

# CHOOSING HIGH SCHOOL COURSES : A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Imagine you wish to construct a building. If you build it as cheaply as possible, and if it's built by people who don't know what they're doing, you will be limited in what you can build on it or in it.

The solid foundation allows you to build whatever kind of structure on top of it that you wish in any configuration that you wish. You can build different rooms inside, fill it with appliances and furniture and decorate it just how you like. You can build a games room, add a hot tub, change cupboards and flooring, turn a kitchen into a living room, or move around furniture and appliances. You

There are many questions that students in grade 9, 10 and 11 and their parents ask. Here are some to consider:

**What if I know exactly what I am doing after grade 12?**

If you know the specific answer, (i.e. electrical engineering at the U of S or welding at Saskatchewan Polytechnic) then carefully research exactly what the admission requirements are for that program, and ensure that you are taking the correct classes in high school. According to a survey of adults out of school for 10 years, 9% of people are actually doing what they thought they would be doing when they were in high school. How well are you prepared for a big career change?

**What if I know generally what I want to do or take, but I'm not sure about the details?**

Maybe you know that you are interested in engineering, but you aren't sure what specialization or location you prefer (e.g. Sask Polytechnic or university). In this case, research the admission requirements for all possibilities and choose your high school courses accordingly. For instance, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, U of S, and U of R engineering don't require calculus, although it is highly recommended.

**What if I have no idea what I want to do after grade 12 or what if I'm going to work for a while to help decide what to do?**