

Welcome back, Grade 12s, to your graduation year! You will face many decisions this coming year. It is exciting and sometimes it can feel overwhelming. Please remember there is a network of individuals ready and willing to help you -- your family, our counsellors, your Capstone teacher, our career advisor and your subject teachers. This edition of *Gator News for Grads* highlights resources available to assist you with your decision-making. Use the hyperlinks throughout this document to link to related information.

We will be sending all Grad Newsletters via email to parents and Grade 12 students. Please ensure our main office has the current email addresses for you and your parent(s). The next copy of *Gator News for Grads* will be sent later in September after school has started.

## To Do

### 1. Meet Graduation Requirements:

- WGSS asks students to have 84 potential credits on their transcripts. Please check the [Ministry Site](#) to ensure you meet BC graduation requirements.
- You can check your credits on MyEdBC to confirm your grad status.
- To graduate in BC you must meet all the requirements for grade 10 and 11, and also successfully complete a Language Arts 12, the Life Connections/Capstone course (or AP Capstone Research), and three additional courses numbered 12 (which cannot include the SS or SC required course, e.g. if Law 12 was taken it will satisfy the SS 11/12 requirement and cannot be counted as one of the 'additional 12' courses). The Ministry of Education requests students who graduate to have written [Grade 10 Graduation Literacy Assessment](#) and [Grade 12 Literacy Assessment](#) and the [Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment](#). Administration will schedule a time for students to write the Literacy 12 Assessment. Mrs. [E. Rehnby](#) is the contact for any students who did not write the Grade 10 assessments.
- Carefully consider if you can be successful in the courses on your timetable. We want all Grade 12s to graduate this year.

### 2. Plan for the Future

- Admission requirements change from year to year. The large research universities across Canada are slowly changing their requirements to match UBC, which encourages students to have six Grade 12 courses.
- Double and triple check that you have the courses needed to pursue your post-secondary plans; check both the *general* and the *specific* entrance requirements on the [BC PSI Sites](#) or [other Canadian PSI Sites](#)
- Research post-secondary options using some of the electronic resources available: [MyBlueprint](#) [Activation Code: Walnutgrove], [Post-Secondary BC](#), [EducationPlanner BC](#) or the [WGSS Counselling & Careers Website](#)
- Virtual recruitment workshops will be held in the fall. Virtual events will be advertised in the Grad Newsletter, on [@GatorFutures](#) (Twitter) and [WGSSCareers](#) (Instagram)
- If you are considering post-secondary studies, you will likely find it helpful to download a copy of the month-by-month guideline: [Timeline for Graduates](#)
- Virtual tours are available for most institutions you are considering attending. [Link to Virtual Tours of BC Universities](#); [Link to Virtual Tours of BC Colleges](#); [Link to Virtual Tours of Ontario Universities](#)
- If you are considering studying in the USA, or an NCAA school, you need to check if your school requires an [SAT](#) or [ACT](#) score when you submit your application [through [CommonApps](#), [UC Application](#), or direct to the institution]. Additional important information for students considering studying in the USA is in the [Studying in the US](#) section of the Counselling & Careers Website, or see Mr. [I. Adrian](#), one of our Counsellors, who helps our student athletes with their applications.

### 3. Transcripts

- If you require a transcript, (e.g. for out-of-province applications, limited intake programs, or scholarship applications), please Teams message or email Ms. Karen Ethier ([kethier@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:kethier@sd35.bc.ca)). Please allow 4 days for processing.
- ALL grade 12s who are considering attending a post-secondary institution anywhere in the world need to create a [BCeID account](#) and register with the [Student Transcript Service](#) before **May 1<sup>st</sup>**. Information about this is on the [Ministry Student Secured Web](#) and there are tutorials in the [Transcript](#) section of the [WGSS Counselling Website](#).
- Registering with the STS will allow students to have their marks picked up electronically in May by BC Public institutions and will provide final transcripts to all institutions in late July.
- Students considering the NCAA, NAIA or any America or international institution have to specifically request their transcript be sent through the STS transcript release system as well. NCAA/NAI Athletes will also need a Grade 9-12 transcript from the WGSS Counselling Centre.

### 4. Scholarships

- You are encouraged to become familiar with all of the scholarship resources available on the [Langley District Scholarship Site](#). The [District Scholarship Database](#) is particularly helpful because it itemizes over 500 scholarship opportunities.
- WGSS hopes to be able to host three scholarship workshops for Grade 12 students this year. These events may be **virtual**
  - a. **September 15<sup>th</sup>** – National + Nomination Scholarships workshop for high achievement, high volunteer students (Ms. Kifiak, presenter)
  - b. **September 20<sup>th</sup>** – How to Write a Scholarship Essay (Jonathan Schmidt, TWU presenter, via Zoom)
  - c. **December 1<sup>st</sup>** – Langley District + WGSS Awards – explanation about application process for SD35 Foundation Scholarships, District Authority, and WGSS Awards. The application for these three awards will be available on **December 6<sup>th</sup>** in the Scholarship Section of the [Counselling & Careers Website](#).
- Students interested in applying for the [Ministry of Education District Authority Award](#) need to have **four** Grade 11 and/or 12 courses in one of these areas of concentration: Applied Design, Skills and Technologies, Fine Arts, Applied Skills, Physical Activity, Technical & Trades Training, or three Languages on their transcript (other than English); or have exceptional Leadership in Community Service (global and local), or Leadership in Indigenous Languages and Cultures.
- Students are encouraged to review the [“How to Win Scholarships”](#) presentation on the Counselling and Careers website. This was emailed to all Grade 11s in May 2021.
- **Note:** You must have a **S.I.N. number** when you apply for most scholarships.

### 5. People to help you....

- Contact [Cherise McGee](#), Career Advisor, if you would like to: discuss career possibilities; consider post-secondary options (including Trades Training opportunities); receive help with your resume, or investigate volunteer opportunities.
- Contact your [Counsellor](#) if you would like to discuss university entrance requirements, check your grad credits, or look at scholarship opportunities; they will book a virtual appointment to see you.
- Contact [Cherise McGee](#), Career Advisor, if you worked in a trade area this summer and want to know more about how to be part of the [Youth Work in Trades Apprenticeship program](#).
- Contact [Mr. Scotton](#) if you would like to know more about the opportunities available through the [W.A.V.E. \(Work and Volunteer Experience\)](#) program.

## Important Dates for Grads

Date	Event	Contact	Place	Time
Sept. 15	National & Nomination Scholarship Workshop	Ms. Kifiak	Library	3:00 pm
Sept. 20	How to Write a Scholarship Essay (TWU Presenter)	<a href="#">Mr. Jonathan Schmidt</a>	Library	3:00 pm
Sept. 27	UBC Information Session	<a href="#">Ms. Lauren Schroeder</a>	Virtual	6:00-7:00 pm
Oct. 6	<a href="#">P.S.A.T.</a> Applications Due	Ms. Docherty	Counselling Centre	3:00 pm
Oct. 6	<a href="#">Language Challenge Exam</a> – Applications Due	Ms. Kifiak	Counselling Centre	3:00 pm
Oct. 13	P.S.A.T @ R.E. Mountain Secondary	See Ms. Docherty to sign-up before Oct.6th	REMSS	3:30 pm
Oct. 20	SFU – Recruitment Presentation	<a href="#">Ms. Kelly Dohei</a>	Virtual	5:00–6:00 pm
Nov. 12	SFU – Recruitment Presentation	<a href="#">Ms. Kelly Dohei</a>	Virtual	1:00-2:00 pm
Dec. 1	WGSS Local and District Scholarship Workshop	WGSS Counsellors	Library	3:00 pm
Dec. 6	Local & District Scholarship Application Available	<a href="#">Counselling Website</a>	<a href="#">Website Link</a>	9:00 am
Feb. 8	WGSS Local & District Scholarship Application Due	Counsellors	Counselling Centre	Noon
May 1	Last day to submit PSI Choices STS: Ministry of Ed	Gr 12s going to PSIs	<a href="#">Website Link</a>	11:00 pm
June 6	WGSS Scholarship Recognition Afternoon	Award Winners	WGSS Cafeteria	3:45 pm
June 24	Graduation Ceremony	Mrs. Sargeant	<a href="#">WGSS Grad Info</a>	TBA
June 27	Graduation Dinner & Dance	Mrs. Sargeant	WGSS Grad Info	TBA
July 10	Final Day to make changes to PSI Selections	Gr 12s going to PSIs	<a href="#">Website link</a>	11:00 pm

*Additional post-secondary opportunities will be advertised throughout the year.*

## Virtual PSI Event

Additional information about this event will be provided in Grad News, Gator News and Instagram.

### [Canadian University Event](#) – 50+ Canadian universities

Once again this year, **CUEBC** will be hosted entirely online at the website: <https://cuebc.org/>. There will be live-virtual events that will be structured as drop-ins for all attending institutions. There will be no traditional presentations via the online offerings, to standardize the format and guest experience across the platform. This allows participants to come and go as they please between institutions without fearing that they may have missed some information at a school who is half-way through their structured presentation.

Day	Date	Time
Monday	September 27	4:00 – 7:00 pm
Tuesday	September 28	4:00 – 7:00 pm
Wednesday	September 29	4:00 – 7:00 pm
Saturday	October 2	10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Monday	October 4	4:00 – 7:00 pm
Tuesday	October 5	4:00 – 7:00 pm
Wednesday	October 6	4:00 – 7:00 pm

### [Post-Secondary BC Institutions Fair Schedule](#) – 30+ BC institutions

PSBC will not be doing individual visits to schools this fall. Instead, the **Fall 2021 Virtual PSBC tour will consist of seven (7) all-day fairs**, with several times for presentations and the ability for students to connect directly with university reps and recruiters.

Date	Event	Timing	Notes
Thursday, October 7	PSBC Virtual Fair 1	9:00 AM – 7:00 PM	Presentations on the :30 3 in the AM, 3 in the PM. A schedule of who is presenting will be provided on the PSIBC website in the fall.
Tuesday, October 19	PSBC Virtual Fair 2		
Wednesday, November 3	PSBC Virtual Fair 3		
Tuesday, November 9	PSBC Virtual Fair 4		
Thursday, November 18	PSBC Virtual Fair 5		
Wednesday December 1	PSBC Virtual Fair 6		
Tuesday, December 7	PSBC Virtual Fair 7		

## Examples of Post-Secondary Deadlines

<b>BC PSI Examples</b>			
<b>Institution</b>	<b>Application Opens*</b>	<b>Early Admission Deadline</b>	<b>Scholarship Deadline</b>
<a href="#">BCIT</a>	Oct. 1 9:00 am	Open until program is filled; then name put on waitlist	Aug. 5
<a href="#">Cap U</a>	Oct. 6	Limited Enrolment Programs fill before the deadline March 31	Mar. 1
<a href="#">Douglas</a>	Oct. 1 8:30 am	Limited intake programs offer seats to qualified applicants before the application deadline of May 1	Mar. 2
<a href="#">Emily Carr</a>	Sept. 15	Jan. 15: Application, Documents & Portfolio Deadline	Jan. 15 <small>No separate application</small>
<a href="#">KPU</a>	Oct. 1 9:00 am	Limited Intake programs fill quickly; plan to apply Oct. 1	Apr. 6
<a href="#">SFU</a>	Oct. 1	January 31	Dec. 15
<a href="#">TRU</a>	Oct. 1	Mar. 1  (Check program specific deadlines, e.g. Nursing + Social Work – Jan. 31; Education Feb. 15)	Mar. 1
<a href="#">TWU</a>	Oct. 1	Feb. 27 (for Nursing)	Feb. 28
<a href="#">UBC</a>	Sept. 1	Dec. 1	Dec. 1
<a href="#">UFV</a>	Oct. 1 midnight	Popular programs fill before the deadline. Apply early! Jan. 31	Mar. 1
<a href="#">UVIC</a>	Sept. 1	Jan. 31	Mar. 31

*\*BC students should be using <https://apply.educationplannerbc.ca/> when applying to BC institutions*

<b>Out of Province PSI Examples</b>			
<a href="#">McGill</a>	Sept 15. - <a href="#">McGill</a>	Recommend: before Jan. 15	Feb. 7
<a href="#">Queen's</a>	Sept 15. - <a href="#">OUAC</a>	Recommend: Nov. 15	Dec. 1
<a href="#">U of Alberta</a>	Oct. 1 - <a href="#">ApplyAlberta</a>	Dec. 15	Dec. 15
<a href="#">U of Toronto</a>	Sept 15 - <a href="#">OUAC</a>	Recommend: Nov. 1  Spaces fill quickly and programs may close before the application deadlines listed on the OUAC Site. Your application will be cancelled with no refund if you apply after the program has closed.	Dec. 13
<a href="#">U of Waterloo</a>	Fall - <a href="#">OUAC</a>	Offers begin in December	Feb. 1
<a href="#">US Institutions</a>	Aug. 1 - <a href="#">CommonApp.org</a>	( <a href="#">SAT score</a> required for Dec application deadlines)	December

*Check the institutions' website for up-to-date information*