

NIC Lingo

Becoming a student

APPLICATION: Your formal submission, either online or by paper, for a particular program. Online it is done through the Education Planner BC portal and has a \$25 charge.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: The requirements you need to meet to enter the program you are applying to. Requirements vary by program.

COURSE PRE-REQUISITE(S): A course(s) that is required before another course can be taken.

TRANSCRIPTS: An official, permanent record of the number of courses you have completed and your marks in those courses.

PLACEMENT ASSESSMENT: NIC accepts English and Math placement tests in lieu of transcripts. Students can either provide a high school transcript or take a placement test to ensure that they have the necessary English and/or Math skills for their studies.

INVITATION: Being accepted into a program after the requirements for entering the program have been met.

TUITION DEPOSIT: A non-refundable tuition deposit prior to registration, it will then be applied towards the tuition amount. Tuition free courses/program do not require a tuition deposit.

REGISTRATION: Signing up for a specific section of a course, so you have a seat in that course.

When you're a student

ACADEMIC CALENDAR: List of important dates for the school year and where you will find drop/add dates, holidays and breaks, withdrawal deadlines and exam dates.

SEMESTER/TERM: The divisions of the academic year. NIC has 3 terms:

- Fall – September to December
- Winter – January to April
- Spring/Summer – May to August
 - Note: from May to August, you can register in classes that run in just Spring (7 weeks), just Summer (7 weeks) or throughout the Spring/Summer term (14 weeks)

PART-TIME AND FULL-TIME STATUS: Refers to the number of credit hours you are enrolled in each semester. Students enrolled in nine or more credit hours are considered full-time.

ADD/DROP: The period of time at the beginning of each semester when you can change the courses you are registered for without a penalty.

WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE: The latest possible dates to withdraw from a class without it affecting your grade point average (GPA). A "W" will show on your transcript, but that course will not be used in the calculation of your grade point average.

GRADE POINT: The value of the final mark in a course rated on a scale between 0 and 4.33.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA): GPA is the value of each course final mark multiplied by the credit value of each course, divided by the number of courses taken

Financial aid

SCHOLARSHIP: Financial assistance awarded based on academic merit

BURSARY: Financial Assistance based on financial need and/or other specific criteria

GRANT: Financial assistance that does not have to be paid back

INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATION FUNDING: Possibly funding options are available within Indigenous community organization. Talk with an Aboriginal Educational Advisor for more information

NATION OR BAND FUNDING: Some bands and nations have funding to support your education. Contact your band, nation or Indigenous recruiter to learn more

EMERGENCY FUNDING: NIC can provide financial support to students dealing with emergencies that would otherwise prevent them from completing their studies

College credentials

CREDENTIALS: The official document you receive when you complete an academic program.

CERTIFICATE: One-year program (30 credit hours), also includes trades foundation programs.

DIPLOMA: Two-year program (60 credit hours).

DEGREE: An undergraduate degree normally requiring four years of full-time study. (Also known as a Bachelor's Degree).

TRADES FOUNDATION: Trades program covering foundation knowledge, in-class and hands-on learning which includes Level 1 of apprenticeship training. Employer sponsor is not required.

TRADES APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING: A combination of on-the-job and in-school training. Apprentices need an employer sponsor to complete their apprenticeship levels. The in-school training lasts 4-10 weeks, depending on the trade.