Senior High School Optional Courses at a Glance



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Aboriginal Studies

I'm exploring Indigenous cultures around the world. In Aboriginal Studies 10–20–30, students explore diverse Aboriginal history, cultures, and worldviews. They increase their knowledge about the past, present, and future of Indigenous peoples.

Art

The senior high school Art program offers six courses divided into two sequences: Art 10–20–30 focuses on making art and on creative processes; Art 11–21–31 is an art studies program that focuses on the impact of art on society. In both sequences, students are challenged to reflect on the impact of art across society, communities, and cultures.

Career and Technology Studies

I'm developing important life skills. Students receive career exposure through Career and Technology Studies (CTS) courses. They develop life skills and prepare for the workplace or further learning in the industry that interests them. Students create pathways to occupations in common industries from the five CTS clusters.

First Nations Languages

I'm learning the language of Canada's First Peoples! Your teen will explore Blackfoot or Cree by sharing their experiences and ideas with others who speak these languages. Through their studies, they will discover and gain respect for the Blackfoot or Cree culture.

Drama

I am creating, performing, studying, critiquing, and consuming drama as an art form! Students will learn to communicate in various ways and work creatively with others as they discover dramatic expression. Through eight dramatic disciplines, they will develop both performance and technical skills, becoming more confident in themselves and their ability to work together.

French as a Second Language

The French as a second language (FSL) courses offer students opportunities to communicate in French in a variety of school, travel, leisure, and job-related contexts.

At the senior high school level, students have access to three programming options:

- nine-year (continuation from elementary and junior high school)
- three-year (beginning French)
- advanced French courses (for students who possess a superior level of French prior to entering Grade 10)

International Languages

I'm preparing to work in a global society. Students who have studied in a bilingual language arts program or who understand another language already can study language arts in the language of their choice. Language and culture courses are another option for senior high school students. These courses present a language as a subject and can be started in Grade 10. There are several different language and culture courses for senior high school students, many of which are continuations of programs with earlier entry points, such as Kindergarten (referred to as 12Y), Grade 4 (referred to as 9Y), or Grade 7 (referred to as 6Y). Programs that begin in senior high school are identified as three-year programs (3Y).

Locally Developed Courses

I can take courses that meet my particular needs or interests. Locally developed courses allow school authorities the flexibility to complement, extend, and/or expand upon provincial programs of study.

General Music

Music is a universal language. In addition to composing

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music, students will understand basic music structures, become more aware of what they are hearing in music, and study the role of music in their lives and in the world. They will appreciate music in its many forms and will discover why music is such a big part of our individual and collective lives.

Instrumental Music

I want to become a better musician. Students will learn to play a specific instrument and use the power of their voice. They will listen to others play, read and interpret music through their instruments, and create their own music.

Choral Music

Let your voice soar. Students will explore the power of their own voices, both alone and in harmony with the voices of others. They will sing, listen to others, read music, and create their own songs, developing their musical abilities.

Social Sciences

What makes me tick? Why is society the way it is? Your teen can choose from a variety of 3-credit courses in different social science disciplines, including anthropology, economics, geography, history, philosophy, political science, psychology, religious studies, and sociology. They will learn about themselves, others, and our world.

Work Experience

I want to transition smoothly from school to post-secondary education or to work. Work Experience courses provide opportunities for school and community to combine resources to further students' career development and build their employability skills. In Work Experience, your teen will explore career interests and apply their knowledge, skills, and attitudes in the workplace.

Work Study

I'm exploring a career. Students have the opportunity to apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes they have

acquired in their coursework to real-life situations through a school–community partnership.

Career Internship

I'm preparing for a career while in high school. Career Internship 10 is a combined classroom and workplace curriculum designed to assist students in making informed decisions about their school-career transitions. Specifically, the course is designed to prepare students for further study or entry into an occupation.

Registered Apprenticeship Program

I want to begin working in a trade while still in high school. Students interested in one of Alberta's designated trades may be able to work as registered apprentices and take senior high school courses. They spend part of their time in school and part of their time in industry learning their trade and gaining valuable hours toward their apprenticeship record book (blue book).

Green Certificate Program

I want to get a head start in a career in agriculture. Through the Green Certificate Program, Alberta senior high students can earn senior high school credits by enrolling in combinations of courses in an agricultural production specialization. Each of the Green Certificate specializations provides students with access to the first level of an agricultural apprenticeship. Learners can progress in each specialization through two levels—technician level and supervisor level—and, if their career interests expand to management roles in agriculture, to a generic third level of the Green Certificate, the Farm Manager Program.

How Your Teen Is Assessed

Your teen's learning is assessed using a variety of tools and strategies within the classroom. Ask your teen's teacher what methods they are using. The different assessment methods tell you and your teen's teacher about your teen's strengths, areas in which your teen requires support, and

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how well your teen is doing throughout the course. Your teen's teacher can then change or refine their teaching plans to ensure that learning activities better meet the needs of your teen. At the end of the course, your teen is assessed and their achievement is reported so that you know if they have achieved the expected learning outcomes for their grade.

At the end of certain 30-level courses, your teen will write a diploma exam. These exams determine if students across the province are learning what they are expected to learn. For more information on diploma exams, visit Diploma exams - Overview.

Resources to Help Your Teen

A variety of digital and print resources developed by publishers, Alberta Education, or Alberta teachers are available to help students learn. Teachers may select and bring into the classroom numerous innovative and creative resources to create rich learning experiences for your teen. Visit LearnAlberta.ca to learn more about the resources your teen may encounter.

Where can I get more information?

Learn more about your child's education by visiting https://curriculum.learnalberta.ca/parents/.