

▼ POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Compounding degree requirements can be puzzling

I think one of the confusing things about applying to go to college or university is when you think you've met one requirement, out pops another one.

That's because almost all post-secondary institutions have a series of requirements and meeting just one doesn't guarantee admission.

Depending on your program of study there can be a number of requirements you need to meet and they start with what are called general entrance requirements.

General entrance requirements are basic requirements all applicants need to fulfill to get accepted.

These usually include command of the English language through either completion of English 12 or some type of testing.

For international students this often requires a minimum TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score or completion of an ESL (English as a Second Language) program.

Non-academic requirements usually include citizenship and an age requirement.

Colleges tend to have less academic entrance requirements than universities.

For example, at Okanagan College English 12 or English testing is the only academic entrance requirement.

At UBC Okanagan, in addition to English 12 stu-



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 dents must complete three other Grade 12 courses that are generally academic in nature.

Once a student meets the general admission requirements, they need to meet pro-



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gram requirements.

Each program will require students to complete specific high school courses for entry. Okanagan College's water quality and environmental engineering technology program requires Principle of Mathematics 11 and Chemistry 11.

For entry into the Associate of Science degree program, students will be required to complete Principles of Mathematics 12.

In addition to academic program requirements, some programs also have non-academic requirements. In many health programs such as nursing, students are required to complete a criminal record check and usually a first aid course.

Some programs may also include a mandatory interview with the department to ensure the applicant is well suited to enter the program.

The final requirements are course prerequisites.

Often specific first-year courses will require students to complete a high school prerequisite.

Most first-year English courses require students to complete English 12. First-year Biology often requires Chemistry 11 and either Biology 11 or 12.

Now this is where it gets confusing for high school students.

Community colleges ad-

mission requirements are built on an access model.

This model is expected to meet both the needs of the high school student and the adult learner.

Some program and entrance requirements are developed so learners can complete post-secondary courses and upgrade their high school courses at the same time.

For example, although Okanagan College only requires students to complete English 12 and Principles of Mathematics 12 for entry into the Associate of Science degree program, students who want to complete this credential will require a minimum of six credits in first-year chemistry, especially if they want to eventually complete a bachelor of science degree.

First-year chemistry requires a minimum of Chemistry 11; completing Chemistry 12 would be better.

So when high school students go through college calendars it is important that they check all three requirements—entrance, program and course prerequisites to ensure that they can meet all of these.

This is especially important for students who plan on completing a bachelor's de-

gree and are unclear about their major. Most students will switch their major at least once and have to be prepared that many first-year courses may require those high school

courses as a prerequisite.
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