

Counsellor's Corner **On Graduation Versus Post-Secondary Requirements and Thinking Ahead**  
 With Ms. O'Neill

Our five grade 12 students are working hard to fulfill the Ministry of Education requirements for graduation with four planning to attend post-secondary institutions in September. Younger students (and parents), be forewarned. ***There is a big difference between graduating & meeting the entrance requirements for a university, college or trades school.*** Let's begin our comparison by looking at the graduation requirements.

Must complete:	Additionally, must complete:
Language Arts 10*, 11, 12* Social Studies 10, 11* Math 10*, 11 Science 10*, 11 PE 10 Planning 10 Fine Arts &/ or Applied Skills 10, 11 or 12 Eg: art, drama, construction, foods, textiles Graduation Transitions *These courses have mandatory provincial exams.	Minimum of 16 credits in grade 10, 11, or 12 Plus a minimum of 12 credits at grade 12 level  A semester long or linear course is usually 4 credits. A course for only one term is only 2 credits.

So it is possible to graduate with:

*Mandatory courses:*

English 10, English 11, English 12  
 Social Studies 10 & 11  
 Science 10, Biology 11  
 Applications of Math 10 & 11  
 PE 10  
 Planning 10  
 Art 2D & 3D 10  
 Graduation Transitions

*Additional courses:*

Health & Fitness 10 (2 credits)      PE 11 (4 credits)  
 Drama 10 (4 credits)                      Art 12 (2 credits)  
 Acting 11 (4 credits)  
 Textiles 11 (2 credits)  
 International Foods 12 (4 credits)  
 Creative Writing 12 (2 credits)  
 Peer Mediation 12 (2 credits)  
 Stagecraft 12 (2 credits)

Now, let's see if this is sufficient to enter post-secondary institutions.

<b>Olds College – Commercial Floristry Program</b>	
Yes	High school diploma
Yes	50% or better in English 12
Yes	50% or better in Principles of Math 11 or Applications of Math 11
Yes	50% or better in Biology 11
??	Recommended: keyboarding skills in particular word processing & spreadsheets

<b>College of the Rockies - Electrical Foundations</b>	
yes	Secondary school graduation
yes	Interview
yes	C or better in Applications of Math 11 or Principles of Math 11
??	Physics 11 recommended

<b>University of Victoria - Fine Arts</b>	
yes	English 12
no, short the math	3 of Principles of Math 11 or Applications of Math 12, or Science 11 (eg: Biology 11) or Language 11 (eg: French11) or Fine Arts 11 (eg: Acting 11)
yes	English 11
No, 2 cr in Fine Arts only	3 other approved academic Grade 12 courses (generally have provincial exams associated with them such as English Lit, French, History, Chemistry, Geology) OR 2 academic Grade 12 plus 1 fine arts Grade 12 (Art, Music, Acting, Writing)

Does this mean that this student can never go to university? No, he/she could take upgrading courses at a community college such as Selkirk College & then transfer to a university. This could be avoided if students think ahead to keep their options open.

Students in grade 9 should be thinking about the level of Grade 10 math they will take next year & the limitations the choice may have on their post-secondary plans. Principles of Math 12 will allow you to enroll in math, science & engineering courses at the university level. Applications of Math 12 will allow you to enroll in social sciences at university and most trades. Essentials of Math 11 will allow you to enroll in many college programs outside of the trades. As a general guideline and to build sufficient foundation to ensure success, Grade 9's should aim for a 75% or better in Math 9 for the Principles stream and 70% in Math 9 for the Applications stream. They should also be prepared with a willingness to persevere and an expectation that there will be more math homework.

Students in grade 10 should be thinking about the science courses they will take over the next two years. A grade 11 science course will allow you to graduate but a specific course may be required, for example, Biology 11 for the Florists program. If you plan to go to university you should plan on at least one grade 12 science course. You must take Chemistry 11 or Physics 11 to take the grade 12 course. You do not have to take Biology 11 to take Biology 12.

Students in grade 11 should be thinking about the grade 12 academic courses they will take next year. Don't be caught short. If we're not offering what you need, talk to me about the multitude of distance education courses available. You can also get academic advise at [academic\\_advising@learnnowbc.ca](mailto:academic_advising@learnnowbc.ca) or call toll free at 1-888-952-4285. You can also access trades & career advise at [career\\_advising@learnnowbc.ca](mailto:career_advising@learnnowbc.ca) or call toll free at 1-800-663-3381 ext. 2460.

Remember, the key to a successful life is to make good choices. Think ahead.

#### **Anxious about Provincial Exams?**

Help with preparing for provincial math and science exams is available with LearnNowBC at [www.learnnowbc.ca](http://www.learnnowbc.ca) (see "Charged up for Math and Science"). Students who wish to test themselves & assess areas of study which require more review & practice can find help 24/7 at "StudyBUZZ" on the same website. Also available on this site Sundays through Thursdays, are live peer tutors from 6 pm to 10 pm.