

FLEXIBLE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The Prince Edward Island Department of Education and Early Childhood Development offers a number of flexible learning opportunities for students in Prince Edward Island high schools. Flexible learning occurs in situations when the curriculum is not currently part of the *Senior High Program of Studies and List of Authorized Materials*, the method of curriculum delivery is not in a traditional classroom setting, or both. These opportunities include:

- independent study courses;
- cooperative education courses;
- external credential courses;
- local courses;
- academic diploma programs;
- summer school courses;
- distance education courses.

Each of these flexible learning opportunities currently available in Prince Edward Island high schools will be described below.

Independent Study Courses (ISC521A/621A)

The Independent Study Course allows students to engage in personally meaningful, authentic, real-world learning within an inquiry and problem-solving framework. Students have the opportunity to investigate a self-selected topic or theme that extends the curriculum of an authorized provincial course(s) and contributes to their knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for lifelong learning. The Independent Study Course should be a student-directed investigative project that is planned in collaboration with a supervising teacher and community mentor, is monitored frequently, and allows the student to assume the role of first-hand inquirer. This study should uncover new questions and ideas for further inquiry and may solve real-life community issues. This course will showcase a student's care, attention to detail, and overall pride in their work while requiring a considerable commitment of time, effort, and energy on the part of the student. Early planning is required for a student to enroll in this course. Independent Study Courses are developed cooperatively by the student and a supervising teacher, and approved and supported by the parent/guardian(s), supervising teacher, school counsellor, and school principal. Final approval is required by the Department before a student can begin the Independent Study Course. Independent study courses can be taken as a Grade 11 credit (ISC521A) or a Grade 12 credit (ISC621A).

Cooperative Education Courses (CWS501A/601A)

Cooperative Education is an experiential method of learning that formally integrates classroom studies with learning through productive work experiences in a field related to a student's academic or career goals. It provides progressive experiences in integrating theory and practice. Each cooperative education course is a partnership among students, schools, and the community, with specified responsibilities for each. Each course consists of a classroom component and a placement component. Prior to the placement, all students must demonstrate an understanding of the pre-placement orientation expectations and participate in the development and implementation of their personalized placement learning plans. These plans outline the specific goals the students, teachers, and employers have regarding opportunities to apply and extend knowledge and practice and refine skills to demonstrate student achievement of placement expectations that reflect current workplace practices and standards.

External Credential Courses

External Credential courses will acknowledge the value of student learning outside the public school system by recognizing, for high school credit, credentials obtained outside of regular school instructional time by an education service agency external to the public school system. External high school credit will

be awarded for courses, programs, or assessments that have been evaluated and that match or exceed provincial high school standards. External credentials must contribute to the Essential Graduation Learnings, and must meet the standards defined in Mister's Directive MD 11-01. External credentials will be reflected on the student's high school transcript, thereby enhancing the transcript for the student.

Following is a comprehensive list of all external credentials that are currently available to all Prince Edward Island high school students.

➤ **Conservatory Canada Music**

Piano, Voice, Strings, Winds, Brass, Guitar Classical Stream

CCM421T Grade 6 with Theory Grade 2 Co-requisite

CCM521T Grade 7 with Theory Grade 3 Co-requisite

CCM621T Grade 8 with Theory Grade 4 Co-requisite

Piano, Voice, Guitar Contemporary Idioms Stream

CON421T Grade 6 with Theory Grade 2 Co-requisite

CON521T Grade 7 with Theory Grade 3 Co-requisite

CON621T Grade 8 with Theory Grade 4 Co-requisite

➤ **Royal Conservatory of Music**

Accordion, Piano, Guitar, Voice, Strings

RCM421T Grade 6 Practical and Intermediate Rudiments

RCM521T Grade 7 Practical and Advanced Rudiments

RCM621T Grade 8 Practical and Advanced Rudiments

Brass, Percussion, Recorder, Woodwinds

RCM421T Grade 4 Practical and Intermediate Rudiments

RCM521T Grade 6 Practical and Advanced Rudiments

RCM621T Grade 8 Practical and Advanced Rudiments

➤ **Duke of Edinburgh**

DOE521T Bronze and Silver Level or Silver Level Direct Entry

DOE621T Gold Level or Gold Level Direct Entry

➤ **Canadian Cadet Organizations**

Air Cadets

CAI421T Level 4 or Equivalent

CAI521T Level 4 or Equivalent, or Be Employed as a Staff Cadet in an Instructional/Leadership Position

CAI621T Level 5 or Equivalent, or Be Employed as a Staff Cadet in a Senior Leadership Position

Army Cadets

- CAR421T** Gold Star or Equivalent
- CAR521T** Master Cadet or Equivalent, or Be Employed as a Staff Cadet in an Instructional/Leadership Position
- CAR621T** Master Cadet or Equivalent, or Be Employed as a Staff Cadet in a Senior Leadership Position

Sea Cadets

- CAI421T** Level 4 or Equivalent
- CAI521T** Level 4 or Equivalent, or Be Employed as a Staff Cadet in an Instructional/Leadership Position
- CAI621T** Level 5 or Equivalent, or Be Employed as a Staff Cadet in a Senior Leadership Position

➤ **Sport PEI**

- SPT421T** Contact Sport PEI for specific details.
- SPT521T** Contact Sport PEI for specific details.
- SPT621T** Contact Sport PEI for specific details.

➤ **Prince Edward Island 4-H Council**

- FRH621T** Contact the 4-H Council for specific details.

➤ **Dance Umbrella**

- DAN621T** Contact Dance Umbrella for specific details.

➤ **Royal Canadian Naval Reserve**

- NAV621T** Contact the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve for specific details.

Local Courses

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is committed to ensuring that all students have access to a quality education. The Department is also committed to meeting the changing needs of students by encouraging flexibility and discretion at the local level. Over a number of years, provincially authorized senior high local courses have been offered to accommodate the special interests and abilities of students, to provide for innovative practices, and to address local community interests through the development of local courses at the senior high level which do not duplicate provincially authorized courses.

All schools offering the senior high program must ensure students meet the provincial graduation requirements. This is done by offering provincially developed and authorized courses. Schools may enhance their programs by offering local courses, if this can be accomplished given sufficient numbers and interest. Local courses are developed at the school level. As a result, course offerings will vary greatly from school to school. However, all local courses that are developed must conform to departmental standards of curriculum development.

Currently, there exists a moratorium on the development of new local courses, pending recommendations that may come from the High School Committee.

Academic Diploma Program

The Academy Diploma Program (ADP) is a specialization program approved by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (the Department) which enables students to gain sector-specific skills and knowledge in the context of engaging, career-related learning environments. ADPs help students to focus on graduation and pursuing their post-secondary goals. This program is part of the *PEI Career Education Framework*, which was developed in 2008, and will assist in the students' transition from secondary school to apprenticeship training, college, university, or the labour market by providing them with real world knowledge, skills, and experiences related to potential future educational and career pathways.

Participating in an ADP enables students to

- customize their secondary school education to reflect their interests and talents while meeting the requirements for the PEI High School Graduation Certificate;
- select a bundle of eight to ten required credits focused on sector-specific knowledge and skills that are
 - valued by the sector and post-secondary educational institutions;
 - designed to help prepare students for a post-secondary destination of their choice in a particular economic sector;
 - designed with the flexibility to allow students to shift between pathways (e.g., to switch from a path leading to college to an apprenticeship focus), or to discontinue the program if their career plans change in Grade 11 or 12;
- provide evidence of achievement of the required components of the ADP (e.g., sector-recognized certifications) for prospective employers and post-secondary educational institutions;
- explore, identify, and refine career goals, and make informed decisions about their postsecondary options;
- take part in community based learning opportunities that will help them gain confidence in their ability to be successful, refine skills and work habits, and make informed choices about future career pathways and next steps;
- participate in pathway exploration experiences aligned with their field of interest;
- develop skills, knowledge, and work habits related to Literacy and Essential Skills and the Innovation Skills Profile, which are required in a particular sector, and have their performance of their skills, knowledge, and work habits assessed and documented;
- enhance the above skills in the context of engaging, sector-specific learning environments;
- access resources, equipment, and expertise that may not be available in their school.

In the 2014-15 school year, it is anticipated that the following Academy Diploma Programs will be offered at the indicated schools:

Agriculture and Bioscience	Kensington Intermediate Senior High School Kinkora Regional High School
Arts and Culture	Bluefield High School
Aviation and Aerospace	Three Oaks Senior High School
Business and Innovation	Colonel Gray Senior High School
Tourism and Hospitality	Kensington Intermediate Senior High School

Summer School Courses

Each summer, the Department of Education and Early Childhood development offers some high school courses at selected locations. The courses offered vary from year to year, but in the past, have included courses in English, mathematics, physics, cooperative work study, and English as an additional language. The availability of courses taught during the summer depends on the availability of resources required to offer courses and student demand.

Distance Education Courses

Distance Education is a mode of instruction in which the student and teacher are separated in either time or space or both, and where two-way communication takes place through non-traditional means for the most part. There is a broad range of both individualized and team instructional approaches and strategies used in distance education. Distance education communication may utilize various technologies and media, including but not limited to print, computers and computer networks, telecommunications, and audio-visual equipment and resources.

Distance education is seen as a means to provide students with equitable access and/or a diversity of programs as approved by the P.E.I. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Typically, this option is employed when a particular high school does not have the capacity to offer an particular course or when a student requests to take a course by correspondence from another jurisdiction. All distance education requests must approved by the P.E.I. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.