

How do I know what courses I require?

1. If you are pursuing a certificate or diploma, check the program requirements in the calendar. Cross off those you have already taken at NVIT or received credit for; you must take the remaining courses to earn the credential.
2. It is strongly recommended that you see a Student Advisor or your Department Head regarding course selections if:
 - a. you are taking upgrading, completing high school or starting Adult Basic Education in College Readiness courses;
 - b. you have transfer or PLA credits (completed courses toward your program before coming to NVIT);
 - c. there has been a change in program requirements since you started at NVIT;
 - d. you plan to apply for social work;
 - e. you are taking courses to transfer into a program at another institution;
 - f. you are on academic probation or are concerned about your grades; or
 - g. you have any questions regarding what courses to choose or how many to take.

How many courses should I take?

1. Consider your commitments outside of school; family, employment, etc., and how much time you really have to devote to your studies.
2. Know the rules of your funding agency. Find out how many courses you must take to be eligible for continued funding.
3. Consider your goals. How quickly do you want to complete your certificate and/or diploma? Most programs require 5 courses each term to complete a credential in one year; Natural Resource Technology and the Adult Dogwood programs are exceptions to this. If you take fewer courses each term, it will take you longer to earn your credential.

Which courses are most important?

1. If you are not taking the suggested block of courses each term, or are in Academic and Indigenous studies, you will have to decide which courses are most important.

The most important courses are:

 - a. prerequisites to higher level courses required in your program or admission requirements for a program you are preparing for;
 - b. specific courses required for graduation in your program;

Other considerations are:

 - c. courses offered once a year or less should take priority over courses offered more frequently. It is easier to pick up more frequently offered courses later;
 - d. courses that will help you decide on future goals are more important than more general electives. For example, someone considering social work as a career would be well advised to take Social Work 200A and 200B over other electives. That way you can find out early whether or not it is the field for you;
 - e. courses that may open employment opportunities or be particularly useful for you, in which case, they may be more important than other electives.

Glossary (Commonly Used Terms):

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| PREREQUISITE | A course that must be completed before enrolling in a course or program. |
| COREQUISITE | A course that must be taken at the same time as another course. |
| REQUIRED COURSE | A course required to complete a program. |
| CREDENTIAL | A certificate or diploma. |
| PROGRAM | A series of courses that must be completed to earn a certificate or diploma. |
| ELECTIVE | A program requirement that offers the student a choice of courses. For example, the Diploma of Arts in First Nations Studies allows students to take "4 electives (not more than two may be taken outside academic studies)", which offers students many choices in the courses that will fulfill this elective requirement. |
| AUDIT | Students may audit courses with the approval of the instructor. An audit student attends classes and participates in activities, but does not complete assignments or exams. Audit students do not receive credit for the course and receive an AUD grade. |