

Explore Trades

Explore Trades is a program designed to provide job readiness skills that will lead to employment after high school and/or access to post-secondary opportunities. Students in the Explore Trades class will embark on a rich and unique learning experience in which hands-on learning and working collaboratively with staff and students is at the core. Students will take on a wide variety of activities to build their skill set for hands-on learning. Each year the class will embrace one or two major projects where they will bring their skill sets together and work as a team. The major projects will be set up to resemble a work site experience rather than a traditional high school shop class. Along with the regular rigors of academic learning and a focus on Trades, there will be an element of challenging students to be creative problem solvers. Students will be expected to work together in group situations and lean on team members for collaborative troubleshooting and problem-solving.

The program includes a 12-week comprehensive Trades experience at the University of the Fraser Valley Trades facility. Cohorts of sixteen students leave GW Graham and attend UFV to explore various Trades opportunities available at the University. Students who achieve higher than 70% receive a certificate from UFV along with high school credit for three courses (Trades Sampler 12A, 12B, 12C). The following units will be covered at UFV: “Fasteners and Fittings”, “Drafting Blueprint Reading”, “Rigging, Ladders, and Scaffolds”, “Electrical Trades”, “General and Heavy Duty Mechanics”, “Carpentry”, “Welding”, “Plumbing and Piping Trades” and “Career Preparation”. Students will also receive the following certificates at UFV: “WHIMIS” (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System), “Industrial First Aid”, “Hydrogen Sulfide Awareness”, and “Forklift”.

Successful students in the Explore Trades program will be encouraged to apply for the Regional Careers Program for their Grade 12 year. This program provides an opportunity for students to start their first year apprenticeship while still completing high school credit. The Chilliwack School District covers the enrollment fees for students to attend UFV for their first year apprenticeship.

The following is a recommended plan for students interested in a premium Trades experience while attending GW Graham:

Courses Completed in Grade 10 – Completing Core High School Requirements at GW Graham

English 10	English 11
Socials 10	A Socials Studies 12
PE 10	Science 10
Elective (Recommended: Skills Exploration 10)	Elective (Recommended: Metalwork 10 or Woodwork 10)

- Career Life Connection will be completed in Advisory

Courses Completed in Grade 11 – Explore Trades Focus at GW Graham and UFV

Workplace Mathematics 11	Work Experience 12A
Woodwork 11/12	Skills Exploration 11/12
Science for Citizens 11	Trades Sampler 12A/12B/12C (completed at UFV)

- Career Life Education will be completed in Advisory

Courses Completed in Grade 12 – Regional Careers Program Focus at UFV

- Students attend UFV to complete their first year apprenticeship in one of the following Trades:

Aircraft Structure Technician	Carpentry/Joinery
Automotive Service Technician	Electrical Work
Automotive Collision Repair & Refinishing	Plumbing and Piping
Architectural Design	Welding