

## To BA or not to BA?

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Have you ever wanted to take a Psychology course? How about trying Anthropology, Economics, Sociology, Philosophy, English, Political Science, French or Spanish, Women's Studies, English Literature or Creative Writing? You can sign up for any of these courses at the Kalamalka Campus and increase your understanding of YOURSELF and your WORLD while laying the foundation for a number of careers.

For example, the RCMP is looking for people who have at least 30 post-secondary (college or university) credits. Every course gives you 3 credits, so if you take 5 courses in September and another 5 courses in January—you will have the background to apply for the RCMP. You begin with Arts courses if you want to become an Elementary or Secondary school teacher. A Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree is also the basis for careers in Counselling, Law, College or University Professor, Teaching English as a Second Language, Journalism, Social Work, Corrections, Politics or International Relations to name only a few. A Bachelor of Arts will also help you develop *essential skills* such as reading, writing, numeracy and critical thinking that employers require in today's workforce. See [http://srv600.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/esrp/english/general/home\\_e.shtml](http://srv600.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/esrp/english/general/home_e.shtml) & [www.trainyourbrain.ca](http://www.trainyourbrain.ca) for more information about essential skills and the value of an Arts degree.

To build a Bachelor of Arts degree, you need to earn 120 credits (take 40 courses). It's a bit like building a pyramid. The first half (60 credits) is a foundation where you really are free to try courses and find out what you have a passion for. A rough guideline is to take 6 credits of English, 6 credits of Science (many of the Science choices have NO prerequisite out of high school), 18 credits of Social Sciences (Psychology, Sociology, Economics, Anthropology, Political Science, Women's Studies, Human Geography), and 18 credits of Humanities (English, Fine Arts, Philosophy, History, languages). You can blindly point at a subject and not make a mistake! You can earn these credits at Okanagan College and then transfer to UBC-O or any other university to do the last 60 credits to complete your BA. (You can make sure the courses you take transfer by running them through the on-line transfer guide at [www.bccat.bc.ca](http://www.bccat.bc.ca)) The last 60 credits are 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year courses in the subject you love and want as your major.

To take Arts courses at Okanagan College ([www.okanagan.bc.ca](http://www.okanagan.bc.ca)) you need to have English 12 with 60% or a level of 4 on the L.P.I. exam (Language Proficiency Index <http://www.ares.ubc.ca/LPI/index.html> – an exam that shows you have the skills necessary to write papers etc...). Alternatively, you can take English upgrading courses at the Kalamalka Campus to get in. That's it. So do it!! Expand your mind and your horizons and come to Okanagan College! Please call 545-7291 for more information.

*Jeanne Boekelheide is the Educational Advisor at the Kalamalka Campus.*