Breton Education Centre (BEC) offers middle school programming in Grades 6-8 and courses at the senior high level, from Grades 9-12. All students are enrolled in either the English or Intensive (Grade 6)/Integrated (7-12) French program.

The BEC Program of Studies provides important information to help students select the courses that best suit their educational goals. It is important to consult with family members, teachers, and school counsellors, as course selections are an important part of mapping out your next steps.

Your abilities, interests, and future career goals are some of the factors you should consider when you select courses. BEC offers courses that help prepare you for a variety of career opportunities in the arts, business, science, technology and trades. We are pleased to offer students a variety of opportunities to support their success now and in the future.

Danielle Aucoin

Principal

Table Of Contents

Introduction	3
What Is The Semester System	3
Credit System	4
Credit Types	4
Graduation Requirements	5
Prerequisite Courses	6
Honours & Distinction	7
University Entrance Requirements	8
June Rank	9
Course Selection Advice	9

Registration Policies	10
Guidelines For Registration	11
Contact Information	12
Nova Scotia Virtual School	12
Course Offerings Grid 2025-2026	13
Learning Support	15
Mathematics	16
Options & Opportunities	17
High Skills Major in Health and Wellness	18

This booklet is designed to help you with the important process of selecting your high school program. When making your course selections, consider your previous achievements, abilities, interests, work ethic, and future plans.

This course selection booklet contains registration procedures, course descriptions and course prerequisites. Selections should be made with a complete understanding of prerequisites and recommendations that may affect your high school program.

We ask all students to consider all of the information they have and to make the best decisions for themselves as a learner about course selection for the following year. Course changes in September or throughout the year will be very limited. Where changes are possible, they will be based on academic need and assessed on an individual basis.

Please give careful consideration to your courses to ensure your high school experience will be successful and prepare you for your future.

What Is The Semester System?

In the semester system, the school year is divided into two equal semesters: September to January and February to June. Four courses, also known as credits, are taken each semester for a total of 8 possible credits earned each year. Students will write final exams at the end of each semester, earn a final mark and begin 4 new credits at the beginning of the second semester. Each course/credit consists of at least 110 hours of instruction.

Some of the advantages of the semester system include:

- Students study and do homework in only four subjects at a time.
- Students write a maximum of four exams at the end of each semester.
- Students have the opportunity to take a wider variety of courses to round out their program.
- Students who do not pass a required course will repeat the course without adding a year to their studies.
- ***Students have more opportunity to graduate in the required three years.***

**** Please note: students may have courses spread through the whole year and therefore are NOT semestered.***

Credit System

A credit is awarded in recognition of the successful completion of an approved course that would normally be completed in a minimum of 110 hours of scheduled time. Each subject/course passed is worth one credit.

Credit Types

All courses are identified with a credit type. This information is located in the course description and is an important aspect of course selection. These definitions are developed by the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Education. Students are encouraged to check university calendars for information on courses required and recommended for admission.

ACAD Academic: These courses are designed for students who expect to enter college, university, or other post-secondary institutions.

ADV Advanced: These courses are designed for students who have demonstrated an exceptional degree of academic ability or achievement.

GRAD Graduation: These courses are designed for students who wish to obtain a graduation diploma and proceed to employment or some selected area of post-secondary study.

OPEN Open: Although none of these courses are designed to meet the specific entrance requirements of any postsecondary institution, individual courses may fulfill the entrance requirements of some institutions.

Requirements

Students registering in grade 10 will require a minimum of 18 credits to graduate. No more than seven of the 18 credits may be from grade 10 courses,

and at least five must be grade 12 courses. The following are the 13 compulsory credits required for graduation:

Language, Communication and Expression

3 English Language Arts, one at each grade level (10, 11, 12)

1 Fine Art: Art, Dance, Drama, Rockband or Band

Science, Mathematics and Technology

3 Mathematics, one at each grade level (10, 11, 12)

2 Science: one must be Science 10/Science 10AB or Biology 11/Advanced Bio 11. The other course can be any other science course.

1 Technology or one additional credit from Mathematics or Science. Examples of technology credits could be; Skilled Trades 10, Film and Video Production 12, Construction Trades 11, Communication Technology 11, Transportation Trades 11, Business Technology 12, Production Technology 12, etc.

1 Physical Education credit - Eligible courses are Physical Education 10, 11 or 12; Physically Active Living 11; Mode de Vie Actif 11, Dance 11, etc.

1 Canadian Studies: Contemporary Canadian Studies 11; African Canadian Studies 11; Études Canadian Contemporaines 11 ; and Mi'kmaw Studies 11 will be eligible credits to meet this graduation requirement

1 Global Studies: Global Geography 12; Global Sustainable Solutions 12; Géographie Planétaire 12, etc.

Within the 18-course requirements for a graduation diploma, no student may receive credit for 2 courses in the same specific subject at the same grade level.

Prerequisite Courses

These are credits which must be earned before another is attempted. The subjects having prerequisite courses are described in the calendar.

Study (Free)

A Grade 12 student is permitted to register in the fall of their graduating year for **one** Study (Free) class.

The criteria that is considered for a student to receive a study period is:

- How many credits a student needs to graduate.
- Their attendance report (if too many classes are missed, they may not be granted a study period).
- Discipline issues - if there are discipline concerns, a student may not be granted permission for a study period
- Parent/Guardian permission

Honours & Distinction

Please see the criteria below for Honours and Distinction. Please note, particularly for Grade 12 students, that you must have at least **6 courses** in your Grade 12 year to be considered for these awards.

Grade 9

Highest Distinction	Distinction
● Aggregate of 450 ● No count mark below 80 ● No mark below 50 in any course	● Aggregate of 400 ● No count mark below 70 ● No mark below 50 in any course

Aggregate is compiled from the final grade of: English, Math, Science, Citizenship and 1 other course.

Grade 10-12

Highest Distinction	Distinction
● Aggregate of 540 ● No count mark below 80 ● No mark below 50 in any course	● Aggregate of 480 ● No count mark below 70 ● No mark below 50 in any course

Aggregate is compiled from the final grade of: English and the student's next 5 highest mark's from the current school year. Only 1 open course can be used in the count.

University Entrance Requirements

Requirements for universities, colleges, and other educational institutions vary considerably and are constantly subject to change at the discretion of the post secondary institution. It is advisable to consult calendars regarding deadlines frequently when making long-range plans.

All universities require at least **five Grade 12 Academic** level high school courses. Some universities will require six Grade 11 and 12 Academic or Advanced credits to meet entrance requirements.

The averages required for entrance varies from **65% to 80%**, and students are advised that, in many instances, possessing minimum requirements for admission **does not** guarantee acceptance. This is particularly true for specialist diplomas and limited enrollment programs.

Most universities **do not accept open courses for entrance**. In addition, some academic courses are not acceptable for particular programs at some universities. Acceptance of courses vary from one educational institution to another. Students should consult the calendars of favoured institutions carefully before making final decisions. **Not all academic courses meet specific requirements for entrance to university.**

Remember: Both grade 11 and 12 marks are very important for university entrance.

June Rank

In grade 12, the June rank is calculated using 10 courses. English 12 and Global 12 are always counted, as they are the only 2 courses **ALL** students are required to take. In order to be eligible for the June rank, a student must take a minimum of 5 grade 12 courses during their graduating year, along with 5 other academic/advanced courses at grade 11 or 12 levels taken during any school year. One open course is allowed.

Course Selection Advice

• Carefully read all the Nova Scotia graduation requirements listed in this booklet. Make sure you plan to fulfill these requirements by June of your grade 12 year.

• Carefully read all course descriptions. Check with teachers to find out more specific information such as labs, projects, etc.

• Plan out your three years now so you are sure you can get all courses necessary to attain future goals.

• Check that you have the prerequisite courses for the courses you wish to take. For example, make sure that you earned Pre-Calculus 11 before you take Pre-Calculus 12.

• Check that you have all the prerequisites for your career and post secondary education goals. This may be more than the minimum required for graduation. Requirements are constantly changing so it is important to check regularly with universities, community colleges and school counsellors regarding your chosen field.

• Consult with your family, teachers, and school counsellors in order to make the most informed decisions possible.

• Consider your previous achievement in a subject area and your interests

when selecting courses. Make decisions based on your individual needs and goals.

• A student must also consider work habits when selecting courses (particularly for advanced courses). Although you may have the ability in a certain subject, you must be willing to do extra work and challenge yourself if you choose an advanced-level course.

Registration Policies

1. Students will complete their Course Selection forms in late February and early March. The selection forms determine which courses will be offered, teacher assignments, as well as class sizes, making the course selection process a very important part of the school year.

2. Students who have not attained a mark of 50% or better in a subject are not permitted to register in that subject at the next grade level. If it is a compulsory course (e.g. English), students must re-register for that subject at the same grade level. If the course is an elective, students can re-register for that course at the same level or select another course. It is the responsibility of the student to change the course level as necessary.

3. Courses will only be offered if enrollment is sufficient. It is often necessary to limit the number of students in a class due to space, safety, and other factors. Class size parameters are determined by the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. As a result, the optimal time to request courses for the following year is in March during the registration process. Course changes at other times are often limited.

4. Timetables will be generated by our PowerSchool program and every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate students' requests and will be available on the first day of school in September. Please note that these are 'requests' and may not always be possible to accommodate. Students who have a severely unbalanced course load may request to change course. However, these requests may not be

possible to meet.

5. As a general rule, courses beyond the grade level in which one is enrolled may not be taken. There are some exceptions.

As an example, students in Grade 10 may register for African Canadian Studies 11, Contemporary Canadian Studies 11, Mi'kmaw Studies 11, Biology 11, Business Technology 12, Physically Active Living 11, Mode de Vie Actif 11. Students in Grade 11 may register for Entrepreneurship 12, Food Science 12, Law 12.

6. If a student is required to repeat a course, there is no guarantee that a space will be available in the second semester. In some cases, the student may have to wait until the following year to repeat the course.

Guidelines for Registration

1. Each student will be given a form which will list the courses available. Each student will make their selections on the form, and the student, along with the parent/guardian, will sign this form. The student will submit the form (homeroom teacher or guidance office) and then will enter the selected courses electronically through their PowerSchool portal.

2. All students must select two alternate courses that will be considered in case of a conflict.

3. Students who must change a course request form must finalize these changes by the end of June.

4. For senior students, certain courses required for post-secondary will not be completed in the first semester. However, applications to post secondary institutions will be assessed based on your present and predicted performance at the time of application. Therefore, both grade 11 and grade 12 marks are important for entrance into a program.

5. Students who require all 8 courses to graduate should consult with a School Counsellor before choosing courses.

Contact Information

If you have any questions, please contact:

- Martia MacLean – School Counsellor - martiamac@gnspes.ca
- Christine MacLeod-Vint – School Counsellor - macleom28@gnspes.ca

Note: The Guidance Office at BEC is open every school day. The counsellors are available for meetings with students and/or guardians/parents/families during this time. Please phone (902-862-6432) or stop by the guidance office to book an appointment.

Nova Scotia Virtual School

The Nova Scotia Virtual School (NSVS) offers online courses to Nova Scotia students, Grades 10-12. Online courses are designed according to the NSVS Online Course Development and Teaching Standards, which define what a lesson or activity looks like, how much time students spend online with their teachers and how students will be assessed during the course.

Courses are offered during the first and second semesters – students are expected to sign into their courses every day and complete the assignments that are listed. At least once a week, students will meet with their teacher and fellow students in an online video conference.

Click below to view courses. For more information, contact your school counsellor.

https://nsvs.ednet.ns.ca/

Course Offerings 2026-2027 (For a Full list of course descriptions,

please follow the link:

https://curriculum.novascotia.ca/english-programs/high-school/full-course-list

Academic 10
Career Development 10
Core French 10
Drama 10
English 10
Integrated French 10
Math 10
Music 10 (Rock Band)
Music Instrumental Band 10
Science 10
Service Trades 10
Skilled Trades 10
Visual Art 10

Academic 11

African Canadian Studies 11
Biology 11
Contemporary Canadian Studies 11
Chemistry 11
Community Based Learning 11
Construction Trades 11
Co-operative Education 11
Core French 11
Dance 11
Design 11
Drama 11
Economics 11
English 11
Études canadiennes Contemporaines 11
Integrated French 11
Histoire Du Canada 11
Life 11
Math 11
Mi'kmaw Studies 11
Music 11 (Rock Band)
Music Instrumental Band 11
Oceans 11
Physics 11
Transportation Trades 11
Visual Art 11

Academic 12
Biology 12
Business Technology 12
Chemistry 12
Co-operative Education 12
Drama 12
English 12
Entrepreneurship 12
Film & Video Production 12
Food Science 12
Integrated French 12
Géographie Planétaire 12
Global Geography 12
Global Sustainable Solutions 12
Health & Human Services 12
Law 12
Math 12
Music 12 (Rock Band)
Music Instrumental Band 12
Physics 12
Sociology 12
Visual Art 12

Open 10

Learning Strategies 10
Physical Education 10

Open 11

Child Studies 11
Mode de Vie Actif 11
Physically Active Living 11
Physical Education 11

Open 12
Learning Strategies 12
Physical Education 12

Graduation 10

Mathematics at Work 10
Math Essentials 10
Science 10 A/B

Graduation 11

English Communications 11
Human Biology 11
Mathematics at Work 11
Math Essentials 11

Graduation 12

English Communications 12
Mathematics at Work 12
Math Essentials 12

Advanced 11

Advanced Biology 11
Pre Calculus Math 11

Advanced 12

Advanced English 12
Calculus 12
Pre Calculus Math 12

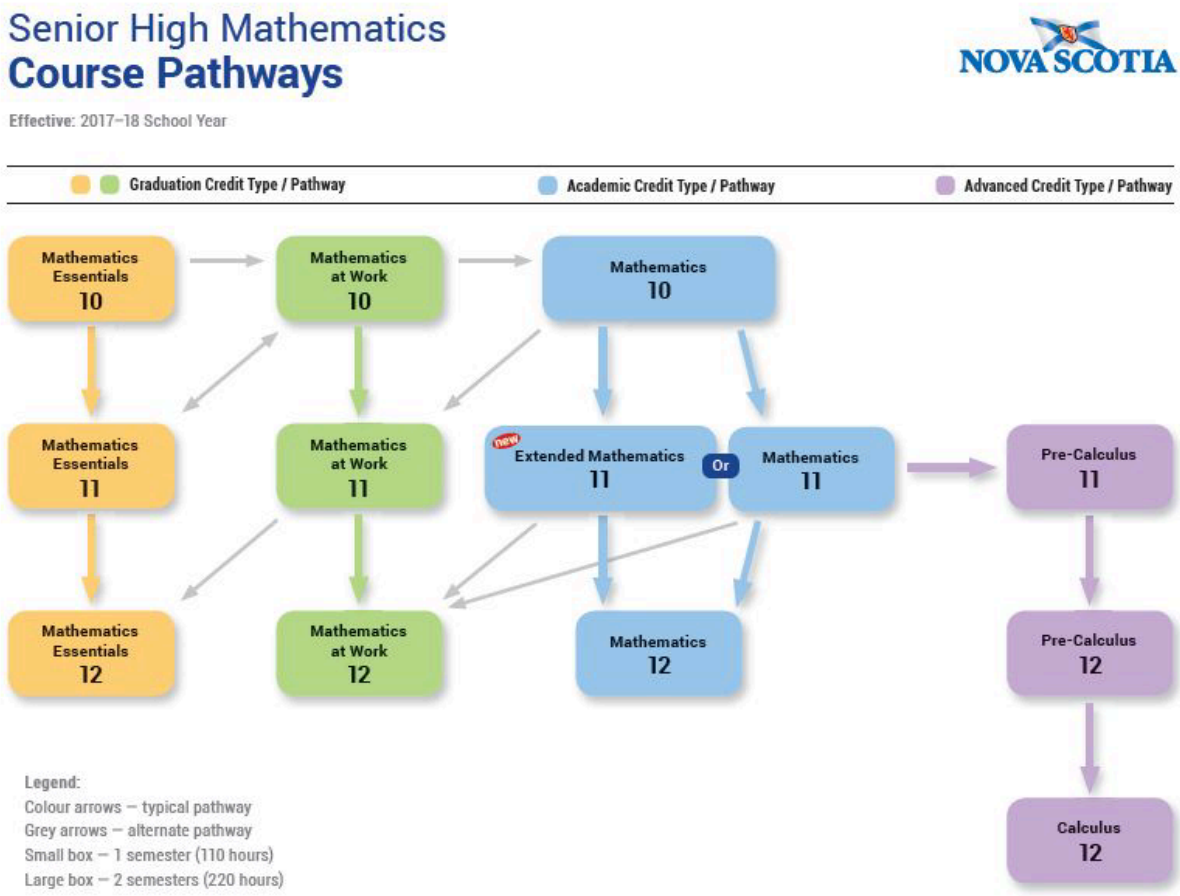
Learning Support

Offered to students in high school who have been identified as requiring learning support. The program is designed for student learning and applies strategies to assist the learning process. Learning Support Teachers(LSTs) are available daily, and students may be scheduled for support by the Student Planning Team/Teaching Support Team. LSTs offer in-class support in curriculum delivery and are experienced and skilled teachers who provide direct, collaborative support to classroom teachers and students.

Learning Support Teachers support classroom teachers by developing and implementing strategies to promote students' well-being and achievement. They work directly with individuals or small groups of students as identified by the SPT process. They are responsive to student needs as identified at the school level by the school principal as leader of the Student Planning Team/Teaching Support Team.

LSTs are flexible in service delivery models that align with Multi-Tiered Services and Supports (MTSS) to address academic, social/emotional, and behavioural needs across the three tiers. The Learning Support Teacher provides academic, behaviour, and social/emotional skills programming to students across all three tiers. In addition to the competencies and responsibilities noted above, the following are more specific components of this role.

Mathematics



Typical course selection path for Nova Scotia high school students

Options And Opportunities (O2)

Options and Opportunities, referred to as O2, is a program designed to help students work toward a career or occupation in contexts that respond to their learning needs. Students develop connections to the workplace, postsecondary institutions and training programs that assist with transitioning to new environments beyond high school.

Students in O2 must complete specific courses to earn an O2 certificate, providing them with assured seating status at the Nova Scotia Community College. Students entering the O2 Program in Grade 10 must complete the following courses along with courses required for a graduation diploma:

- Career Development 10
- Community Based Learning 11
- 3 Cooperative Education courses

Career Development 10 is a prerequisite for Community Based Learning 11 and should be offered in the first semester of Grade 10. Community Based Learning 11 prepares students for their learning and placements in Cooperative Education and it is strongly recommended this course be offered in the second semester of Grade 10 as many O2 students enter the worksite for co-op placements in the fall of their Grade 11 year.

High Skills Major in Health and Wellness

Breton Education Centre is proud to offer the High Skills Major in Health and Wellness Certificate to Grade 10, 11 and 12 students. The High Skills Major certificate program enables students to earn credits toward their high school diploma while completing courses, and experiencing real-world opportunities related to their career interests. This pilot program launched at Breton Education Centre in September of 2024.

For more information, please visit the link to the program page:
https://careerpathways.ednet.ns.ca/high-skills-major