

### Credit Check Guidelines

- You need 18 credits to graduate in Nova Scotia. We set you up to graduate with 21.
- Only 7 grade 10 courses can count amongst those 18 and at least 5 must be at the grade 12 level.  
The 18 credits must include the following:
  - 1 fine art
  - 1 physical education credit
  - 1 Canadian Studies
  - 6 credits which will come from the “Math/Science/Technology” category:
    - 3 Math (Gr. 10-11-12)
    - 2 Science (1 has to be either Science 10, Biology, 11, Chemistry 11 or Physics 11)
    - 1 other course which must be either Math, Science or Technology (or a combination)
  - Grade 10, 11, 12 English
  - Global Geography or History 12
  - 5 other courses
  - Please check course prerequisites and descriptions in the Course Selection Guide on the Guidance website.
  - Some courses are academic and some are open level.
  - Graduation requirements and university and college entrance requirements are **NOT the same**. If you have a college/university/program in mind now, please do your research. Get to know their websites, entrance requirements, program description, etc.

### FAQs

**What are electives and do they still count?** Electives are any course they you take over and above the 13 mandatory courses listed above and they do count. These courses can come from the list of Electives on your course selection sheet or they can be an extra math (ie. Calculus) or an extra science (ie. Chem. 12) or Home Trades, etc.

**What is a prerequisite?** A prerequisite is a course that is required in order for you to take another course. For example, Chemistry 11 is a prerequisite for Chemistry 12 or Math 10 is a prerequisite for physics 11.

**Can you go to university without academic Math?** The simple answer is yes! There are many university programs that do not require academic math and this is why it is so important to do some research before choosing courses.

**If I don't take academic math or pre-calculus math in high school, many doors are closed forever.** This is a MYTH! Most universities and colleges offer Math 12 and Pre-calculus 12

equivalents (along with other university prep courses) for students missing some required courses.

**Can I request an additional course?** Forms to request an additional course will be available in the spring. Guidance will announce when these forms are available. Students will know if they have been granted an additional course when they return in September.

**How can my guidance counsellor help?** Your Guidance counsellors are here to help you. Please see the **Course Selection Overview** for more details.

### *Useful Tips*

Please complete the 3 yr plan included here. This is just a tool to help you plan your time here with us and make better, more informed course decisions. You are not locked into this plan. This is for your purposes only and should help alleviate some of the stress.

Please take time when choosing your courses as course changes are rare. One of the great things about the West is we listen to our students. Our course offerings are 100% based on what students want. For example, the number of sections of pre-calculus 11 offered is based on the number of students selecting it. More students select, more sections are offered. This means that we do everything we can to accommodate your course selections; consequently, when you change your mind we do not have empty seats or additional courses for you to take as our course offerings were based on your first selections.

Choose your alternate courses wisely.

Guidance counsellors are available for students to drop in and ask questions during lunch.

Some programs like O2 and FI have additional requirements.

CO-OP courses requires an application. These can be picked up in guidance.

Grade 11 marks count. Please do not wait until grade 12 to start taking your studies seriously. Students are often applying to post-secondary programs in the fall of their grade 12 year to meet Feb.-March deadlines. This means that universities/colleges are basing their decisions on some of your grade 11 courses.

Students can start applying to NSCC once they are in Grade 11. If you are interested in NSCC, please apply as soon as you are eligible as program fill up quickly and are waitlisted.

---

### PLAN FOR SUCCESS – 3 YEAR COURSE PLANNING

---

We encourage you to complete the chart below tentatively listing all the courses you plan to take in high school. Choose 2 alternates as well. Make sure that you include prerequisites for future courses. Please check your graduation requirements and those courses required for any post- secondary programs that may interest you before you finalize your selections with your counsellor.

*Note: Pre-calculus Math 11 is only offered in Semester 2 and Pre-Calculus Math 12 will only be offered in Semester 1.(it is not possible to take them both in the same year)*

Grade 10 – Choose 8 courses	Grade 11 – Choose 7 courses	Grade 12 – Choose 6 courses
1	1	1
2	2	2
3	3	3
4	4	4
5	5	5
6	6	6
7	7	
8		
<i>Alternate:</i>	<i>Alternate:</i>	<i>Alternate:</i>
<i>Alternate:</i>	<i>Alternate:</i>	<i>Alternate:</i>