



Nova Scotia Student Information System

Nova Scotia Public Education System

Graduation Diploma and Certificate Requirements

Quick Reference Guide

Revision Date:
April 12, 2013

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I. DIPLOMAS

1.1. NS High School Graduation Diploma English and French

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 at each grade level, *or for students in Acadian or Francophone schools 3 French language arts, one at each grade level*
- 1 Fine Arts: Art, Dance, Drama, or Music

1.1.2. Science, Mathematics, and Technology

- 2 mathematics, one of which may be a grade 10 mathematics credit
- 2 science: one from biology, chemistry, Science 10, or physics, and one other approved science course
- 2 others from mathematics, science, and/or technology: eligible technology courses include Business Technology 11; Business Technology 12; Communications Technology 11 and 12; Computer Programming 12; Construction Technology 10; Construction Trades 11; Design 11; Electrotechnologies 11; Energy, Power, and Transportation 11; Exploring Technology 10; Film and Video Production 12; Food Technology 10, Food Preparation and Service 10, and Textile Production 10 (half-credits); Housing and Design 12; Manufacturing Trades 11; Multimedia 12; Production Technology 11 and 12; Skilled Trades 10; Textile Technology 12; and Transportation Trades 11.

1.1.3. Personal Development and Society

- 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/Histoire du Canada 11, Études acadiennes 11, Gaelic Studies 11, and Mi'kmaw Studies 10 are eligible credits.
- 1 Global Studies: Global Geography, Advanced Global Geography, Global History, and Advanced Global History are eligible credits.

(These courses are Public School Program (PSP) Courses, there may be some approved locally developed courses (ALC) that apply, please see the guidance staff at the school.)

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, Canadian Literature, Global Geography, Global History, family studies, technology-related courses, advanced math 12, pre-calculus and calculus.

1.2. International Baccalaureate Diploma

Compulsory credits for graduation:

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 Language A—the student’s first language
- Group 2 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

Students may take a seventh subject, from any group, at the discretion of the school. The student’s choices must include three courses taken at the Higher Level (HL), comprising 240 teacher-student contact hours, and three courses taken at the Standard Level (SL), comprising 150 teacher-student contact hours.

Most subjects are taken over two years, but a few SL courses such as history and economics may be completed in the grade 11 year. Students are also required to fulfill three additional 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, Action, 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.

The assessment of each student’s work in each of the student’s six subjects includes a written final external examination written in May. Examinations are limited to five hours per HL course and three hours per SL course. Theory of Knowledge is assessed on a paper written by each student, and the Extended Essay is submitted for external assessment as well. In addition, every subject has a course work component which is internally assessed by the teachers. There is an emphasis on oral and written communication, group work, an 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 grades contribute up to three bonus 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 complete a TOK paper, the Extended Essay, and the CAS program.

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.

1.2.1. Nova Scotia French Immersion Certificate, and the Bilingual IB Diploma

Students may meet requirements for either 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. To earn the nine French credits required for the Immersion Certificate, students would earn either four or five immersion credits in grade 10 then go on to earn four or five more immersion credits for IB courses in grades 11 and 12 in which the language of instruction is French.

1.3. Adult High School Diploma

Require 6 compulsory and 6 elective credits. Five of the 12 credits must be at grade 12 level.

The 6 compulsory credits are:

- 2 credits - English/French Language Arts or Communications (grade 11 and 12)
- 1 credit – Mathematics (grade 11 or 12)
- 1 credit – Science (grade 11 or 12) must be a first science, either Biology, Chemistry or Physics.
- 1 credit - Technology, Mathematics, Science, or Social Studies (grade 11 or 12)
- 1 credit - Global Studies (grade 11 or 12)

The 6 elective credits are:

- Any courses, at the grade 11 or 12 level, in any subject area that may assist in meeting personal or professional goals.

2. CERTIFICATES

2.1. French Immersion Certificate

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

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

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

- Fulfill the requirements prescribed by the Department of Education 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 LifeWork Portfolio