

Earning Credits through Equivalency and Challenge

Pacific School of Innovation and Inquiry

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Purpose

The purpose of students earning credits through challenge, equivalency, external credentials and post-secondary credits is to grant credit toward graduation for learning that has occurred beyond the scope of regular schooling and which meets or exceeds the provincial standards for course completion. Students may earn these credits as part of the 2004 Graduation Program in grades 10, 11 and 12.

Within the 28 elective credits (or beyond that minimum) PSII shall impose no limits to the number of credits earned through equivalency, challenge, external credentials, post-secondary credits, or independent directed studies, in compliance with Ministry of Education policy.

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

Challenge: A formal process in which a student completes for credit, without taking the course, specific tasks to demonstrate achievement of learning outcomes as prescribed in a Ministry-developed or board/authority authorized course. Procedures are as outlined in this document.

Equivalency: (Evidence of Prior Learning): Equivalent grade 10, 11 or 12 course from an educational jurisdiction or institution outside the BC school system. The school shall ensure that there are processes for students to provide appropriate evidence for the comparison of factors such as learning outcomes, general subject matter, depth or breadth of coverage of subject matter, and assessment methods, instruments and standards. For equivalency to be granted there should be a match of approximately 80% or more of the learning outcomes associated with the BC equivalent course. For reporting and transcript purposes schools will assign letter grades and percentages.

There will no additional fee charged for review or granting of these credits.

External Credentials: (Ministry-Approved Documented Prior Learning): External credentials approved by the BC Ministry of Education, based on an official list of the approved credentials and assessments provided annually to schools in the Ministry's *Graduation Handbook*. Some external credentials are classified as required course, and others as elective courses. The school will ensure that there are clear processes for students to provide appropriate documentation for credit.

Post-Secondary Credit: Graduation program credits earned by students through completion of 'dual credit' course that leads to a post-secondary credential from a post-secondary institution which is a member of the BC Transfer System or offered in French through Educadentre.

Guiding Principles

Learner access to challenge, equivalency, external credentials and post-secondary credits will be guided by the following principles:

- People learn in a variety of ways and at different rates;
- The diverse needs and abilities of learners shall be acknowledged;
- Relevant learning acquired by people outside school shall be acknowledged;
- Consistent and equitable challenge procedures will be applied;
- Learners will demonstrate readiness before a challenge for credit is permitted;
- Learners will demonstrate that they have met the prescribed learning outcomes for the course being challenged to receive course credit;
- The challenge process must maintain an appropriate standard of rigour;
- Consistent and equitable opportunities for equivalency, external credentials and post-secondary credit will be provided to all learners;
- The school shall support its learners' access to these alternative methods of gaining Graduation Program credit.