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Course Planning Grade 9 to 10  
Vancouver Technical Secondary School



# INDIGENOUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓w̓xwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).



xʷməθkʷəy̓əm  
(Musqueam)



Sk̓w̓xwú7mesh  
Úxwumixw  
(Squamish Nation)



səlilwətaɬ  
(Tsleil-Waututh Nation)

# Start Thinking

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- Personal Interests/Future Choices (What are my interests? Where am I going? What do I need to get there?)
- Current Graduation Requirements – for grade 10, 11, and 12 (Am I up to date?)
- Post-Secondary Admission Requirements – for grade 11 and 12 University, Colleges, Technical Schools, Trades Training etc...

# Options...

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Some Options

After Van. Tech.



- Trades Training
- College
- University
- Upgrade/Adult Education
- Work
- Gap Year

# Graduation Requirements – Grades 10, 11, and 12 Courses

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## Courses and Credits

Required credits 52 credits (13 courses)

Elective credits 28 credits (7 courses minimum)

Total minimum credits to graduate= 80\*

\*Of the 80 credits (20 courses), at least 16 credits (4 courses) must be Grade12 level (not counting CLC 12), at least 4 credits (1 course) must be an Applied Skills or Fine Arts elective, and at least 4 credits (1 course) must be Indigenous focused.

# Graduation Plan

(basic B.C. graduation requirements only  
– individual post-secondary programs may have additional requirements)

<b>Grade 10</b>	<b>Grade 11</b>	<b>Grade 12</b>
Two Language Arts 10 courses (2 credits each)	One Language Arts 11 course (4 credits)	English Studies 12 or English First Peoples 12
Social Studies 10	Any Social Studies 11 or 12 course	Career Life Connections/ Capstone Project 12
Math 10 (FMP/Workplace)	Math 11 (Pre- Calc./Foundations/Workpla ce/ Comp. Sci)	<b>Gr. 12 Elective</b>
Science 10	A Science 11 (or 12) course	<b>Gr. 12 Elective</b>
Physical Education 10	<b>Elective</b>	<b>Gr. 12 Elective</b>
Career Life Education 10	<b>Elective</b>	<b>Elective</b>
<b>Elective</b>	<b>Elective</b>	<b>Elective</b>
<b>Elective</b>	<b>Elective</b>	<b>Elective</b>
<b>32 credits</b>	<b>64-68 credits</b>	<b>80-102 credits</b>

# COURSE EVALUATION IN GRADES 10, 11, AND 12.

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- Some teachers may continue to use the Proficiency Scale (Emerging, Developing, Proficient, or Extending) informally as a description of student work and/or on marking criteria rubrics.
- Unlike in grades 8 and 9, the Proficiency Scale is not used to assign interim or final marks to courses.
- Interim and final course marks are represented by percentages. As a final mark, anything from 50% to 100% will be considered passing and will earn credits (usually four) on the student's transcript.
- Any final course mark from 0% to 49% will not be considered passing and will earn no credits. If the final mark is in this range for a Graduation Requirement, that course will need to be re-taken until a final mark in the passing range is earned.

# Graduation Requirements – Provincial Assessments

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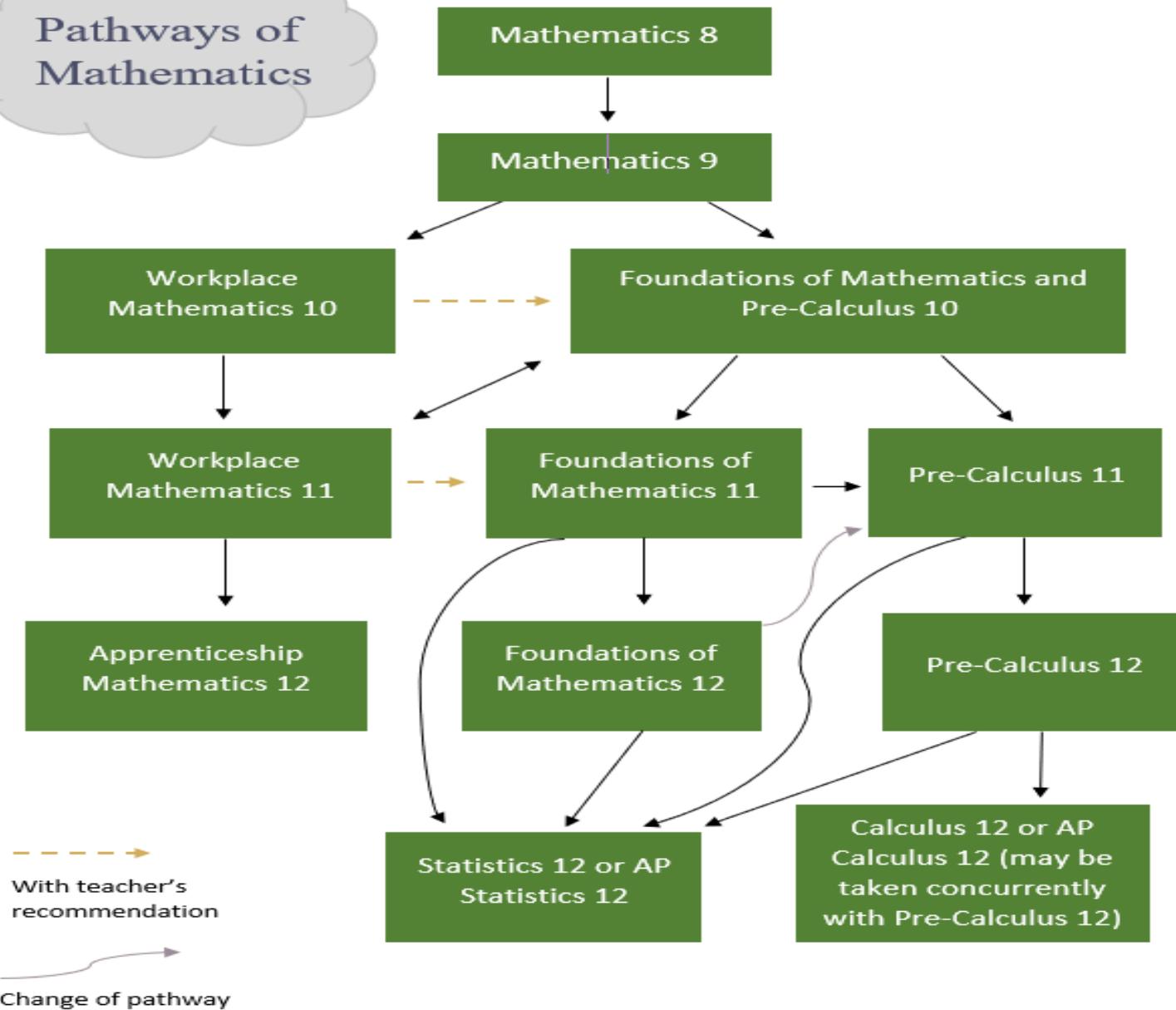
1. Grade 10 Numeracy
2. Grade 10 Literacy
3. Grade 12 Literacy (F.Y.I. - U.B.C. Admissions states that grade 12 students must obtain a minimum mark of 3 – Proficient - on this assessment to gain admission. Achieving less than that will not necessarily get your offer of admission revoked, but it will be reviewed.)
4. Grade 12 French Literacy – for French Immersion students only
  - students must attempt all questions on each assessment
  - final mark will be either 1 (Emerging), 2 (Developing), 3 (Proficient), or 4 (Extending)
  - all marks above are “passing”

# Career Life Education (Grade 10) and Career Life Connections/Capstone Project (Grade 12)

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- 4 credits will be awarded for the successful completion of the CLE course – typically completed in grade 10
- 4 credits will be awarded in total for successful completion of the CLC course and Capstone project – typically completed in grade 12
- Capstone Project – a project on a topic you are passionate about – may or may not be career related
- Career Education 8 and 9 – which are delivered through grade assemblies at Van. Tech. – prepare students for CLE 10 and CLC 12

# Pathways of Mathematics



# INDIGENOUS COURSE GRADUATION REQUIREMENT (grade 9 reference only)

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ALL STUDENTS MUST MEET THIS REQUIREMENT BY TAKING **AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:**

ENGLISH FIRST PEOPLES: LITERARY STUDIES AND WRITING 11 (also fulfills Grade 11 English Language Arts Graduation Requirement, and admission requirement to any post-secondary institution)

B.C. FIRST PEOPLES 12 (also fulfills senior Social Studies Graduation Requirement)

CONTEMPORARY INDIGENOUS STUDIES 12 (also fulfills senior Social Studies Graduation Requirement)

ÉTUDES AUTOCHTONES CONTEMPORAINES 12 (also fulfills senior Social Studies Graduation Requirement and French Immersion Program Requirement)

ENGLISH FIRST PEOPLES 12 (also fulfills Grade 12 English Language Arts Graduation Requirement, and admission requirement to any post-secondary institution)

# Colleges (grade 9 reference only)

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- Dogwood required (completion grade 12 and all Graduation Requirements). For Douglas, students can be short by one course.
  - Certificate (1 year), diploma (2 years) and sometimes undergraduate degrees (4 years)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> serve application (admission requirements for Open Enrolment Programs)
  - Competitive or Limited Enrolment programs have different requirements. Please research individual programs.
  - For many university-bound students, doing a two-year university-transfer program in a college (then entering university in third year) is a superior path to entering first-year university directly from grade 12.
- \* Langara **is the largest university transfer college**

# VSB Career Programs

(grade 8 reference only)

(typically completed in grade 12 and applied for in grade 11 – see Career Programs page on VSB website – let counsellor know if you'd like an interview with one of the District Career education teachers in grade 10, 11, or 12.

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**Youth Train in Trades and Dual Credit** (partnership between a post-secondary trades program and the VSB) – available for Grade 12 year with successful application – many including Aircraft Maintenance Engineer, Automotive Collision Repair, Automotive Service Technician, Baking & Pastry Arts, Carpentry, Cook Training, Hairdressing, Metal Fabricator, Commercial Painting, Plumbing, Health Care Assistant

**School Based Programs** – similar to YTT and DC but not affiliated to a post-secondary trades program – CISCO IT, Enhanced Trades, Fashion Design, and Tupper Tech

**Youth Work in Trades** (Secondary School Apprenticeship) – requires a signed agreement with employer that you must find yourself

# Universities

(grade 9 reference only)

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- Universities all have their individual requirements which vary from program to program. Make sure you look at each university admissions website as requirements change constantly.
- Undergraduate degree (4 year Bachelor's), graduate (Master's or Doctorate), post-graduate programs (Education, Law, Medicine)
- Admission can be competitive. Have a plan B.

# Second Language 11 or 12 (for Regular, Flex, or Summit)

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- options offered at Van. Tech. are French, Spanish, or Mandarin
- Spanish or Mandarin can begin in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12. (French begins in grade 8.)
- not required for basic graduation, admission to post secondary, nor trades training
- still recommended for students who have historically achieved high marks in second language courses and who may apply to a first-year University program directly from grade 12.

# Challenge Exams/Courses

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Delta School District hosts language challenge exams, deadline is end of October – keep an eye out for applications

French, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Punjabi, Persian, and Spanish – grade 11 and 12 final exams offered.

(the following is for grade 9 reference only – may change by 2029)

SFU - Accepts challenge courses for admission average calculation which means it can be one of the approved Gr. 11 or 12 courses on their lists.

UBC- Cannot be used as one of the approved grade 11 or 12 courses in the calculation of admission average.

# On-line Courses

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Not all post-secondary schools accept all on-line courses or providers, and some have policies about how close to completion courses must be in order to be used for an admission average.

On-line learning has a high sign-up rate but a low completion rate. Students with a minimum B (Proficient) average in all academic courses and with a solid record of independent, unsupervised homework completion stand a better chance of success.

For most students, we recommend taking courses –especially graduation requirements – at school for the most supportive, meaningful and engaging experience.

# Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries (for grade 9 preview only, but see bolded point below - relevant to grade 11 and 12)

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Van. Tech. Graduation awards

Community and Corporate scholarships and awards

Individual post-secondary institution entrance awards

B.C. Ministry of Education provincial scholarships

Scholarshipscanada.com

Studentaidbc.ca – (for government student loans and bursaries)

**\*Meaningful volunteering, employment, or leadership experience can start in junior grades, but make sure it's for something you're passionate about.**

Senior students should check communication channels from school (like the Teams Student Hub – Scholarship and Post-Secondary channel).

# Balance.....

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Self-care / Stress-management

Realistic expectations

It's normal to not know what you want and to change your mind (a few times even).

Remember - it's your life!

## **STUDENTS IN OUR REGULAR PROGRAM:**

**1)** English 10 combination - Literary Studies along with student's choice of Composition, **OR** New Media, **OR** Creative Writing.

**2)** Social Studies 10

**3)** Mathematics – Foundations of Math and Pre-calculus 10 **OR** Workplace Math 10

**4)** Science 10

**5)** Physical and Health Education 10

**6)** Career Life Education 10

PLUS TWO ELECTIVE COURSES (see choices below)

## STUDENTS IN OUR FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM:

- |   |
|---|
| <b>1)</b> Français Langue 10 (French Language)*   |
| <b>2)</b> Sciences Humaines 10 (Social Studies)*  |
| <b>3)</b> Sciences 10 (Science)*  |
| <b>4)</b> Éducation à la Vie Professionnelle 10 (Career Life Education)*  |
| <b>5)</b> English 10 combination - Literary Studies along with student's choice of Composition, <b>OR</b> New Media, <b>OR</b> Creative Writing |
| <b>6)</b> Mathematics – Foundations of Math and Pre-calculus 10 <b>OR</b> Workplace Math 10   |
| <b>7)</b> Physical and Health Education 10  |

\*courses 1 through 4 are compulsory courses to be taken in the program cohort

PLUS ONE ELECTIVE COURSE (see choices below)

## **STUDENTS IN OUR FLEX HUMANITIES PROGRAM:**

- 1) English 10 combination FLEX (Classics) –  
Literary Studies and Composition\***
- 2) Social Studies 10 FLEX (History)\***
- 3) Interactive Arts and Design Tech. 10 FLEX\***
- 4) Film Studies 10 FLEX\***
- 5) Mathematics - Foundations of Math and Pre-calculus 10  
OR Workplace Math 10**
- 6) Science 10**
- 7) Physical and Health Education 10**
- 8) Career Life Education 10**

\*courses 1 through 4 are compulsory courses to be taken in the program cohort

\*Applied Skills and Fine Arts electives are taken within Flex with courses 3 and 4

Options for continuing the study of a second language in either grade 10 or 11 will be discussed during Course Planning.

# English 10 Options for Regular and French Immersion students

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## LITERARY STUDIES (the anchor course for all options) +

All options will involve studying literature, writing essays, writing creatively, and using spoken language through communicating and listening. All courses are equally valid, equally academic, and have the same difficulty level. A student's grade 10 choice does not affect which grade 11 English they must take.

**COMPOSITION** - additional focus on formal and essay writing. (This is the cohorted option in our Flex Humanities, Summit, and Transitional English programs.)

**NEW MEDIA** - additional focus on digital media and film.

**CREATIVE WRITING** – additional focus on creative writing, e.g. poetry and stories.

## **STUDENTS IN OUR SUMMIT PROGRAM**

- 1) English 10 combination SUMMIT –  
Literary Studies and Composition\***
- 2) Social Studies 10 SUMMIT\***
- 3) Pre-calculus 11 SUMMIT\***
- 4) Chemistry 11 SUMMIT\***
- 5) Physical and Health Education 10**
- 6) Career Life Education 10**

\*courses 1 through 4 are compulsory courses to be taken  
in the program cohort

PLUS TWO ELECTIVE COURSES (see choices below)

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## **LAC Program Course Requests for 2026 - 2027**

**1) Junior or Senior LAC Modified English**

**2) Junior or Senior LAC Modified Social Studies**

**3) Junior or Senior LAC Modified Mathematics**

**4) Junior or Senior LAC Modified Science**

**5) Physical and Health Education 10**

**6) Elective**

**7) Elective**

**8) Elective**

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**STUDENTS IN OUR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING PROGRAM, AND JUNIOR L.A.C. PROGRAM WILL BE CONSULTED INDIVIDUALLY FOR ACADEMIC AND ELECTIVE COURSE SELECTION. PROGRAM COURSES WILL DIFFER DEPENDING ON INDIVIDUAL NEEDS.**

# Elective Options – Applied Skills

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## HOME ECONOMICS

Food Studies 10

Textiles 10

Culinary Arts 10

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Computer Studies 10

## TECHNICAL STUDIES

Drafting 10

Graphics & Media Design 10

Metalwork 10 **OR** Jewelry Art & Design 10

Power Technology 10

Robotics, Electronics, & Exploring Trades 10

Woodwork 10

# Elective Options – Fine Arts (Art and Drama)

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## ART

Video Production 10

Ceramics & Sculpture 10

Visual Arts 10: Art Studio

Visual Arts 10: Drawing and Painting

## DRAMA

Drama 10 (*Students can specialize in Acting or Backstage*)

Theatre Company 10 (*Requires attendance outside of class time*)

# Elective Options – Fine Arts (Music)

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## **MUSIC** (ON-TIMETABLE – COUNT TOWARD REQUIRED EIGHT COURSES)

Senior Concert Band 10 (*Recommended 2+ years of exp*)

Instrumental Music 10: Jazz Band (*Student must take 1 more music class*)

## **MUSIC** (OFF-TIMETABLE – ADDITIONAL FULL-YEAR NINTH COURSES)

Concert Choir 10 (*Off timetable – Lunch, no audition*)

Chamber Choir 10 (*Off timetable – Morning, req. audition*)

Vocal Jazz 10 (*must also take Chamber Choir*)

Instrumental Music 10: Orchestra (*Strings*)

# Elective Options – Modern Languages

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These require successful completion of the grade 9 course before it:

French 10

(Ex-French Immersion students in a higher grade of French may take the next course up with successful completion of their current course)

Mandarin 10

(students currently in a higher grade of Mandarin may take the next course up with successful completion of their current course)

Spanish 10

These are first year courses open to grade 10 students:

[MBMAN11] Introductory Mandarin 11

[MBSP-11] Introductory Spanish 11

# Elective Options – other off-timetable courses

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These are full-year courses which will take place either before school, or after school, or at lunch. They are additional to the eight on-timetable courses which Grade 10 students must take:

Retail Business 12 (school store operation - grade 10s may sign up)

Queer & Trans History of BC 12 (grade 10s may sign up)

Mental Health & Leadership 10

History of African Descent in BC 12 (grade 10s may sign up)

# Course Planning Guide

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Course descriptions in our course planning guide booklet are intended as a guide to assist students and parents in selecting courses for programs.

Some courses must be taken to meet the requirements of the Ministry of Education while others are chosen to meet individual interests and goals.

Counsellors will assist students in the selection of their courses, and they will be happy to provide advice to students and their families in order to support each student on their own path toward success

While every effort is made to give students their first choice of course selection, due to circumstances beyond the school's control, is not always possible. Students should be prepared with alternative choices.

# Course Planning Guide

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A digital copy is on our website: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/vancouver-technical/page/4643/course-planning>

[Career and Post Secondary](#)[CLC and Capstone 12](#)[Code of Conduct](#)[Community School Teams](#)[Student Threat Risk Assessment Protocol](#)[Course Planning](#)[Digital Citizenship](#)[Multicultural Liaison Workers](#)[School Liaison Officer](#)[School Policies and Procedures](#)[Student Council](#)[Student Safety](#)[Grad info](#)

## Click Guidance & Support

## Click Course Planning

### Course Planning Night - Thurs Jan 28th, 2021

Course planning night is an opportunity for parents and students to find out more about ...





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Community School Teams

Student Threat-Risk Assessment  
(VTRA)

Course Planning

Digital Citizenship

Multicultural Liaison Workers

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Student Council

Student Safety

Grad Info

Severe Weather

Presentation on Parenting in a  
Digital world

Guidance & Support Team

## Course Planning

Jan 9, 2025

Course Planning Guidebook:

[2025-2026 VanTech Course Planning Guide.pdf](#)

The Vancouver Technical Counselling Department will be hosting virtual one-hour sessions for caregivers and families to learn more about the course offerings for the 2025-2026 school year and the course selection process on **Tuesday, January 21st, 2025**

This is a great opportunity to learn about available classes, grade requirements, and post-secondary information (particularly for current grade 10 and 11 students), as well as an opportunity to ask questions through the chat feature.

Please note course planning information as well as recordings and slide decks from course planning information night will be posted on this webpage within one week of the event.

No registration is required to attend the event. Simply click the Teams link before or as the meeting begins.



Click:  
2025-26 Course  
Planning Guide-  
with video links

As you go through the guide, you will see the following icon:



This indicates there is a link to video made by teachers that may :

- give an overview of course
- show workspace
- projects in that course
- and more!

institutions, including First Peoples governance, political and economic ideologies and the development of public policy, changing conceptions of identity in Canada, Canadian autonomy domestic conflict and co-operation, discriminatory policies and injustices in Canada and the world, such as the Head Tax, the Komagata Maru incident, residential schools, and internments, international conflicts and co-operation, human–environment interaction, economic development and Canada's role in a global economy, and truth and reconciliation in Canada.

**GRADE 11 & 12**

 **Asian Studies 12** MASIA12

AS12 focuses on countries in East, South, and Southeast Asia through the lenses of human and physical geography, history, economics, and political science, to aid in the understanding of the diverse cultures and regions within. The self-motivated learner will examine various conflicts and movements that have helped shape Asian identities through the 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, as well as topics such as industrialization, colonialism, imperialism, urbanization, migration patterns, and environmental issues, with field study opportunities to Chinatown and the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Gardens, the Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre, as well as a cultural potluck lunch to supplement the course.

 **BC First Peoples 12** MBCFP12

BC First Peoples 12 is open to all Grade 11 and 12 students. This course examines the history and culture of BC's aboriginal peoples from before the arrival of Europeans to the present day. The course also explores the continuing impact of colonialism, institutional racism, and ethnocentrism, and how First Nations peoples have resisted and adapted to a changing environment. Aboriginal cultural expressions of art, literature and film are another area that will be explored in-depth. *This course will be offered in alternate years starting 2021/2022.*