

THE BC ADULT GRADUATION DIPLOMA: “THE ADULT DOGWOOD”

This common credential was introduced in September 1999. To be eligible to graduate from this program, adult students (18 years of age or over) must earn at least 20 credits in the secondary system or five courses in the post-secondary system. Courses and credits can be counted from either or both of the following areas:

BC POST-SECONDARY SYSTEM Qualifying Courses	OR	BC SECONDARY SCHOOL SYSTEM Qualifying Courses	
A Provincial Level English or higher	OR	English Studies or English First Peoples 12	4 credits
An Advanced or Provincial Level or higher Mathematics*	OR	A Mathematics 11 or 12	4 credits
Three additional courses at the Provincial Level or higher	OR	Three Grade 12 Ministry-authorized Courses (4 credits each)	12 credits
or		or	
Advanced Social Sciences and two Provincial level courses or higher		Social Studies 11 (4 credits) and two Grade 12 Ministry-authorized Courses (4 credits each)	12 credits
Total: 5 courses			Total: 20 credits

* A student is able to take and obtain credit towards the BCAGD for both Advanced level and Provincial level (or higher) Mathematics. In the latter case, Mathematics would be one of the electives.

Notes:

- ▶ To be eligible for the BC Adult Graduation Diploma (BCAGD), a person must be 18 years or older.
- ▶ Three courses must be completed after enrolling in an adult program. Prior Learning Assessment may be used to meet any of the requirements for the BCAGD. Prior Learning Assessment involves a variety of techniques including equivalency reviews, challenge processes, in-depth interviews, etc.
- ▶ In the secondary school system Provincial Exams are optional for students on an adult program. If the student chooses not to write a provincial exam, the grade will be reported with a “Q” code. It should be noted that some post-secondary institutions might not accept examinable courses for admission purposes unless the secondary system provincial exam has been written.
- ▶ Any 4-credit course that is authorized by the Ministry of Education (MEd), or the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training as requirements for graduation may be used towards the BCAGD.
- ▶ For Ministry of Education information see the following section:
“BC Adult Graduation Diploma: Questions and Answers.”
- ▶ Accounting 11 or a college course equivalent to Accounting 11 can be used for the Mathematics 11 credit for the BCAGD.

THE BC ADULT GRADUATION DIPLOMA: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is the name of the adult credential?

The official name of the adult credential is the British Columbia Adult Graduation Diploma, but it is also known informally as the "Adult Dogwood."

What about the regular Dogwood Diploma?

Adults may choose to do the regular Dogwood Diploma through the MEd. All articulated post-secondary ABE courses can be used for credit towards either the regular or Adult Dogwood.

What about the GED®?

The GED® (General Educational Development) certificate is not the same as the Adult Dogwood diploma. The Ministry of Education discontinued the GED® program at the end of 2014.

When was the BC Adult Graduation Diploma (BCAGD) implemented?

The BCAGD was implemented on September 1, 1999.

Who will issue the BC Adult Graduation Diploma?

Post-secondary institutions will request the diplomas from AEST (at AEST.Post-SecondaryProgsBr@gov.bc.ca) and issue them from the registrar's office. The BCAGD is a joint AEST/MEd document signed by both ministers. Students may take their post-secondary course(s) back to the school district and apply for their diploma through the school district and MEd.

Who will issue the transcripts for the diploma?

The institution issuing the diploma takes responsibility for the student and identifies which courses have been used to qualify for the diploma, both internal and transfer courses. Students combining courses from the two systems for the diploma will need to include all relevant transcripts in situations where they need to verify their courses and grades.

Does a student have to take at least 3 of the courses used towards the Adult Dogwood as an adult?

Yes, 3 courses should have been completed after turning 18 years old. A student may use Prior Learning Assessment (where available) as an adult to get credit for up to 3 courses used towards the diploma.

What if a student is missing one or two courses from his/her high school graduation?

If the student is school aged, they are still able to complete the graduation program.
If the student has turned 18, they can choose to finish the graduation program for a regular Dogwood or switch over to the adult graduation program for an Adult Dogwood.

Does a student have to take a minimum number of courses used towards the Adult Dogwood from the institution granting the Adult Dogwood?

Yes, at least one course from the institution granting the diploma. The other eligible courses may be brought from another institution or institutions.

Can a student use courses taken a long time ago for credit towards the Adult Dogwood?

Yes, as long as they were Ministry-authorized courses at the time, and s/he has completed three courses as an adult.

Will college ABE students be able to write MEd provincial exams?

No, not through a college.

If a student wishes to write a provincial exam the student must register for the provincially examinable course at a school district.

What courses are eligible? Can Communications 12 be used as the Language Arts 12?

Can Accounting 11 be used for the Mathematics 11?

All courses must be ministry-authorized Ministry of Education or Advanced Ed, but only certain courses are eligible to satisfy the Language Arts requirements and the Math requirements.

Yes, Communications 12 can count towards the Language Arts 12 requirement, but so can English 12, English First Peoples and any of the French versions of these courses. With Math, the same idea as there are several courses that can satisfy the Math requirement, (i.e. Apprenticeship and Workplace, Foundations, Pre-Calc, Accounting) but it is incumbent upon the student to ensure they take the appropriate Math or English course if they are planning to take post-secondary studies as most programs have specific course requirements for entrance.

Please note that Communications 12 was discontinued in the 2018/19 school year.

Can Work Experience designated courses be counted for credit towards the BCAGD?

Yes, all WEX 12 (Ministry Authorized Work Experience) or WRK 12A/12B (Youth Work in Trades) can be applied to the Adult Graduation Diploma. Students can receive Adult Graduation Program credit for both of these courses.

What is meant by "Three additional courses at the Provincial Level or higher"?

The Provincial level means that the course has to be articulated as an ABE Provincial Level course and be listed on a transfer grid in the ABE Articulation Handbook (either this Handbook or a previous one). A higher level course means that the course is a university transfer course and listed on the BCCAT website.

For non-academic courses, refer to List 2 on the Framework.

For the trades and other programs, courses can be used if there is a written agreement with the school, or if the course is listed in the college's calendar and is used towards a credential for a certificate, diploma or degree.

Do the three additional Post Secondary courses at the Provincial Level or higher have to be from different subject areas?

No they could all be from the same subject area.

Does an additional Post Secondary course have to be a particular length of time before it can be used towards the BCAGD?

In the case of the trades or other program courses, the course must be 100-120 hours. Courses with less than these may be 'bundled' up to equal the 100-120 hours requirement.

Where can I find out more information about course requirements and graduation requirements?

Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training:

This Articulation Handbook is the AEST authorized guide to ABE course information and graduation requirements. Eligible courses include any advanced Mathematics or higher, any provincial English or higher, and any provincial level courses or higher. Higher than provincial level courses may or may not be accepted for university transfer if they have also been used towards the BCAGD. Students using the Articulation Handbook need to check with the receiving department/institution.

Ministry of Education:

The main MEd website for the Adult Graduation Program is
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/adult-education/graduate-high-school/bc-adult-graduation-diploma-program>

The graduation requirements are also included in the *Handbook of Procedures (Chapter 3)*
<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/handbook/>

The MEd has determined that all ABE courses from British Columbia's public post-secondary institutions will be recognized for credit toward completion of the BCAGD.

All Ministry-authorized courses from Ministry of Education, at the Grade 12 level, plus Social Studies 11, can meet the requirements for the Adult Graduation Diploma. For a listing of all courses, please see the Course Registry at:
http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/datacollections/course_registry_web_search/search-home.en.php

New curriculum website: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>

CAPPA 12 is now closed, but adult students can still use Planning 12 to capture career planning type coursework for the 2017/2018 school year. There will be a new course (which is currently in draft) called Career Education 12 that will replace Planning 12 for the 2018/2019 school year but can be used in draft this year. If using the new draft Career Ed 12 curriculum, please continue to code as Planning 12 until the new codes become official.

The books mentioned above can be purchased through Queen's Printer Publications Services,
563 Superior Street Victoria, BC, V8W 9V7 Tel 250 387-6409 Fax 250 387-1120 Toll Free 1-800-663-6105.

For the BC Post-Secondary System Qualifying Courses, what courses (other than the academic ones) are eligible from List 2?

For the trades and other programs, courses can be used if there is a written agreement with the school, if the course is listed in the college's calendar and is used towards a credential for a certificate, diploma or degree.

What English course can be used as the BC Post-Secondary Provincial Level English?

As long as the English course has been articulated as a Provincial level English course by the ABE English Working Group and is on the ABE English transfer grid, then it can be used.

What math course can be used as the BC Post-Secondary math towards the Adult Dogwood?

As long as the math course has been articulated as an Advanced level math course, or higher, by the ABE Mathematics Working Group and is on the ABE Mathematics transfer grid, then it can be used.