

COURSE SELECTION INFORMATION

The specific courses your child selects will vary, dependent upon the child's career goals, skills, courses offered at specific schools etc. There are, however, some guidelines you can use to select courses when entering senior high and throughout the senior high years.

STEP 1:

Know what is required. Please refer the most current Public School Program document for complete information on credits required for a Graduation Diploma 2017-2018 as well as descriptions of courses.

While there are a variety of courses, levels and elective opportunities, there are some basic requirements for all students.

- A student graduating in 2017-2018 is required to complete 18 credits to graduate from a Nova Scotia High School. A student entering high school as of 2017-2018 will be required to complete the following credits for graduation in addition to electives (refer your school for specific course offerings).

The following chart represents compulsory credits:

Courses	# of Required Credits	Details
Language, Communication, and Expression Credits		
English Language Arts	3	The student must complete one at each grade level
Fine Arts	1	Examples of fine arts programs include: drama, music, art
Science, Mathematics, and Technology		
Mathematics	3	Only math one credit may be from the grade 10 level Grade 10 students (after discussion with guidance & parents) should take one of the following courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Math 10 (for IB programs – Pre IB Math 10)• Math at Work 10• Math Essentials 10

Science	2	Examples of Science courses include: one from biology, chemistry, physics, or Science 10, and one other approved science course
Math, Science and/or Technology	2	Examples of these courses include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology (<i>these include such courses as business tech, multimedia, design, film, exploring tech, construction tech, construction trades, energy power & transportation, food tech etc.</i>) • Math (<i>compulsory math courses are not included</i>) • Science (<i>compulsory science courses are not included</i>)
Personal Development and Society		
Phys Ed	1	Examples of these courses include: Phys Ed (10, 11 & 12), Dance 11, Fitness Leadership 11, Physically Active Living, Phys Ed Leadership 12 and Yoga 11
Canadian History	1	Examples of these courses include: African Canadian Studies 11, Canadian History 11/ Histoire du Canada 11, Etude acadiennes 11, Gaelic Studies 11, Mi'kmaq Studies 11
Global Studies	1	Examples of these courses include: Advanced Global Geography, Global Geography, Advanced Global History or Global History, Global Politics, and Advanced Global Politics

Please Note: It is important to consult with the school to determine which course are available.

While 18 credits are required for a Nova Scotia High School Graduation Diploma for students graduating in 2017-2018, students typically take 21 courses:

Grade 10 8 courses

Grade 11 7 courses

Grade 12 6 courses

STEP 2:

Identify what the child will need to pursue their dreams (career)

Your child can have a huge advantage, in terms of course selection, if you spend time investigating their interests. This will help them develop a list of potential occupations they might want to pursue in the future. While this list will change over time, it can be used to help the child in selecting appropriate courses.

- As a parent and career coach, we want to encourage our child to select courses and levels of courses that will allow them to pursue the training they require.
- Using the “Possibilities List” will help you and your child focus on courses that will ensure they meet the requirements for various types of training/employment.
- There are several useful approaches to identifying what courses may be required:
 - Check out sites such as Careers Nova Scotia, Career Cruising and Post-Secondary institutions to see what types of skills and pre-requisites are required for specific training paths.
 - Talk with school guidance counselors and student services staff at Post Secondary institutions, to identify what pre-requisite courses may be required.
 - Investigate what level of courses may be required (advanced, academic etc.)
 - Determine what elective courses might be of benefit to child in terms of exploring aspects of a career and gaining skills/knowledge that will be of help to them later.

STEP 3:

Monitor course progress

There is a need to monitor your child’s performance in various courses. This helps both you and your child determine if they have the aptitude for specific training and occupations.

- Ensure the child is capable of coping with the demands of specific courses, which are required for desired training or occupations.
 - Are there supports that could be put in place to assist the child?
 - What might be alternate career possibilities (other occupations in career clusters), which don’t require the same courses or level of courses?
 - Is there a need to reduce course load?
 - What do teachers suggest?
 - Would repeating course help improve skills and marks?
- As the child’s possibilities list changes or gets more specific, alter course selection plans

Step 4:

Consider best learning and experience path for child

Your child may benefit from one of several different programs or courses offered at various schools. These programs and courses may be very effective because of the child's learning style, interests and skills. It is important to check to find out what your local high school offers. The following are programs and courses are offered at some high schools:

- **Advanced Placement Courses:** These courses offer students the opportunity to pursue university level studies while in high school.
- **Co-operative Education (11 & 12):** This course helps students plan their education through participation in a community placement of 100 hours in potential careers while they are still in school. Students who participate in co-op will have the opportunity to understand the workplace and gain the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to succeed.
- **International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB):** This program is a comprehensive two-year program that utilizes an internationally standardized curriculum. It is designed for students who are very motivated and competent in high school academics. While, a child can take some courses in grade 10, and take some pre IB courses, the program is delivered at the grade 11 and 12 level.
- **Options and Opportunities (O₂):** This program provides a comprehensive educational program that bridges high school to post-secondary education, work and /or youth apprenticeships for each student. The program is about helping students make connections between what they are learning in school and post-secondary programs and/or work through increased opportunities for community-based learning such as cooperative education credits.
- **Skilled Trades Education:** These courses are available at several high schools across the province. Students complete the required courses for graduation and select their elective courses from Skilled Trades 10, Construction Trades 11, Transportation Trades 11, and Skilled Trades 12 Co-op.

Examples: Post-Secondary Admission Requirements

Please Note: *The following are the present requirements for some post-secondary programs, in Nova Scotia. These may vary, especially, in programs outside of this province. For example, math requirements may be different. Admission requirements both within and outside Nova Scotia may change, over time. It is important to check with institutions to ensure your child has up to date information.*

University (examples of Bachelor Degree programs):

Bachelor of Arts

English + 4 other academic courses

Bachelor of Commerce (Business)

English, Mathematics (academic) + 3 other academic courses

Bachelor of Computer Science

English, Pre-Calculus Math + 3 other academic courses

Bachelor of Engineering

English, Pre-Calculus Math, Chemistry, Physics + 1 other academic course

Bachelor of Nursing

English, Math (academic) Chemistry, Biology + 1 other academic course

Bachelor of Science

English, Pre-Calculus Math, 2 Sciences + 1 other academic course

Community College:

Grade 12 or equivalent

Please Note: There are specific course requirements (e.g. math and science) for some programs. Therefore, it is important to secure information on specific requirements, as part of the exploration process.

For more information, please attend a high school information session, at your school or talk with guidance