education courses, high level provincial or national sports, or music and dance, then you may be able to earn credits. Credits assigned can count as either “required” or “elective.”

#### **Post-Secondary Options**

If you are planning on going to University then this is a great option, as in most cases, you can earn dual credits. These courses count as elective credits at the Grade 12 level. For more info, please go to [www.becat.bc.ca](http://www.becat.bc.ca) for institutions with in the BC Transfer System. For example, Trinity Western offers a 4 credit Grade 12 course called Psych 105 through their Test Drive Program.

#### **Course Challenge**

Some students have acquired important skills and finished courses or learning that cannot be verified (no transcript). If you can demonstrate that you have met the learning outcomes for a similar course, an RCOA teacher may grant you credits. For example, a student may come from another country and be learning English. They can be granted credits for their native language if they took courses in that language up to a certain level. Again, please see Mr. Langley for more details.

#### **Helpful Websites**

To learn more about career planning, building work skills, and post-secondary options:

- [www.workinfontet.bc.ca](http://www.workinfontet.bc.ca)
- [www.jobfutures.ca](http://www.jobfutures.ca)
- [www.careetcruising.ca](http://www.careetcruising.ca)
- [www.destination2020.org](http://www.destination2020.org)

To learn more about Industry Training and trade programs:

- [www.itabc.ca](http://www.itabc.ca)

For more information on BC post-secondary institutions go to:

- [www.educationplanner.bc.ca](http://www.educationplanner.bc.ca)

This site also supplies information about upgrading your secondary school diploma, or helping non-graduates, as adults, to finish their schooling.

### **It's Your Future – A Gift From God – Use It well!**

God's future for all of us is so bright, but we do need to search out His will, as one would search out "treasure". The Grad Program actually encourages each student to take more responsibility for your learning choices to develop your potential. But, how does one know where to look?

Firstly, pray that God will guide you as you pursue your academic education, and will lead you to the tools, resources, and people that He intends for your best.

Secondly, be open to wise counsel from parents, teachers, and youth pastors, etc... Your Planning 10 Course encourages you to use your network of relationships and opportunities.

Thirdly, utilize the list of Focus Areas, and choose one or two. They are helpful when planning courses so that your courses are supporting your goals. Try to identify your interests and aptitudes, and then put it all together!

#### **Focus Areas**

- 1) Business and Applied Business
- 2) Fine Arts, Design and Media
- 3) Fitness and Recreation
- 4) Health and Human Services
- 5) Liberal Arts and Humanities
- 6) Science and Applied Science
- 7) Tourism, Hospitality and Foods
- 8) Trades and Technology