

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. When does this requirement take effect?

The new requirement will be implemented in the 2023/24 school year. It will be necessary for any student graduating in the 2023/24 school year, and in all subsequent years, to meet this new requirement.

Q2. Will all students need to complete this requirement?

Yes, all students working towards the BC Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma, in both English and French) will be required to complete the new graduation requirement, including students at B.C. independent and certified offshore schools.

Q3. Will the new requirement impact students' transitions to post-secondary?

No, the model includes options for students to meet the new requirement through completion of existing provincial courses which are already accepted by post-secondary institutions in Canada.

For post-secondary programs offered outside of Canada, or with highly specific entrance requirements, students could potentially choose a Grade 10 level course or include the new requirement as an elective.

The new requirement aligns with actions taken by public post-secondary institutions to introduce required Indigenous education coursework for students, including BC teacher education programs and UBC School of Law.

If you have additional questions, including available course options for your child, please contact your local school or school district.



Ministry of Education and Child Care Contact Information



GradRequirements@gov.bc.ca



gov.bc.ca/indigenous-focused-grad-requirement

Indigenous Focused Graduation Requirement



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of Education
and Child Care



What's Changing?

As part of the Province of British Columbia's commitment to truth, reconciliation, and anti-racism, the Ministry of Education and Child Care is implementing a mandatory Indigenous-focused graduation requirement for all students.

The new requirement builds on work-to-date to integrate Indigenous perspectives and content across the redesigned K-12 provincial curriculum and into professional development and standards for BC educators.

There are several ways students will be able to meet the new requirement, depending on their school or school district's specific course offerings.

Meeting the requirement

Four credits, of the **80 credits** required to graduate with a BC Certificate of Graduation, **must include an Indigenous-focused course(s)** (the typical BC course is 4 credits).

Current options that students can choose from:

Provincial courses

- Eight English First Peoples courses, Grades 10-12, BC First Peoples 12 and Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12.
- These courses also satisfy other graduation requirements in English language Arts and Social Studies.
- For a full list of Provincial course options, including credit values of each course, please see the Ministry website.

First Nations language courses

- 18 First Nations Language courses, Grades 10-12.
- For a full list of First Nations language course options, please see the Ministry website.

Board/Authority authorized (BAA) courses

- Boards/Authorities can authorize locally developed courses to enable students to meet this requirement.
- Engaging local First Nations in developing such courses is required for BAA courses to meet this new graduation requirement.
- Please contact your school or school district to obtain information regarding available BAA courses.

Why the change?



This change to the BC Graduation program represents an important next step towards lasting and meaningful reconciliation. The new graduation requirement will provide all B.C. students with the necessary time and opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the experiences, cultures, histories, and contemporary contexts of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

The Indigenous-focused graduation requirement responds to commitments in the *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 and Child Care, the First Nations Education Steering Committee, and other education partners to address Indigenous-specific racism in the K-12 education system.