

Course Level Variables

Edudata holds BC Ministry of Education data from 1995 onwards, and helps researchers, educators, and policy makers to access, analyze, and make use of that information.

For more information regarding any of the variables or the process, please feel free to contact us either by phone (604 822 2338) or email: edudata.canada@ubc.ca

Variable	Definition
Course Name	Name of the course.
Course Grade	Course grade level.
Course Language of Instruction	Whether the course was taught in English or French.
Examinable Course	Whether the course had an exam.
Credit Count	How many credits students received upon successful completion of the course.
Course Type	Course type (e.g., Advanced placement, Ministry developed course, International Baccalaureate etc.)
Optional Examination	Whether the exam was optional. For students in the 2004 Graduation Program from school years 2004/2005 through 2010/2011, all Grade 12 exams were optional except for the Language Arts 12 and BC First Nations Studies 12 exams. Students, not their school, made the choice to write optional exams. If students chose to write these exams, results counted for 40 percent of the final mark. Students opting out of these exams received a final mark based only on their course work.
Required Examination	Some courses in Grades 10, 11 or 12 have a mandatory provincial examination component used to calculate the final mark. The provincial examination is required to meet BC graduation requirements.
Course Marked	Whether the student received a grade in the course.
Exam Written	Whether the student received a mark on their exam.
Course Mark	The best mark of a student up to the point in time when a final mark is calculated. The course mark is assigned by a teacher as a result of the student's course work.
Exam (Examination) Mark	The best mark of a student on a provincial examination up to the point in time when a final mark is calculated, based on one or more writes of a particular Provincial Examination subject in any school year.
Final Mark	The final mark is based on the blend of a student's best course mark and best exam mark. These best marks may have been earned in different school years. Final marks may be greater than either the best exam marks or best course marks observed in the reported year. The final marks are usually derived from a blend of the best exam percent and the best course percent, using a 80/20 mix for Grades 10 and 11, and a 60/40 mix for Grade 12. (The sole exception is BC First Nations Studies 12, or FNS12, which alone of all Grade 12 examinable courses uses the 80/20 mix.)
Course in Same Grade	Whether the course was for a grade other than the student's enrolled grade. (In other words, whether students took courses above or below their grade level.)
Special Case	Challenge, cheated, equivalency, deferred, rewrites etc.