

# Grad 2025 Handbook

Welcome to the Grads of 2025

School Website: [nwss.ca](http://nwss.ca)

Grad Website: <https://nwssgradinfo.weebly.com/>

Grad Instagram: @nwssgrad2025



# Land Acknowledgement

New Westminster Schools  
recognizes and acknowledges the  
Qayqayt First Nation, as well as all  
Coast Salish Peoples, on whose  
traditional territories we live, we  
learn, we play and we do our  
work.





# Handbook Overview

- Ms. Miriam Schellenberg - NWSS Vice Principal and Grad Liaison
- Ms. Chelsie Goodchild & Mr. Scott Hodson - Grad Teacher Sponsors
- Information to follow:
  - Grad Requirements
  - Post-Secondary Information
  - Transcripts
  - Grad Events
  - Scholarship Information

# Handbook Links.....

- All underlined items throughout the Handbook are direct links to email addresses, school or other informational webpages



# Graduation Requirements

# If You Have Questions.....

- A student's first line of inquiry should be to their NWSS Counsellor
  - All SIGMA students - Ms. Sarekha Jagpal
  - All International students and students A to Ce - Mr. Matthew Mitchell
  - Students Ch to Ha - Ms. Marika Melvin
  - Students He to Mas - Mr. Dave Mori
  - Students Mat to Sam - Ms. Nancy Milne
  - Students San to Z - Ms. Jennifer Towers



# If You Have Questions.....

- A student's second line of inquiry should be to their NWSS Administrator
  - Students S to Z and all International Students - Principal Susana Quan
  - Students A to F - Vice Principal Miriam Schellenberg
  - Students G to Ma - Vice Principal Gary Pattern
  - Students Mc to R and all SIGMA students - Vice Principal Harinder Mahli

# Graduation Requirements

- BC Ministry of Education requires students to complete the following:
  - 52 credits “required” courses, including CLC and capstone
  - 28 credits “elective” courses
  - 30 hours work/volunteer experience
  - Minimum of one course with an Indigenous focus
- Capstone Presentations: Week of **April 28 - May 2, 2025**





# Required Assessments

- Students must write
  - Numeracy 10
  - Literacy 10
  - Literacy 12
- French Literacy 12 (French Immersion Students Only)

# Post- Secondary Information



# Embracing Change

## Old vs. New

- **OLD**

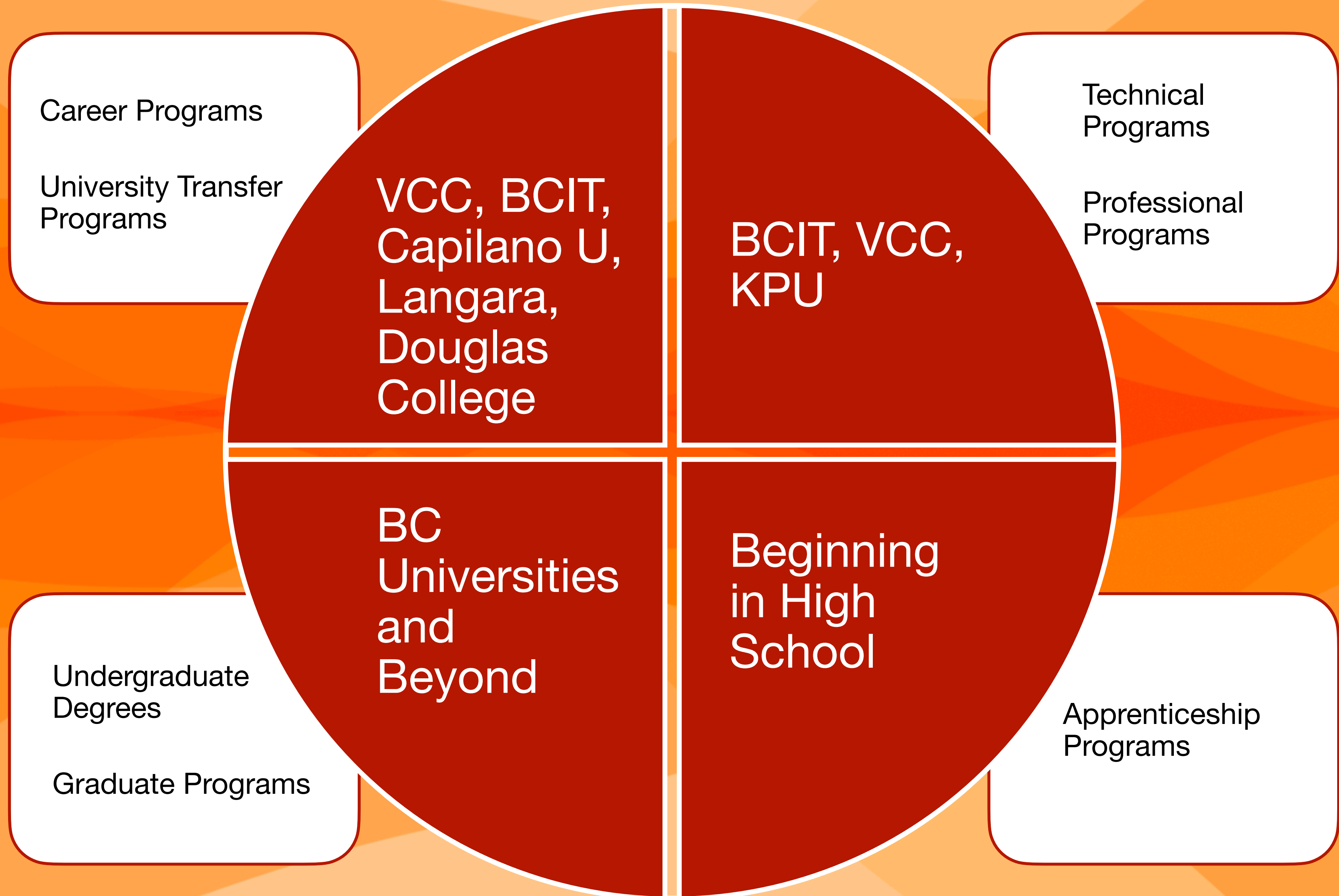
- Plans = Success
- Education (Bachelor Degree) leads to a successful career
- One job/career until retirement

- **NEW**

- Plans + Flexibility = Success
- Education + experience + connections lead to options in careers
- Adaptable professional

**Make a Plan.....but Write it in Pencil!**

# Many Choices, Even More Paths





# General Overview of Paths

High School Diploma - Dogwood

Certificate Programs - 6 months to 1 year

Diploma Programs - 1 to 2 years

University Transfer (Associate Degree) - 1 to 2 years

Undergraduate Degree - 4 years

Graduate Degree - Undergrad Degree + 2 to 3 years

PhD - Undergrad Degree + Graduate Degree + 3 years

# Trades and Apprenticeships



Wages for certified workers highly competitive



Employment often guaranteed at the end of the program



Wages can be earned while in school



Own your own business



Government Grants and Incentives



# Education and Experience

- Employers look for students with both experience and training
- Options for programs that provide a balance of both
  - Variety of courses
  - Practicum
  - Internships
  - Co-op (work/study programs)
  - Apprenticeships
  - Exchange Programs
- The above opportunities allow students to network and establish relationships in the respective field

# Not Sure Where to Go/What to Study?

- Things to consider:
  - Interest
  - Program Availability
  - Entrance Grades
  - Location
  - Size of Institution
  - Tuition Costs
  - What else the institution has to offer
    - For example:
      - Residences
      - Sports/Athletics
      - Club System/Intramurals



# Beginning the Research

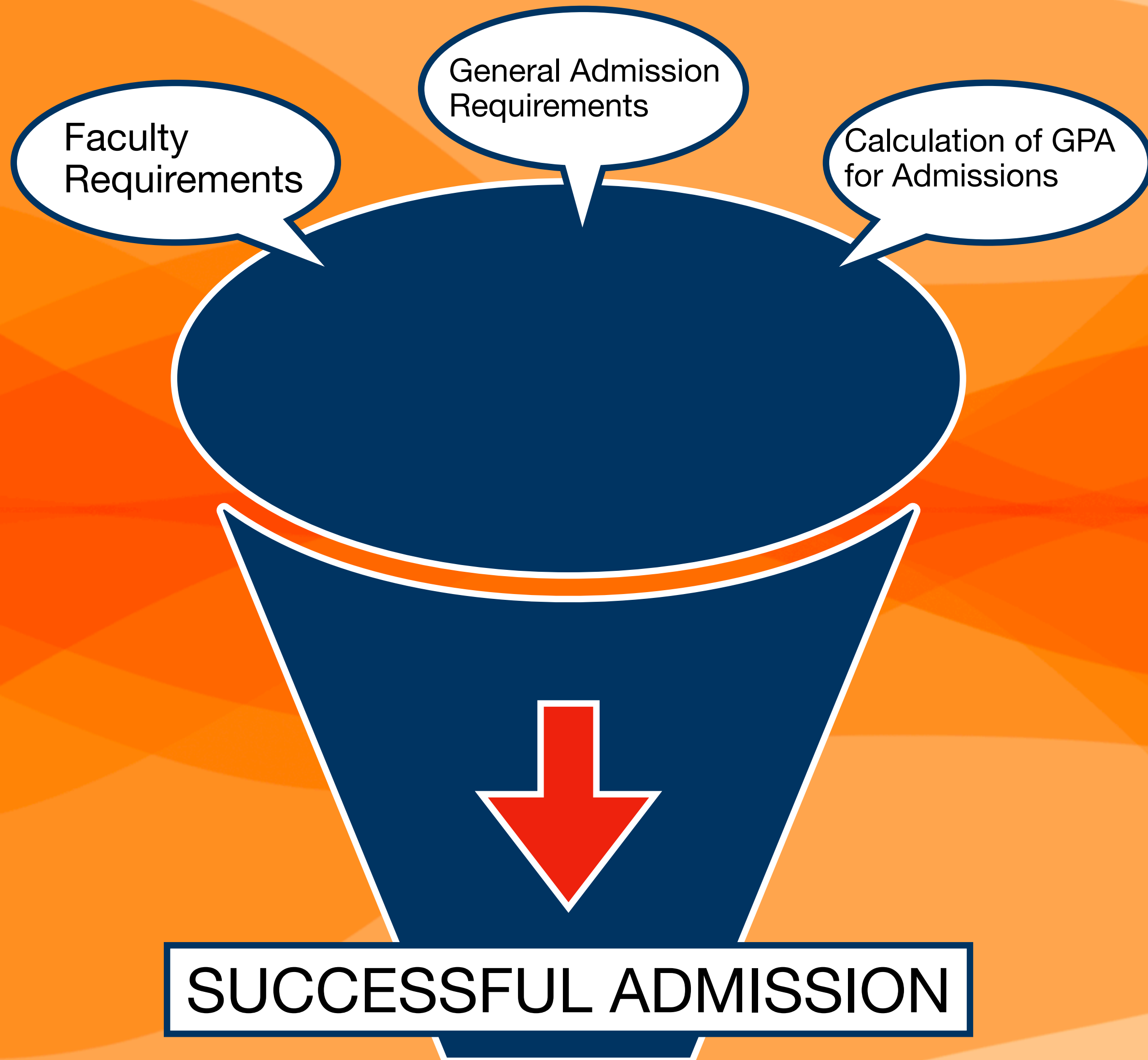
- Education Planner
  - Allows you to plan, search and apply to programs in BC
  - One-stop shop for all programs in BC
  - Great starting point for schools/programs outside of BC
- Work BC
  - Search and discover various career paths
  - Career and personality quizzes that help match people to various career paths
- Post Secondary Night at NWSS on October 23, 2025





# University Admission Requirements

General



- General Requirements
  - Courses (Gr. 11 & 12)
  - Second Language and Math
  - English Language Requirements
  - Holistic Applications (UBC, Queens, others)
- Faculty or School Requirements
  - Faculty of Arts/School of Nursing
- Program Requirements
  - Ex. International Relations
- GPA (Specific Required Courses)
- Personal Profile
- Institution Specific Requirements

Specific



# Case Study - University of British Columbia

- General Admission Requirements
  - Graduation from High School
  - Minimum of 70% in Grade 11 and 12 English
  - At least six academic/non-academic grade 12 courses (recommended, but not required)
- Degree/Faculty - Applied Science (Engineering)
  - Grade 12 Courses: English (First Peoples) 12, Pre-Calc 12, Chem 12, Physics 12
  - Grade 11 Courses: English (First Peoples) 11, Language 11(or waiver), Pre-Calc 11 or FOM 12, Chem 11, Physics 11

# Holistic Admission

- Not just about grades - supplemental application requirements vary between programs
- Written Submission (a personal profile)
- Letters of Intent
- Accomplishments
- Personal Preferences, interests, skill-sets
- Portfolio



# English Language Requirement

- Most PSIs have an English language proficiency requirement
- English Proficiency Exams
  - Required for some students
    - If you have been living in Canada less than 3 years (UBC requires four)
    - If the past 3 years of schooling were at an institution where English is not the primary language of instruction
  - Examples of Exams
    - CAEL, Cambridge English Qualifications, IELTS, TOEFL



# Applying to a BC Post-Secondary Institution (PSI)

- University of Victoria (UVIC)

- September 2024 to December 15, 2024



- University of British Columbia (UBC)

- Early October - Applications Open

- December 1 - Deadline to apply for first round offers of admission

- January 15 - Most Applications Close



- Simon Fraser University (SFU)

- October 1, 2024 to January 31, 2025



- Douglas College

- Early October - Applications Open

- March - May - Applications Close (varies among programs)

- Admission Decisions - Early February to End of April (Varies by Institution)





# Applying to a BC Post-Secondary Institution (PSI) Continued



Determine Eligibility to Apply



Apply Online through Education Planner BC



Personal Education Number (PEN) is Required



Faculty (1st and 2nd Choices)



Pay Fee (by Credit Card)



Student Account Will Be Set up

Pay Attention to next steps, To-Do Checklists, deadlines, required documents



Check Email, student account, and PSI sites regularly for updates

Deadlines for scholarship applications, Self-Reporting Grades, Submitting Documents, Applying for Residence

# Transcripts



# Transcripts

- A record of successfully completed Grade 10, 11 and 12 courses
- Register for a BCeID
- Order transcripts through Student Transcript Service (STS)
- Follow information on the New Westminster Secondary website
- New information is pushed to the Ministry of Education frequently, usually starting in early October



## StudentTranscripts Service Information For Students

StudentTranscripts Service (STS) is an online application for students to view their school marks, transcripts, scholarships and send transcripts electronically to post secondary institutions and employers.



**Step 1** Go to the Ministry of Education's Transcripts and Certificate website at <http://www.StudentTranscripts.gov.bc.ca>.

**Step 2** You **must sign up** for a BCeID before you can use the StudentTranscripts Service. For BCeID signup, you need to:

- Complete the fields to register for a basic BCeID
- Select your password reset questions and answers (*remember these* as you will need them if you forget your password)
- Follow the system prompts and sign up for StudentTranscripts Service.

[Sign Up for a BCeID](#)

**Step 3** Log-in to StudentTranscripts Service using your BCeID. When registering for the Student Transcript Service using your BCeID, you will be prompted to:

- Enter your student information used by your school (see **Get Started** information above)
- Read the personal data collection info and complete the process by clicking "submit"
- An email will be sent to the email address provided and must be activated within 24 hours of receipt or you will need to complete the registration process again
- Once activated, you will be able to log onto STS using your BCeID and password.

[Log in with BCeID](#)

**Step 4** From your STSDashboard, you can choose your post-secondary institutions (PSIs) selections, preview, send and order transcripts, view exam and assessment results and view scholarship information. Please note that all transcripts previewed in the STS are considered unofficial, but official transcripts will be sent out when ordered.

You will need to consent to the STS privacy notice which enables the ministry to send your transcripts to your selected PSIs by paper or electronically depending on how the PSI is able to receive transcripts. Printed copies of transcripts may take up to 3 weeks for processing and delivery to your selected PSIs.

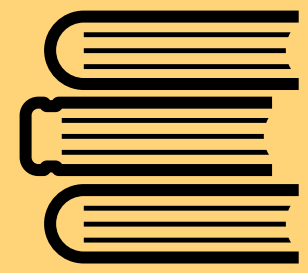
### Troubleshooting:

For BCeID questions: <https://www.bceid.ca>

For StudentTranscripts questions: [Studenttranscripts@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Studenttranscripts@gov.bc.ca).



# How Will PSIs Get My Transcripts and Interim Marks?



Give PSI permission to access your records when applying or send transcript electronically through STS



Most Canadian PSI have XML, allows them to see student grades/transcripts automatically when NWSS reports them to the Ministry of Education



Students who require transcripts with courses from Grade 9 and above can contact the office for more help



# Reporting Grades

- Self-Reporting
  - Most PSIs require students to self-report Grade 11 and 12 final marks
  - Semester 1 interim, Semester 1 Final, and/or Semester 2 interim marks for most PSIs in BC
  - You do not require an official transcript to self-report your grades
- Online Courses
  - June 30 - typical deadline to finish an online course (Check PSI)
  - Recommend to complete 50% of the course before self-reporting a grade





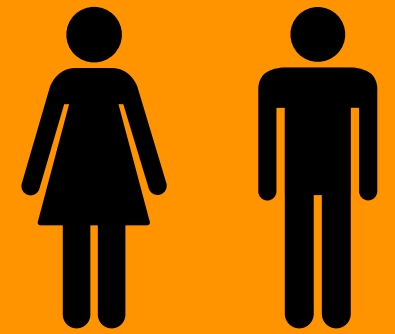
# Graduation Events



# Grad 2025 Events



Students should check the Grad Teams and Grad website for the most up to date information



Students and Parents can check information posted on the NWSS website and Grad website

Scholarship and Bursary Applications - Opens Jan. 20 at noon, closes Feb. 24 at noon (***firm deadline, no applications accepted after this date and time***)

Grad Clothing - Sale 2 February 3 to March 2, 2025

Grad Fees (Gown and Event Production) - open January 20 to March 2, 2025

Grad Gown Distribution - June 2025

Winter Formal - January 28, 2025 (***ticket distribution January 21 - 23***)

Scholarship and Bursary Night - June 16, 2025

Prom - June 20, 2025 at the Westin Bayshore Vancouver

Grad Ceremony - June 24, 2025 at Queen's Park Arena

# School Sanctioned Events

- Each Grad Event is a school sanctioned event, therefore all school rules and policies apply at all times
- Ex. at a previous Winter Formal, a student was caught vaping in the bathroom and was sent home
- Ex. at a previous Prom, a student was caught in possession of alcohol they stated was not theirs, the alcohol was confiscated and the student was denied entry to the Prom, no refund was given
- At each Grad event, we use professional outside security for the safety of all in attendance



# Winter Formal 2025

January 28, 2025

- Tickets will go on sale in November 2024
- Tickets will be \$20-\$25 per student
- This event is for current NWSS Grade 12 students only





# Scholarship and Bursary Night

June 16, 2025

- Applications for Scholarships and Bursaries will open January 20, 2025
- Deadline for application in 12:00 PM (Noon) on February 24, 2025
- Invitations to this evening will be emailed to successful applicants in May/June 2025
- Successful applicants will be limited to 2 guests for this event in the NWSS Theatre





# Prom

June 20, 2025

- At the Westin Bayshore Vancouver
- Tickets will go on sale in April 2025





# Grad Ceremony

June 24, 2025

- At Queen's Park Arena
- Ceremony rehearsal will occur during Block C and D on June 10, 2025 - all Graduating students must attend
- Each Grad will receive 2 complimentary tickets at the rehearsal
- Extra tickets will go on sale on June 10 - June 15, 2025 at 3:00 PM for \$15 each
- All guests to the ceremony require their own ticket





# Grad Ceremony Live Stream

June 24, 2025

- This event may be live streamed
- By entering the venue, you consent to being photographed, filmed and/or recorded
- You explicitly agree to the release, publication, exhibition and reproduction of your likeness
- If you do not agree, please do not enter the venue



**Notice: This event is being photographed, filmed, and/or recorded.** By entering these premises, you consent to being photographed, filmed, and/or recorded and explicitly agree to the release, publication, exhibition, and reproduction of your likeness/image, voice, and name for promotional purposes, without compensation, in perpetuity in connection with New Westminster Schools and its initiatives including, but not limited to, its website(s), social media, and marketing.

You understand all photography, filming, and/or recording will be done in reliance on this consent. If you do not agree, please do not enter the premises.





# Dry Grad

June 24, 2025

- Takes place at the completion of the Grad Ceremony
- Dry Grad is not organized by the school
- Dry Grad is organized by parents of Grade 12 students
- Please see the Dry Grad instagram @newwestdrygrad
- Or Email if you have questions - Dry Grad





# SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship & Bursary Information



# Financing Your (Child's) Future

SCHOLARSHIPS - Application Information on the NWSS [website](#) and Grad [website](#)

BURSARY - BASED ON FINANCIAL NEED  
Repayment Not Required

LOAD - STUDENT LINES OF CREDIT, STUDENT LOANS

Will require a financial disclosure

Sources: Government Programs, Private Financial Institutions (Banks)

Require Repayment upon completion of schooling

OTHER - Personal Contributions



# Scholarships and Awards

- Scholarship and Bursary Application Process will open at noon on January 20, 2025
  - Pay close attention to deadlines (February 24, 2025 at noon - FIRM)
- Three Sources on Scholarships:
  - New Westminster Secondary School
  - Post Secondary Institutions
  - Community of New Westminster
- IMPORTANT NOTE:
  - Most Scholarships and Bursaries **REQUIRE PROOF OF REGISTRATION (and PAYMENT)** in a qualified PSI to receive the funds awarded



# Breakdown of How scholarships are awarded

## Monetary

Based on academic merit or excellence in the area to which the award pertains

## Tuition Waiver

University waives tuition

## Opportunity

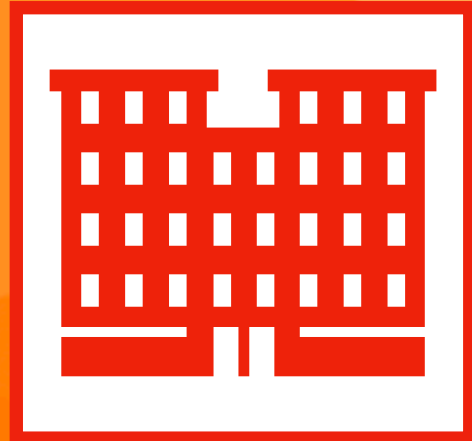
Ex:  
Internships,  
mentorship,  
educational  
experiences

## Criteria Include

Grades  
Leadership  
Trades  
Community Service  
Athletics  
Excellence in Fine Arts  
Other



# New Westminster Secondary Administered Awards



Various Sources  
(school based  
and community  
donations)



General Criteria  
includes:  
Academic Standing  
Community Service  
Extracurricular  
involvement  
(athletics, fine arts)  
Course Load  
Citizenship



Recipients  
determined by  
the New  
Westminster  
Secondary  
Scholarship  
Committee



Try to award as  
many recipients  
as possible from  
the Grad Class



Students must  
submit the NWSS  
Scholarship  
Application

Applications open  
from January 13 to  
February 21, 2025

No late applications  
will be accepted



# Ministry of Education Awards

## BC Achievement Scholarships - \$1250 (no application required)

Recognizes the 8000 graduates with the top academic achievement in the province

## BC Excellence Scholarships - \$5000 (requires school nomination and application - Deadline February 2025)

55 Awards throughout the province - awarded to students who demonstrate service and leaderships at school and in their communities, show aptitude and commitment to their chosen career paths

Online applications open late Fall 2024 and due February 2025 (dates TBD)

## Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship - \$5000 (application required - Deadline February 2025)

Awarded to 20 outstanding high school graduates who have demonstrated a commitment to and aptitude for a career in K-12 education

Must provide evidence on enrolment in qualifying education programs

Online applications will open Fall 2024 and due February 2025 (dates TBD)



# Numerous Other Scholarships....

Various Large Scale Awards  
(Ex. Loran, TD, Queen's Chancellor)

Community Based  
See Scholarship and Bursary Application Package

Information found on both the School website and Grad website

Many applications require nominations or letters of reference  
Ask for letters of reference well in advance

- Students submit formal application to the NWSS Scholarship Committee
- Scholarship Committee determines award recipients
- Recipients will be notified to attend Scholarship and Bursary Night on June 16, 2025 in the NWSS Theatre



# And More Scholarships to be found....

Various websites connect youth with scholarship information

Employers

Sports Organizations

Other Community organizations (clubs, fine arts, cultural)

Questions? Contact your counsellor for details about scholarships



# Preparation and Documentation



Resume

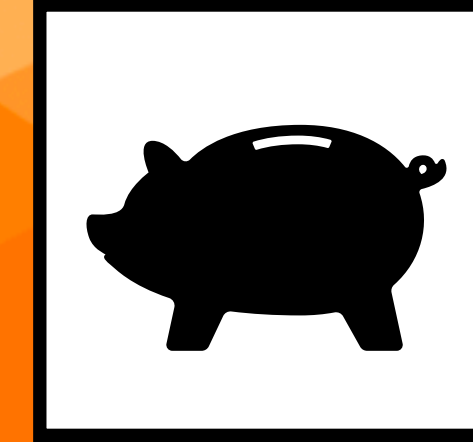


Transcript

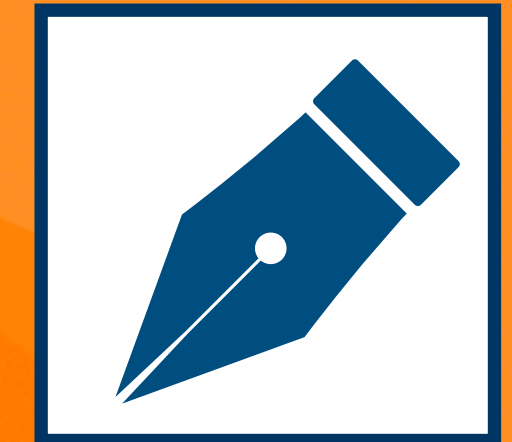


Letters of  
Reference  
and/or contact  
information  
from  
references

Request  
Letters of  
Reference  
early in the  
process



Budget  
statement for  
financial need



Expect written  
components to  
applications (ex.  
Essay Questions)



If you have  
questions  
please contact  
the appropriate  
Counsellor or  
Administrator