



POST-SECONDARY BC

A Parent's Guide to Post-Secondary in BC

Everything you need to know to help your
student make a great choice.



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Overview

1. Introduction
2. Types of Institutions
3. Credentials & Pathways
4. Types of Admissions
5. Financial Support
6. Additional Information



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Introduction



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How Parents Get Info About Post-Secondary in BC

Students often receive good quality information in school, but:

- This info may not get to parents
- Some info gets “lost in translation”
- Parents may turn to other sources



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How Parents Get Info About Post-Secondary in BC

As a result, the information you have about post-secondary in BC may be:

- Incomplete
- Misleading
- Inaccurate
- Not applicable to you



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How Parents Get Info About Post-Secondary in BC

Students and parents need
information that is:

- Accurate and honest
- Relevant to their situation
- Understandable and complete
- Available when they need it

So, let's get started...



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Types of Institutions



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Public School System in BC is Highly Integrated

Post-secondary systems differ in each province.

The B.C. system is highly integrated:

- Well-established transfer agreements between public post-secondary institutions
- Universities, colleges & institutes meet the same standards and offer the same credentials
- Different types of institutions offer a range of education and training options to students



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A Short History of Post-Secondary in BC

	Univ.	Tech. Schools	Comm. Colleges	Univ. Colleges	Institutes
1965	2	1			
1980	3		15		2
1994	4		10	5	3
2015	11		11		3



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Types of Post-Secondary Institutions in BC

Public

- Partial Government Funding; Govt. Regulated
- e.g. Simon Fraser U, Douglas College, BCIT

Private (Non-profit)

- No Government Funding
- e.g. Trinity Western U, Quest U, Columbia College

Private (For-profit)

- No Government Funding
- e.g. Sprott Shaw College



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Three Differences Between Public and Private Schools

Cost

- Private school may be 3x more expensive

Transferability

- Private courses may not be transferable

Credentials

- Private credentials may not be recognized



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Why Some Students Choose Private Schools

Specialty

- Programs not offered by many public schools

Flexibility

- More evening, weekend and online options
- More frequent program entry points

Incentives

- Large scholarship packages to offset high tuition



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Three Kinds of Public Institutions in BC

1. Universities
2. Colleges
3. Institutes



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Three Kinds of Universities

Traditional

Also known as “Research Intensive”

Credentials:

- Professional Programs
- Undergraduate Degrees
- Graduate Degrees

Examples: UBC, SFU, UVIC, UNBC, RRU



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Three Kinds of Universities

Comprehensive

Also known as “Teaching Intensive”

Credentials:

- Trades & Upgrading
- Certificates & Diplomas
- Undergraduate & Graduate Degrees

Examples: CAPU, KPU, TRU, UFV, VIU



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Three Kinds of Universities

Specialty

Also known as “Special Purpose”

Credentials:

- Bachelor's Degrees
- Masters Degrees

Examples: ECUAD, RRU



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Colleges

Same: Courses, credits & credentials

Different: Class size, cost, admissions

Credentials:

- Bachelor's Degrees
- Certificates & Diplomas
- Trades & Upgrading

Examples: Douglas, VCC, CNC, COTR



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Institutes

Focus: Technical and trades programs

Credentials:

- Master's Degrees
- Bachelor's Degrees
- Certificates & Diplomas

Examples: BCIT, JIBC, NVIT



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Credentials & Pathways



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Academic Credentials

Degrees (4+ years)

- Bachelor's , Master's, and Doctorate
- Often called “Academic” programs
- Some degrees can also be “Applied”

Diplomas (2+ years)

- Often called “Applied” or “Career-Tech”

Certificates (6 - 8 months)

- Often called ‘Vocational’ programs



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University Transfer

Moving from one institution to another to complete a credential

Most Common “UT” Pathway:

2 Years at Institution A
+ 2 Years at Institution B

= **Bachelor's Degree**
(from Institution B)



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University Transfer

Advantages:

- Access, choice and flexibility
- Lower total cost for program
- Smaller class size
- Strong academic outcomes

Challenge:

- Requires more planning



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Choosing an Academic Pathway

Don't have to know it all on Day One

Post-Secondary is about exploring:

- What you like
- What you're good at
- Where this can lead you

Many students change their mind

Patience and flexibility are key



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Modern Academic Pathways

Earning *multiple* credentials is becoming more common

Examples:

- Diploma + Degree
- Degree + Graduate Degree
- Trade + Diploma/Degree



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Understanding Admissions



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Three Kinds of Admission

“Open” Admission or Enrolment

- Non-competitive process
- Used by colleges and some universities
- Mostly 1st year Arts/Science programs

Admission Requirements:

- Gr. 12 graduation
- An acceptable English 12 standing



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Three Kinds of Admission

“Limited” Admission

- Competitive process
- Applies to programs with limited seats
- Mostly certificate and diploma programs

Admission Requirements:

- Offer sent out after requirements met
- Applicant may accept or decline offer
- Process continues until all seats are full
- Some programs also create wait lists



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Three Kinds of Admission

“Selective” Admission

- Competitive process
- Used mostly by research universities
- Also high demand programs (Eg. Nursing)

Admission Requirements:

- Students apply before a deadline
- Provide proof of course and GPA requirements
- Selected based on the info they provide
- Admission may be withdrawn if final grades do not match self-reported grades



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Courses to Consider

Three courses most commonly considered in post-secondary admissions requirements:

English 12 (or equivalent)

Math 11 or 12 (Pre-Calculus or Foundations)

Science (Chemistry, Biology & Physics)

Note: Exact requirements vary by school and program. Check institutional websites!



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The New British Columbia High School Curriculum

- New courses in English, Math, Science
- Applies to Grade 10, 11 and 12
- Important to clarify if/how they will be applied to admissions at your post-sec
- Get answers early, to plan properly



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Getting Financial Support



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Three Types of Fees

1. **Tuition Fees:** The actual cost of a program, normally based on a 'per credit' fee.
2. **Student Fees:** Fees that institutions charge to cover facility and service costs.
3. **Student Union Fees:** Fees that student governments charge for their services:
 - Ex. U-Pass, Health & Dental, etc.
 - There may be able to “opt-out” if your student already has coverage through family/employer



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Additional Costs to Consider

Books & Supplies

- Can be up to \$150 per course, or more

Living Expenses

- Transportation, accommodation, food, etc.
- Can be more than the other two costs combined - and too often overlooked by students when considering their options



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Two Kinds of Financial Aid

Non-Repayable

- **Scholarships** : Academic or extra-curricular
- **Bursaries**: based on financial need
- **Awards**: Based on program or affiliation

Repayable

- **Student Loans** - Federal program run by the Province of BC

For more info: studentaidbc.ca



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Three Places You Can Look for Money

1. **High School Awards:** Most high schools have local scholarships and bursaries
2. **School District Awards:** Your School District may also have awards available
3. **National Online Databases:**
 - scholarshipscanada.com
 - yconic.com

Plus: Entrance Awards from the colleges or universities that you might be considering



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Three Ways to Get Started on Your Financial Plan

1. **Draft a Post-Secondary Budget:** Start looking at all possible income and expenses
2. **Research the Options:** There's a lot of "free money"; start looking at all opportunities
3. **Identify Needs vs. Wants:** It might be nice to have _____, but do you really need it?



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Additional Information



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Three Realities for Parents to Reflect On

Your “student” is considered an adult

- Age is not an issue in post-secondary

You do not have access to their info

- Federal/Provincial privacy legislation applies
- You can't see marks, files, or personal info

Your “student” is 100% responsible for all decisions and interactions with their institution

Check out our ‘10 Things Parents Need to Know’ on the parents page of our PSBC website



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Start Planning

1. Develop a Post-Secondary plan: you can apply to more than one
2. Have a “Plan B” - you may not get in to your first choice
3. Be prepared for the unknown (“Plan C”)



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Our Resources

PSBC Website: www.postsecondarybc.ca

- Info on all 30 member institutions
- Links to their website pages
- Useful documents you can download
- Check out our Knowledgebase info

PSIBC Fall Tour

- Annual fall visit of PSBC member institutions to high schools across BC
- Check with your HS Counsellor



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