

Board/Authority Authorized Courses
Q & As
February 2, 2009

Q: Do courses still need to be approved by Boards of Education prior to being electronically submitted to the Ministry?

A: Yes, Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) course frameworks must be approved by Boards of Education prior to being submitted to the Ministry for review. The role of the Ministry is to ensure that new BAA courses satisfy the requirements set by the Ministry of Education outlined in the Requirements and Procedures, the BAA Course Framework Template and the BAA ESL Course Guidelines found on the BAA website: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/boardauth.htm>

Q: How is the new coding system different from the old one?

A: The new system offers more flexibility by enabling codes to be re-used and tailored for each individual student record. For example: YCCT 11A (Communications, Communication Technologies) can be used to register credit for an audio visual course on one student record, and desktop publishing on another student record. The A, B and C options for each core code category means that a student can take up to 3 courses (up to 12 credits) of any combination of courses within this particular core category.

Q: What if a decision is made not to customize the course description on a student by student basis, what will show on a transcript?

A: By default, only the broad core category of the course will show. For example, by default, YCOT 11A will show as 'Construction Trades' rather than a customized course title - for example 'Boat Building 11'. Similarly, YESFL 10A will show as 'ESL' rather than a customized course title – for example 'ESL Canadian Culture'. This means that if a student then takes 2 or more courses from the same category, their descriptions would all default to the same generic description although each one would be recognized for credit. So a student could conceivably have two or more courses on their transcript simply showing as 'Construction Trades' with no description of what was actually taught.

Q: Is there a way to identify that all YPSYC 11A courses in SD # will be 'Psychology 11'? Or will it be necessary to customize a course title for each student, each time?

A: For districts that do not offer many BAA courses, it may be possible to use one code for one course. For districts with numerous BAA courses, it may be necessary to establish codes at the school level rather than the district level. For schools that offer many BAA courses it may be necessary to customize some course titles at the student level.

Q: What if a student takes more than 3 courses at one grade level, using up the A, B and C course options available?

A: The Ministry recognises that some subject areas may contain a higher number of courses that may be taken by students than others. These are:

- Computer and Information Services
- Communications, Communication Technologies
- Construction Trades, and
- Visual and Performing Arts.

For these categories, D and E have been added. A student can take up to 5 course options within one of these single core categories.

Q: What if a student, who has already taken a BAA in Psychology (for example YPSYC 12A) transfers to another SD, would a second course taken in this area need to be distinguished by a different code?

A: Yes, since a student can only get credit for YPSYC 12A once. If the second district was using the same code, the student's course would have to be coded as, say, YPSYC 12B. The course title would identify what the student was studying in that course.

Q: How will French Immersion courses be recognized?

A: Where courses being taught in French have been identified, separate codes where F is the second letter in the code have been created. eg:

YLRA 10A - BA Leisure and Recreational Activities 10A (course taught in English)
YFLRA10A - BA Loisirs et activités récréatives 10A (same course taught in French)

Q: Can I call the course anything I like?

A: Yes, however you are limited to 33 characters and spaces. TRAX and BCeSIS can accommodate 40 characters in the course title field, but when you count the "BA and space" at the beginning of the title and the grade "10A" at the end, this leaves 33 spaces for the course title; anything else will be cut off.