

**M3 Lesson 3: The Wondrous (and Sometimes Scary) World of Post-Secondary**

Core Competencies:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| * Communication | * Thinking | * Personal & Social |

Big Ideas:

* Achieving our learning goals requires effort and perseverance.

Curricular Competencies:

* Recognize the influence of curriculum choices and co-curricular activities on career paths
* Apply a variety of research skills to expand their knowledge of diverse career possibilities and understand career clusters
* Question self and others about how individual purposes and passions can support the needs of the local and global community when considering career choices

In this lesson, students will learn to further investigate post secondary options and the basics of certificates, diplomas, undergraduate degrees and post-graduate degrees at different institutions.

For Students:

Being in Grade 9, graduation probably seems really far away. There's a lot of changes that will happen in the next three years of your life, academically, personally and in terms of your own interests and goals. However, by researching all of your options throughout high school, you will better navigate the changes as they occur. It's like the right site coming up in your Google search each time!

In this lesson and assignment, you will learn to differentiate between colleges and universities, and different types of diploma and degree programs. This will prepare you for your transition into Career Life Education 10, where you will dig a bit deeper into each of these options, and how your graduation program should reflect your desired path.

**Universities...Colleges...Institutes - what's the difference? Start a discussion with students to determine where they are starting from.** During this lesson it is fun to do a time chart with students to decipher between the time needed for a certificate, diploma, and various degrees. They are quite surprised to add up the years required for a Ph.D!

In Canada, there are different types of post-secondary schools:

* universities
* colleges
* institutes

Governments have processes to make sure universities, colleges and institutes offer programs that meet their standards. If they do meet their standards, schools can grant:

* degrees
* diplomas
* certificates
* other qualifications

At most post-secondary institutions, there are two main terms of study per year: September to December and January to April. Most schools also offer a summer term of study, from May to August.

**Universities**

Universities offer programs that lead to different types of degrees in many disciplines and subjects. There are three types of degrees:

* *Bachelor’s Degree:* a basic degree given by Canadian universities that takes, on average, four years to complete.
* *Master’s Degree:* a more advanced degree that usually takes one to three years of study in addition to a bachelor’s degree.
* *Doctoral Degree:* the most advanced degree offered by Canadian universities. It generally requires three or more years of study and research following a Master’s Degree.

In some more regulated professions (such as medicine, law and education) students must complete an internship or pass a standardized examination in addition to completing their degree. They must complete all these steps before they can become licensed to work in their profession.

**Colleges and Institutes**

There are many types of colleges and institutes, which include:

* colleges
* community colleges
* colleges of applied arts or applied technology
* institutes of technology or science

There are other colleges and institutes that are entirely private and are usually called career colleges.

Colleges and institutes usually offer one to three-year programs. They issue diplomas and certificates that qualify graduates to work in specific jobs within many different fields. These fields include:

* business
* computer and mechanical technologies
* health
* social services
* agriculture
* trades (such as carpenter, electrician and plumber)
* many others

A growing number of recognized colleges also offer bachelor’s degrees and, in some cases, master’s degrees.

In your next assignment, you will take some time to research the different post-secondary opportunities, what commitment and requirements are involved for each option, and the learning outcomes that can come from each. Let's get started!

Adapted from: https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/new-immigrants/new-life-canada/enrol-school/post-secondary.html

Assignment:

In this assignment, you will use online resources in order to start learning about the various post-secondary options that are available to you after high school.

Filling out the chart below, the following websites will be helpful to you as you learn many of the differences between college certificates and diplomas and university undergraduate and graduate degrees. We know it may seem early to think this far ahead, but by knowing your options, you will be better prepared to make decisions as you move forward in high school!

*Helpful websites:*

[www.educationplannerbc.ca](https://portal.sd71.bc.ca/group/udq625m/secondarylessons/grade9/Documents/www.educationplannerbc.ca): this is a fantastic place to start! After clicking the “search” icon at the top of the screen, you will see “program credentials” on the left-hand side. You can use this to filter the different programs or credentials.

[www.workbc.ca](https://portal.sd71.bc.ca/group/udq625m/secondarylessons/grade9/Documents/www.workbc.ca): under “training and education” then “post secondary”, you can access post-secondary overviews or find different educational programs.

Use [http://www.bccat.ca/system/psec](http://www.bccat.ca/system/psec%20) as a reference and link for all the post secondary schools in British Columbia. It is a great website from the British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer.

[Introduction to Post Secondary Options Assignment](https://portal.sd71.bc.ca/group/udq625m/secondarylessons/grade9/Documents/Post%20Secondary%20Options%20Assignment%20Sheet.docx)

Assessment:

