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Nova Scotia Student Information System

Nova Scotia Public Education System

Graduation Diploma and Certificate Requirements

User Guide

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1 DIPLOMAS

1.1 NOVA SCOTIA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION DIPLOMA

These requirements apply to any student who entered grade 10 as of September 2017. (Refer to section 1.2 for graduations requirements for students who entered grade 10 prior to September 2017). A High School Graduation Diploma will be awarded to students who have successfully completed the required subjects and electives as described below.

- The minimum number of credits required for graduation is 18.
- No more than seven of the 18 credits may be for grade 10 courses.
- At least five must be for grade 12 courses.

Compulsory credits for graduation:

1.1.1 LANGUAGE, COMMUNICATION, AND EXPRESSION

- 3 English language arts, one credit at each grade level
- 1 Fine Arts: dance, drama, music, or visual arts

1.1.2 SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, AND TECHNOLOGY

- 3 mathematics, one credit at each grade level
- 2 science: one from Science 10, biology, chemistry, or physics, and one other approved science course
- 1 other from science, or technology: eligible courses can be found in the Public School Programs (PSP) within the categories of Sciences; Skilled Trades; Technology Education; and Technology Integration and ICT Courses. Mathematics 10 and Extended Mathematics 11 (both are full year-two credit courses) meet the requirements of one mathematics credit and one technology credit.

1.1.3 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIETY

- 1 Physical Education: eligible credits include Dance 11, Fitness Leadership 11, Physical Education 10, Physical Education 11, Physical Education 12, Physically Active Living 11, Physical Education Leadership 12 and Yoga 11
- 1 Canadian History: African Canadian Studies 11, Canadian History 11, Contemporary Canadian Studies 11, Études acadiennes 11, Gaelic Studies 11, and Mi'kmaw Studies 11 are eligible credits
- 1 Global Studies: Advanced Global Geography 12, Advanced Global History 12, Advanced Global Politics 12, Global Geography 12, Global History 12, Global Politics 12 and Global Sustainable Solutions 12 are eligible credits

Within the 18 course requirements for a graduation diploma, in most cases, no student may receive credit for two courses in the same specific subject area at the same grade level. There are a few exceptions: these include co-op courses and Language Arts with a Canadian Literature course.

1.1.4 ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Individual Program Plans (IPPs) approved by the Regional Centres for students with special needs are recognized for credit.
- Locally developed courses approved by the department are recognized as credit courses and count toward a High School Graduation Diploma Credits for a Graduation.
- Although the minimum number of credits required for graduation is 18, it is recommended that schools develop schedules that allow students to complete 20, 21, or even 24 credits. Schedules should be designed to meet student needs, interests, and abilities.
- For information on Personal Development Credits please refer to <https://pdc.ednet.ns.ca/>. Please note that in July 2017 updates were made to the list of providers.
- Mathematics 10 (full year-two credits) and Extended Mathematics 11 (full year-two credits) meets the requirements of one mathematics credit and one technology credit.

1.2 DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 10 PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 2017

Students require a minimum of 18 credits to graduate. No more than seven of the 18 credits may be for grade 10 courses, and at least five must be for grade 12 courses.

Compulsory credits for graduation:

- 3 English language arts, one credit at each grade level
- 1 Fine Arts: visual arts, dance, drama, or music
- 2 mathematics, one from grade 10 and another
- 2 science: one from Science 10, biology, chemistry, or physics, and one other approved science course
- 2 others from mathematics, science, or technology: eligible courses can be found in the Public School Programs (PSP) within the categories of Mathematics; Sciences; Skilled Trades; Technology Education; and Technology Integration and ICT Courses.
- 1 Physical Education: eligible credits include Physical Education 10, Physical Education 11, Dance 11, Fitness Leadership 11, Physically Active Living 11, Yoga 11, Physical Education 12, and Physical Education Leadership 12
- 1 Canadian History: African Canadian Studies 11, Canadian History 11, Études acadiennes 11, Gaelic Studies 11, and Mi'kmaw Studies 11 are eligible credits
- 1 Global Studies: Global Geography 12, Advanced Global Geography 12, Global History 12, Advanced Global History 12, Global Politics 12, and Advanced Global Politics 12 are eligible credits

1.3 INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (DP) is a pre-university course of studies leading to examinations that meet the needs of grade 11 and 12 secondary school students. The program culminates in a series of international examinations written in six academic subjects chosen by each student—one subject from each of the following groups which correspond to the principal domains of knowledge:

- Group 1 Studies in language and literature – Language A, in a student’s first/host language
- Group 2 Language acquisition – Language B; a second language, such as French or Spanish
- Group 3 Individuals and Societies—subjects such as history, geography, and economics
- Group 4 Experimental Sciences—subjects such as biology, physics, and chemistry
- Group 5 Mathematics
- Group 6 The Arts—subjects such as visual arts, theatre arts, and music. This is an elective subject group.

Diploma Program students are required to select one subject from each of the six subject groups, although students are able to choose the sixth subject. Students can choose an arts course or a second subject from another group as the sixth subject option. At least three, and not more than four subjects, are taken at the Higher Level (HL) which comprise 240 hours of instruction; the others at the Standard Level (SL) which comprise 150 hours of instruction. Students may take a seventh subject, from any group, at the discretion of the school.

Students are also required to fulfill three additional core requirements, a feature unique to the IB:

- The Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course—an interdisciplinary course designed to develop habits of critical reflection, clarity of thought, and moral judgement
- The Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) program—a minimum of 150 hours of participation in creative programs, athletics or other physical activities, and community service
- The Extended Essay (EE)—a 4000-word piece of original independent research on a topic chosen by the student; relating to one of the subjects they are studying

Generally, subjects are taken over two years, however, schools may decide to complete up to two SL courses in the grade 11 year.

The assessment of each student’s work in each of the student’s six subjects includes internal assessment components which are assessed by the teacher, using IB rubrics, as well as written final external examinations which take place in May. The core components, Theory of Knowledge, and the Extended Essay are submitted for external assessment, Creativity, Activity and Service is assessed by the school. There is an emphasis on skill development across all subject areas, oral and written communication, group work, research and the ability to synthesize information, and analytical skills.

Each examined subject is graded on a scale of 1–7. The maximum for the six subjects (6×7) is 42 points. The TOK and the Extended Essay are graded on an A-E scale which contribute up to three points to a student's total points out of a possible 45 toward the Diploma. The Diploma is awarded to students who achieve a minimum total point score of 24 and successfully complete TOK, the Extended Essay, and CAS.

Students who successfully complete all of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma requirements will thereby earn a Nova Scotia High School Graduation Diploma. Please note that students who decide to leave the IB program will be required to meet Nova Scotia graduation requirements. Those students will, of course, be given credit toward those requirements for the IB courses they have successfully completed.

1.3.1 NOVA SCOTIA FRENCH IMMERSION CERTIFICATE, AND THE BILINGUAL IB DIPLOMA

Students may meet requirements for the French Immersion Certificate while also earning the Bilingual IB Diploma by taking some IB courses in French. This provision avoids forcing students to choose between the two programs. The requirements offer student flexibility in their course choices. To earn the French credits required for the Immersion Certificate, students must earn four or five immersion credits in grade 10, including one French language arts course. Students must choose IB French HL as the language option for grades 11 and 12. Students are provided flexibility in their choice of an additional number of immersion and/or IB credit requirements in grade 11 and 12, in which the language of instruction is French. For detailed information on course choice options please see: <https://fsl.ednet.ns.ca/content/french-immersion-certificate-ib-diplomacertificate>.

1.3.2 NOVA SCOTIA INTEGRATED FRENCH CERTIFICATE, AND THE BILINGUAL IB DIPLOMA

Students may meet requirements for the Integrated French Certificate while also earning the Bilingual IB Diploma by taking some IB courses in French. This provision avoids forcing students to choose between the two programs. To earn the French credits required for the Integrated French Certificate, students must earn two integrated French credits in grade 10, including one French language arts course and a second from the approved offerings in the Social Studies, Personal Development and Career Education or Arts Education areas. Students are provided flexibility in their choice of an additional number of integrated and/or IB credit requirements in grades 11 and 12 in which the language of instruction is French. For detailed information on course choice options please see: <https://fsl.ednet.ns.ca/content/french-immersion-certificate-ib-diplomacertificate>.

1.4 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION DIPLOMA FOR ADULTS

In order to obtain a Nova Scotia High School Graduation Diploma for Adults, you will need a total of 12 credits: 6 compulsory credits and 6 elective credits.

Credits toward the Nova Scotia High School Graduation Diploma for Adults can come from:

- Grades 11 and 12 Public School Program credits earned by attending regular high school or adult high school classes
- Adult Learning Program Level IV credits earned through the NSCC (in-class and online)
- Correspondence Study Program credits earned through the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

The compulsory credits are:

- English/French language arts or communications in Grade 11 **and** 12 (2 credits)
- Mathematics in Grade 11 or 12 (1 credit)
- Biology, Chemistry or Physics in Grade 11 or 12, or Human Biology 11, Geology 12, Oceans 11, Food Science 12 or Agriculture/Agri-Food 11 (1 credit)
- Technology, Social Studies or another Mathematics or Science in Grade 11 or 12 (1 credit)
- Global History or Global Geography (1 credit)

The 6 elective credits must come from the Grade 11 or 12 level and at least five of the 12 total credits must come from the Grade 12 level.

Please note that other courses and training may be accepted. Visit <https://novascotia.ca/adult-learning> for more information.

2 CERTIFICATES

2.1 FRENCH IMMERSION CERTIFICATE

To be eligible for the French immersion certificate, students must have been enrolled in an early or late French immersion program before entering high school and meet all the requirements of the certificate as outlined in the Program Policy for French Second Language Programs.

In order to obtain a French Immersion Certificate, high school French Immersion students must:

- Successfully complete the French language Arts course while in their grade 10, 11 and 12 years respectively
- Successfully complete, each year, a minimum of two courses where the language of instruction is French (excluding Core French)

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- Student must successfully complete, during their high school career, a total of nine courses where the language of instruction is French. This represents 50 percent of the number of credits required for graduation.

2.2 INTEGRATED FRENCH CERTIFICATE

In order to obtain the Integrated French Certificate, high school Integrated French students must

- Successfully complete the French language Arts course while in their grade 10, 11 and 12 years respectively, as well as one other course taught in French
- Successfully complete, each year, a minimum of two courses where the language of instruction is French (excluding Core French)
- Students must successfully complete, during their high school career, a total of 6 courses where the language of instruction is French

2.3. OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES (O2) CERTIFICATE

2.3.1 FOR STUDENTS ENTERING THE O2 PROGRAM BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER 2020

In order to obtain the Options and Opportunities Certificate, high school students must:

- Fulfill the requirements prescribed by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for the completion of a NS High School Graduation Diploma
- Successfully complete Career Development 10
- Successfully complete Community Based Learning 11
- Successfully complete a minimum of 3 Co-operative Education credits
- Complete a portfolio

2.3.2 FOR STUDENTS ENTERING THE O2 PROGRAM PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 2020

In order to obtain the Options and Opportunities Certificate, high school students must:

- Fulfill the requirements prescribed by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for the completion of a NS High School Graduation Diploma
- Successfully complete Career Development 10
- Successfully complete Career Development 11
- Successfully complete Workplace Health and Safety 11
- Successfully complete a minimum of 4 Co-operative Education credits or a minimum of 3 Co-operative Education credits and Community Based Learning 10
- Complete a portfolio