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# Board Authorized Course Creation

[Board/Authority Authorized Courses \(BAA courses\)](#) and First Nation Authorized Courses (FNA Courses) respond to the local needs of the schools and their communities while providing choice and flexibility for students. BAA Courses are authorized by School Boards/Authorities according to requirements set by the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

Creating your own BAA course is a powerful way to build locally relevant, place-based learning opportunities that incorporate agricultural and environmental contexts into student learning. These courses offer innovative ways for students to explore local topics while continuing to earn credits toward graduation. If you prefer to adopt a BAA course developed by another district—especially through the BAA Sharing Platform—you must obtain formal approval from your own Board or Authority before offering it locally.

**Detailed information on the Board/Authority Authorised (BAA) course creation requirements can be found here:**

[BAA and FNA Course Requirements and Procedures Guidebook](#)

[Board/Authority Authorized Courses and First Nation Authorized Courses Policy – Province of British Columbia](#)

## What does the process to create a new agriculture course look like?

Although the process will vary between School Districts and Authorities, there are some general steps you can follow when creating a new agricultural course. To help you get started, the following outlines key stages in the development of the Farm Studies course at Howe Sound Secondary School:

### 1. Form a Collaborative Team

A team was assembled to design the curriculum, including the food studies teacher, vice principal, a local farmer, and another staff member.

### 2. Develop Course Content

The team collaboratively created the curriculum for two new elective courses, one of which focused on leadership.

### 3. Submit for Approval

The vice principal presented the course proposals to the school board for review and approval. Should you be interested in utilizing BAA courses developed by other districts, you will need approval.

### 4. Receive Board Approval

The school board approved the new elective courses.

### 5. Coordinate Implementation

After approval, the vice principal managed the behind-the-scenes administrative tasks, including:

- Preparing the school schedule
- Assigning teaching staff
- Coordinating the overall rollout of the courses
- Once approved, develop unit and lesson plans within course framework
- Promote program through class visits is ideal to draw interest, other methods include: SD website, creation of flyers emailed to parents, district weekly newsletters and social media

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# Post Secondary and Dual Credit Connections

There are many opportunities for students to further connect to careers in agriculture through post-secondary institutions and dual credit programs.

## What is dual credit?

In partnership with post-secondary institutions, schools provide school-aged students in grades 11 and 12 students with the opportunity to take post-secondary courses as high school electives, earning credit in both systems. Schools often provide supports for participating students and must pay for their tuition. This enables students to gain practical, hands-on experience in areas of learning that they are interested in, kick-starting their post-secondary journey.

More information about dual credit options can be found here:

[Dual Credit – Province of British Columbia](#)

Post-secondary institutions and schools determine what opportunities are available to students at the local level. This opens many options for students looking to experience post-secondary education while in high school, including in agricultural courses or in related trades training (e.g., heavy equipment operation). Participation models vary from arranging for individual students to attend a specific post-secondary course, to setting aside a certain number of seats for high school students in a regular course, to providing for full high school cohorts.

## Thompson River University Regenerative Agriculture Dual Credit Program Snapshot

The Regenerative Agricultural Program offers Grade 12 students a dual credit, one-year program that allows students to gain practical experience on farms or ranches of their choice. The program is the first of its kind in British Columbia and is designed to provide students with hands-on skills for agrarian enterprise. The program includes in-class and online courses in business and enterprises management, as well as natural resource science courses. Students, who participate independently, will learn how to assess, select, and develop enterprises, plan for success, and apply regenerative agriculture practices. The program also offers a host-farm practicum as a credit course, with performance reviews by host-farm supervisors. The program is designed to be easy for students and adult learners to access, with content that fits today's needs and situations.

For more information on the program, including admission, tuition fees, and scholarships, students can visit the [TRU website](#) or contact the university directly.

## Kwantlen Polytechnic University Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Dual Credit Program Snapshot

The dual credit partnership opportunities within the Sustainable Agriculture Department at KPU are flexible and in the past have created options that work well for both learners, and educators, to offer experiential dual credit options. While they welcome in-person dual credit connections through the KPU Farm in Richmond, they are also open to offering their [Agri 1150](#) course online with sufficient enrollment to ensure accessibility across the province. For more information about KPU Dual Credit, connect with the [Department of Sustainable Agriculture](#).