

SECTION C: PLANNING FOR INSTRUCTION

CTS provides increased opportunity for junior and senior high schools to design courses based on the needs and interests of their students and the circumstances within the school and community. Some strands may be appropriately introduced at the junior high school level. Other strands are more appropriately introduced at the senior high school level or to Grade 9 students. Refer to this section for recommendations regarding the Legal Studies strand.

PLANNING FOR CTS

Defining Courses

Schools determine which strands and courses will be offered in a particular school, and will combine 1-credit CTS courses into multiple-credit CTS offerings.

Each 1-credit course was designed for approximately 25 hours of instruction. However, this time frame is only a guideline to facilitate planning. The CTS curricula are competency based, and the student may take more or less time to gain the designated competencies within each course.

A multiple-credit CTS offering will usually consist of 1-credit courses primarily from the same strand but, where appropriate, may include courses from other CTS strands. Refer to the *Guide to Education: ECS to Grade 12* (Appendix 1) for more information on course names and course codes.

Course selection and sequencing should consider:

- prerequisite(s)
- supporting course(s) (other CTS courses that may enhance the learning opportunity if offered with the course)
- course parameters
 - instructional qualifications, if specialized
 - equipment and facility requirements, if specialized.

The course parameters are defined in Sections D, E and F of this Guide.

Degree of Flexibility

The CTS program, while designed using the modular structure to facilitate flexible timetabling and instructional delivery, does not mandate the degree of flexibility a school or teacher will offer. The teacher and school will determine the degree of flexibility available to the student. Within the instructional plan established by the school, the student may:

- be given the opportunity to progress at a rate that is personally challenging
- have increased opportunity to select the courses that develop competencies he or she finds most relevant.

Integrating Basic Competencies

The basic competencies relate to managing learning and resources, problem solving and innovation, communicating effectively, working with others and demonstrating responsibility are developed throughout the CTS program, and within each 1-credit course.

Assessment of student achievement on the basic competencies is integrated throughout the other general outcomes. Refer to Section G (Assessment Tools) of this Guide for the description of student behaviours expected at each of the four developmental stages defined for the basic competencies.

Assessment of basic competencies could include input and reflection involving the student, teacher(s), peers and others. Description of the observed behaviour could be provided through a competency profile for the course. Positive, ongoing interaction between the student and teacher will support motivation for student growth and improvement.

Assessing Student Achievement

Assessing student achievement is a process of gathering information by way of observations of process, product and student interaction.

Where appropriate, assessment tools have been defined to assist the teacher and student in the assessment. Refer to Section G (Assessment Tools) of this Guide for copies of the various tools (worksheets, checklists, sample questions, etc.).

A suggested emphasis for each general outcome has also been established. The suggested emphasis provides a guideline to help teachers determine time allocation and/or the appropriate emphasis for each general outcome and the student grade.

Recognizing Student Achievement

At the high school level, successful demonstration of the exit-level competencies in a course qualifies the student for one credit. Refer to Section A of this Guide for more detailed information about how curriculum and assessment standards are defined in CTS. Refer to the *Career & Technology Studies Manual for Administrators, Counsellors and Teachers* for more information on how student achievement can be recognized and reported at the school and provincial levels.

Portfolios

When planning for instruction and assessment, consider a portfolio as an excellent tool to provide evidence of a student's effort, progress and achievement. Portfolios will aid students in identifying skills and interest. They also provide the receiving teacher, employer and/or post-secondary institution proof of a student's accomplishments. The make-up and evaluation of the portfolio should be a collaborative agreement between the student and teacher.

Resources

A comprehensive resource base, including print, software and audio-visual, has been identified to support CTS strands. It is intended that these resources form the basis of a resource centre, encouraging teachers and students to access a wide selection of resources and other information sources throughout the learning process. Unless otherwise noted, these resources are considered to be suitable for both junior and senior high school students.

Refer to Section I (Learning Resource Guide) to obtain directions for accessing up-to-date information about learning resources that have been identified to support the delivery of CTS courses in this strand.

Sample Student Learning Guides

In addition to the resources, Sample Student Learning Guides are available (refer to Section J of this Guide). These samples, designed for individual student or small group use, provide an instructional plan for selected courses and include the following components:

- Why take this course?
- What are the entry-level competencies?
- What are the exit-level competencies?
- What resources may be accessed?
- What assignments/activities must be completed?
- What are the timelines?
- How will the final mark be calculated?

Sample Student Learning Guides have been developed for the following courses in Information Processing:

- INF1020 Keyboarding 1
- INF1030 Word Processing 1.

PLANNING FOR INFORMATION PROCESSING

The following suggestions are provided to assist teachers, schools and school system administrators as they plan to deliver courses in the Information Processing strand.

Selecting Courses

The scope and sequence chart in Section B provides an overview of the Information Processing courses, indicating prerequisites and theme areas. Brief descriptions of each of the courses follow the scope and sequence chart in Section B.

Information Processing in Junior High

The introductory level courses may be offered at junior high. Because many students entering junior high school may be familiar with computers, it is important to determine the level of competence students have in relation to the competencies defined for the courses.

The number of courses offered will vary according to the time available throughout Grades 7, 8 and 9:

Time Available	Courses
25 hours	Workstation Operations
50 hours	Workstation Operations Keyboarding 1
75–100 hours	add one of the following: Word Processing 1 Graphics Tools Database 1 Spreadsheet 1 Hypermedia Tools Programming 1

Where appropriate, junior high school students may also take intermediate level courses, particularly in the Text/Data Input and Productivity Software themes.

Courses may be combined into courses and offered within a school year or over a span of a few years.

Information Processing in Senior High

Following are a few examples of course groupings into sample courses:

5 credits (no previous experience)	Workstation Operations Keyboarding 1 Word Processing 1 Database 1 Spreadsheet 1
3 credits (strong background from junior high school or through personal experience)	Keyboarding 1 Database 1 Spreadsheet 1
5–15 credits (foundation for entry into workplace as computer technician)	Workstation Operations Keyboarding 1 Word Processing 1 Database 1 Spreadsheet 1 and courses selected from System Operations theme and Programming theme
5–15 credits (foundation for entry into workplace into administrative support positions)	Keyboarding 2 Word Processing 2 Database 2 Spreadsheet 2 Electronic Publishing 1 and courses selected from the Applied Processing theme and Productivity Software theme

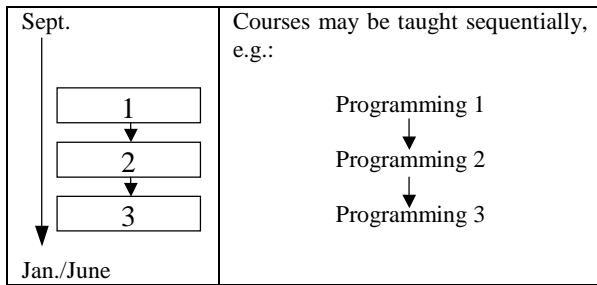
Courses could also be clustered into multiple-credit offerings that emphasize a particular theme.

Organizing for Learning

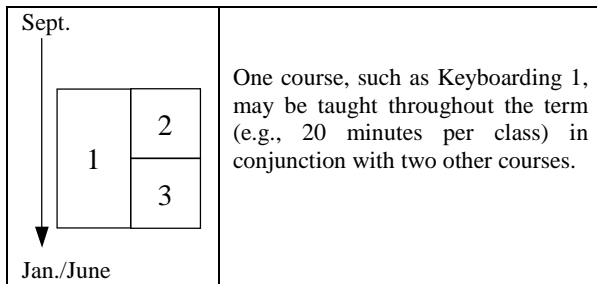
Before selecting courses, teachers should check the course parameters outlined in each course (see Sections D, E and F of this Guide).

Individual 1-credit courses can be delivered sequentially, concurrently or combined. For example, although the courses in the Text/Data Input theme and the Programming theme are sequential, they can be combined with courses from the System Operations theme, the Productivity Software theme, or the Applied Processing theme; e.g.:

Scenario A

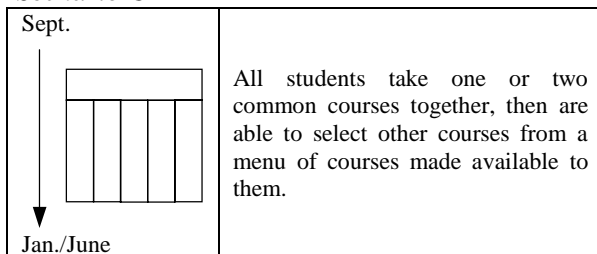


Scenario B

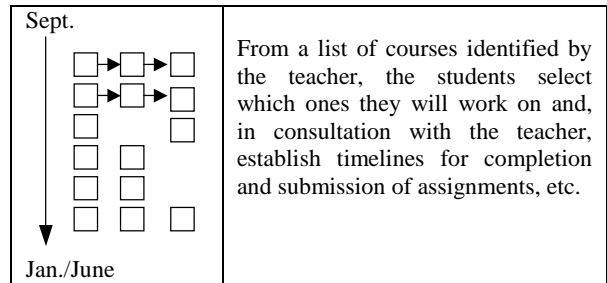


Teachers can also allow students to progress at a rate that is personally challenging; e.g.:

Scenario C



Scenario D



Recurring Concept—Workstation Management

Each course in Information Processing requires students to consistently apply appropriate workstation routines. This requires students to demonstrate responsibility and professionalism throughout the instruction period as they:

- manage and use the workstation and related resources
- make efficient and effective use of their own and others' time
- learn in as independent a manner as possible
- use related terminology appropriately, both verbally and in print.

An emphasis of 10 percent has been allocated in each course for workstation management.

Identifying Linkages

Section H of this Guide describes some of the linkages that are possible between the Information Processing strand and other CTS strands.

Project and practicum courses are **not** designed to be offered as distinct courses and should **not** be used to extend Work Experience 15, 25 and 35 courses.

Improving Smooth Transition to the Workplace and/or Related Post-secondary Programs

Refer to Section H of this Guide for potential transitions students may make into the workplace and/or related post-secondary programs or other avenues for further learning.