

ST. JOHN BREBEUF OPTIONS FOR EARNING CREDITS

St. John Brebeuf recognizes that learning is a life-long activity and therefore allows students to earn credits for “other” learning as part of their St. John Brebeuf Graduation Program. Students learn in a variety of ways, some of which take place outside of British Columbia or outside of the regular St. John Brebeuf secondary school program. St. John Brebeuf will grant credit towards graduation for learning that has been assessed and matches or exceeds Ministry requirements. In addition to earning credits by successfully completing courses delivered by St. John Brebeuf or another public or Independent school, students will be awarded credits by using the guidelines that follow. The following is a description of five means by which credits can be granted by the Administration of St. John Brebeuf (i.e., via Equivalency, Challenge, External Credentials, Credits from Post-Secondary Courses, and Independent Directed Studies)

1. Equivalency

St. John Brebeuf awards credit to students who have successfully completed an equivalent Grade 10, 11 or 12 course from an educational jurisdiction or institution outside the BC school system. All students enrolled at St. John Brebeuf are entitled to apply for an equivalency review of their documented prior learning. St. John Brebeuf will award credit based on equivalency for Grades 10, 11 and 12 Ministry-developed courses (including courses with a Graduation Program Exam) and Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) courses.

In order to receive credits through Equivalency, St. John Brebeuf students must provide the appropriate documentation as proof of successful completion of the course to the Academic Counselling Department who will review in collaboration with St. John Brebeuf’s Administration and/or Department Heads.

2. Challenge

St. John Brebeuf awards credit to students who can demonstrate prior learning. Students enrolled at St. John Brebeuf are entitled to undertake a free Challenge process to assess their prior learning for any Ministry-authorized graduation program course offered by St. John Brebeuf for that school year, as well as any Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) course taught at St. John Brebeuf, provided the student has not already completed the course through previous enrolment. This entitlement does not include Board/ Authority Authorized (BAA) courses taught in other schools. St. John Brebeuf students should be able to demonstrate their readiness to Challenge a course based on factors such as a recommendation from a previous teacher, or from evidence that relevant learning has been acquired outside the regular classroom setting. The challenge process for each department is set by and managed by the Department Head. St. John Brebeuf’s Department Head for the course, in consultation with the Academic Counsellor, Administration, students and parents, will make the decision about readiness.

Awarding credit through Challenge will be based on the same standards used for students who have taken the course through enrollment. Assignments and tests may be used to assess learning.

St. John Brebeuf has an agreement with the Delta School District to administer the modern language base school exams that are not offered at St. John Brebeuf. The student must also demonstrate in

advance that he will be successful in challenging the language exam using self-reporting assessment of their language skills based on the expected outcome. There is a fee set by the Delta School District that needs to be paid by the student if they chose to write that challenge exam.

3. Independently Directed Studies (IDS)

St. John Brebeuf students can initiate their own area of learning and receive credit towards graduation. IDS allows students to shape and follow their own course or courses, with a teacher's approval and supervision. IDS courses count as elective credits toward graduation.

To qualify for IDS, students need the approval of the school principal to expand on one or more learning outcomes from any Ministry or Board/Authority Authorized course (the school counsellor can help explain this). Then students'll need to find a teacher to supervise their studies before they initiate their own course. They will work independently. The teacher will support the student and assess their performance.

4. External Credentials

Students can earn credit towards graduation through certain external credentials approved by the Ministry. All students enrolled at St. John Brebeuf are entitled to receive credit if they have earned a Ministry-approved credential. St. John Brebeuf understands that the Ministry of Education has sole authority to review and approve external credentials and assessments, and to provide an official list of these approved credentials and assessments to schools. The list is published in the Ministry's Course Information Book. Some external credentials are classified as required courses, and others as elective courses. Grade 12-level External Credentials count towards the required number of Grade 12 credits.

BC Ministry of Education approved courses taught outside the regular school system may be received in the following areas:

- Advanced Placement Courses and International Baccalaureate Courses
- Music courses (RCM, etc.)
- Drama, Speech & Effective Communications Courses
- Post-Secondary Courses
- Languages
- Sport Courses (Athletes 10, 11, 12, etc.)
- Youth Development Courses (4-H 11, Guides, etc.)
- Industrial and Occupational Courses (ICBC Driver Education 11, Lifesaving 11, etc.)

There are other courses under each of the above categories. Please check with Student Services to see a complete list of courses that qualify for External Credential and to determine the documentation required to receive credits. You can also consult for yourself the Ministry's Course Information for the Graduation Program Grade 10, 11 and 12 Courses Chapter 3 External Credentials on the following link:

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/courseinfo/cid.pdf>

Course credits are received by (1) obtaining an EXTERNAL CREDIT REQUEST FORM from the Academic Counsellor and by (2) bringing the supporting official documentation issued by the external organization along with the required signatures to Student Services.

5. School Completion Certificate Program (SCCP)

At St. John Brebeuf any student who is unable to meet the Ministry requirements for Graduation (Dogwood certificate) will be given the option to apply for the SCCP. Students who are taking credit and non-credit courses will have an IEP written and developed to indicate the components of their program.