

### CREDITS FOR A GRADUATION DIPLOMA 2017-18

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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. The following are compulsory credits for graduation:

#### Language, Communication, and Expression

- ❖ 3 language arts, one at each grade level
- ❖ 1 arts: dance, drama, music, or visual arts

#### Science, Mathematics, and Technology

- ❖ 2 mathematics (only one credit may be from the grade 10 level)
- ❖ 2 science: one from Science 10, biology, chemistry, or physics, and one other approved science course
- ❖ 2 others from mathematics, science, and/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.

#### 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; Gaelic Studies 11; Études acadiennes 11 and Mi'kmaq Studies 10
- ❖ 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

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.

**These requirements apply to any student earning the 2017-18 Nova Scotia High School Graduation Diploma.**

#### Notes:

- As a graduation requirement starting in 2020, students will be required to successfully complete three high school mathematics courses, one at each grade level (10, 11 & 12). This means that students entering grade 10 beginning in September 2017 will require three mathematics courses as noted.
- Individual Program Plans (IPPs) approved by the school board 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.

- 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.
- 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*.
- To be eligible for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (DP), students should see the Nova Scotia International Baccalaureate (IB) website or speak to the IB school coordinator. <http://ib.ednet.ns.ca/>
- 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.
- Extended Mathematics 11 (full year- two credits) meets the requirements of one mathematics credit and one technology credit.
- French First Language programs are described in detail in Programme des écoles publiques, the French version of the Public School Programs (PSP).
- The Public School Programs (PSP) is being updated as per *Nova Scotia's Action Plan for Education*. A new PSP is anticipated for the 2018-19 school year. Until that time, please refer to the [current draft PSP](#) for additional information on courses and programs.

For additional information please contact:

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