

External Credentials Submission Form: First Nations Language and Culture Programs

Students can earn External Credentials by taking a program that falls outside of the normal BC school curriculum and is offered by a recognized external agency or organization – if the program meets specific criteria.

Some External Credentials may count towards the Arts Education or Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies graduation requirement toward the BC Dogwood Diploma, while others count as credit towards elective courses. External Credentials may also count toward credit for the Adult Graduation Diploma.

First Nations are able to offer First Nations Language and Culture External Credential programs that will count for credit under the Graduation Program if the specific program has been approved by the First Nation and recognized by the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care for that purpose.

Examples of possible programs that may count for an External Credential:

- First Nations Language proficiency
- First Nations drumming and/or dancing
- A formal on-the-land learning program
- A traditional medicine and/or traditional foods learning program
- First Nations carving / traditional art
- A traditional sports program

Requirements

First Nations must confirm the following.

- One or more knowledgeable experts are available to support and oversee the First Nations Language and Culture program.
- The depth, breadth, and rigour of the program is comparable or greater than Ministry-developed Grade 10, 11 or 12 courses.
- The program includes an evaluation component to determine that the intended performance level has been achieved and a relevant assessment used to recognize achievement and successful completion.

Offering an External Credential

First Nations must submit the following contact information.

General Information	
Name of First Nation	
Mailing Address	
Telephone	
Email	
Website	
Contact Person (for this submission)	
Name	
Position	
Phone	
Email	
Confirmation of Successful Completion	
The following proof of successful completion will be issued to students for the purpose of awarding an External Credential (such as a certificate or a formal letter from the Nation). _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Our First Nation will maintain a record of achievement and proof of successful completion for all External Credentials awarded to students. <i>(Please check to confirm this statement is true)</i>	

Language and Culture Program Review

- This section should be completed by subject matter experts in the learning program, as well as an educational representative from the First Nation. Each person involved in completing this submission should complete the Endorsement at the end of the submission form.
- If a First Nation is requesting recognition of multiple programs, a separate form must be submitted for each one.
- If a more substantial answer is required than there is space available, please attach any additional information or documentation as required.

General Information

Program name, as it will appear on the proof of completion (eg. on a certificate of completion etc):

Contact Information for public inquiry (this information will be published)	
Name (may be left blank, if questions are to be directed to a position rather than an individual)	
Position	
Phone	
Email	

Language and Culture Program Information

<p>Please list and explain below which courses / areas of learning from the Grade 10-12 BC provincial curriculum are most closely related to the language or cultural learning program.</p>
<p>Please describe below how the level of performance / proficiency will be assessed / evaluated? <i>For example</i>, a Language champion or Elder will confirm that the student can demonstrate an adequate ability to understand and speak the language for the purpose of the credential. <i>Or</i> a Master Carver will confirm that the student can perform a determined list of skills and competencies according to the First Nations’ protocols, traditions, and expectations. <i>As possible and appropriate</i>, please list specific skills, understandings, and tasks that will be expected for the purpose of the External Credential process.</p>
<p>Please indicate below the number of credits and grade level for the language and culture learning program. Please also explain the rationale for this recommendation, attaching any available supporting information. <i>Note</i>: often between 100 and 120 hours of teaching and learning results in the awarding of 4 credits.</p>

Below, please explain what position(s) within your Nation will be overseeing the learning program, what roles they will play, and what expertise will be required for the program or program leaders / instructors and/or evaluators (as required). For example, fluent Languagespeakers, recognized artists, community-recognized hunting/trapping/fishing experts, individuals recognized by the community for their expertise in traditional food/medicine gathering and use, etc.

To demonstrate connections between the program and the BC Provincial curriculum, explain how the program will help to develop students' abilities in the core competencies (i.e. communication, creative and critical thinking, and/or personal and social competencies). Will students have opportunities to develop, practice, and demonstrate their related knowledge /skills / attitudes? *For example*, students may present finished work to the community, and/or may showcase their learning at a community event, etc.

Program Endorsement

Please provide the following information for the individuals who completed this submission form. Include as many names as is practical for the learning program. Please list additional representatives if needed. Please note that everyone involved with the External Credential must endorse the program.

We, the undersigned, on behalf of the _____ Nation, certify that the information included in this submission form is correct and that we each concur with the recommendation to have this Language and Culture Program recognized as an External Credential.

Reviewer #1			
Name			
Position or Community-Recognized Expertise			
Email		Phone	
Signature/Date			
Reviewer #2			
Name			
Position or Community-Recognized Expertise			
Email		Phone	
Signature/Date			
Reviewer #3			
Name			
Position or Community-Recognized Expertise			
Email		Phone	
Signature/Date			
Reviewer #4			
Name			
Position or Community-Recognized Expertise			
Email		Phone	
Signature/Date			

Please email this form with any supporting documentation to external.credentials@gov.bc.ca with the subject line “First Nation External Credentials Submission – [name of Nation].”

Questions?

- Further information about the External Credential option and/or support completing this submission form is also available from the BC First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC). Please email info@fnesc.ca for further information.
- Questions about the recognition process can also be referred to the Ministry at external.credentials@gov.bc.ca using the subject line “First Nation External Credentials SubmissionQuery – [name of Nation].”