

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. Do all students need to complete this requirement?

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

Q2. Does this limit student choice regarding electives?

Not necessarily. Students may have the option to choose one of the provincial courses that meet both an existing graduation requirement as well as the Indigenous-focused graduation requirement, depending on their school/district's specific course offerings.

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

No, students are able to meet the 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 can potentially choose a Grade 10 level course or include the new requirement as an elective.

The requirement aligns with actions taken by public post-secondary institutions to introduce required Indigenous education coursework for students, including B.C. 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](https://www.gov.bc.ca/indigenous-focused-grad-requirement)



Indigenous-Focused Graduation Requirement



Ministry of
Education and
Child Care



What's New?

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

The 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 B.C. educators.

There are several ways that students can meet the 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 B.C. Certificate of Graduation, **must include an Indigenous-focused course(s)** (the typical B.C. course is 4 credits).

Current options that students can choose from:

Provincial courses

- Eight English First Peoples courses, Grades 10-12, B.C. First Peoples 12, and Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12.
- These courses also satisfy other graduation requirements in English Language Arts and Social Studies.

First Nations language courses

- First Nations language courses, Grades 10-12.

Board/Authority authorized (BAA) courses

- Boards/Authorities can authorize locally developed courses created in consultation and collaboration with local First Nations.
- Engaging local First Nations in developing such courses is required for BAA courses to meet this new graduation requirement.

External Credentials

- First Nations Language and Culture External Credentials.

For a full list of course options and External Credentials offered by First Nations, please see the ministry website. Please contact your school for information regarding available BAA courses.



Why the change?

This change to the B.C. Graduation program represents an important next step towards lasting and meaningful reconciliation. The graduation requirement provides 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 *B.C. Tripartite Education Agreement*.

The 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.

