

Focus Areas

What are Focus Areas?

- Focus Areas are organizers for: courses taken in the Graduation program, career exploration, and post-secondary programs exploration.
- The eight Focus Areas have been designed based on commonly available courses and programs at many secondary schools, and on programs available at BC post-secondary institutions.
- The Focus Areas are:
 - Business and Applied Business
 - Fine Arts, Design, and Media
 - Fitness and Recreation
 - Health and Human Services
 - Liberal Arts/Humanities
 - Science and Applied Science
 - Tourism, Hospitality, and Foods
 - Trades and Technology

What is the intent of Focus Areas in the 2004 Graduation Program?

- To help students explore a range of learning and work options in their Planning 10 course.
- To help students think about and organize the courses they take in Grades 11 and 12.
- To help students research specific programs offered at BC post-secondary institutions.

How are Focus Areas implemented?

- Students will be asked during Planning 10 to explore the eight Focus Areas and to identify one or more areas to focus on in Grades 11 and 12; they can change their Focus Area at any time.
- The Ministry and schools will suggest courses that best fit each Focus Area, but students will design and provide reasons for their own unique package of courses.

Are certain Focus Areas designed for students who plan to work immediately after graduation? Are others designed for students who plan to attend post secondary?

- All Focus Areas can help student's transition to any of: the workplace, industry/technical training, college programs or university.
- Focus Areas are based on areas of interest, not transition destination.

Are schools required to offer courses in all eight Focus Areas?

- Not all schools are large enough to offer multiple courses in each Focus Area, but a student can still choose any Focus Area by designing a unique package of courses that meets their interests.
- Some schools have natural advantages in certain Focus Areas that will allow them to specialize by partnering with their community and/or local businesses.
- In addition to school-offered courses, a student can take post-secondary courses, distance education courses or courses completed by External Credential.

Do Focus Areas replace existing Career Programs?

- Focus Areas are not intended to replace existing career development programs; they provide the opportunity to realign existing Career Preparation, and Cooperative Education programs to match the eight Focus Areas. Career Technical Centre, Secondary School Apprenticeship, and other Industry-Training programs still have unique program areas.
- Focus Areas are designed as an education organizer for courses and as a career & postsecondary exploration tool; schools can add value to Focus Areas by encouraging students to take Board/Authority specialty courses.
- Each Focus Area can be supplemented by in-depth career exploration, hands-on work experience, Secondary School Apprenticeship or other industry training, and Career Technical Programs.

Are there resources to help schools implement Focus Areas?

- Schools are encouraged to incorporate existing career resources into their Focus Areas and to use community resources.
- Schools are encouraged to use the many existing resources available on the web that relate to each Focus Area

Ministry of Education Contact

Paul Lukaszek, Manager

Student Transitions Unit

Phone: 250-387-6398

E-mail: Paul.Lukaszek@gov.bc.ca
