

## THE SQUAMISH NATION ASSESSMENT

The Council of the Squamish Nation has mandated all students who apply for post-secondary funding to undertake a series of assessment tests to demonstrate their commitment and likelihood of success. The assessment program comprises two routes according to an individual's designation; Mainstream Students and Students with Learning Disabilities or Learning Difficulties.

### **I. Mainstream Student Testing**

For candidates living in the lower mainland and the Squamish Valley, testing sessions are scheduled August, October, February and April every year. Candidates living away can have a testing package mailed to a teacher or counsellor at an education institution in their areas. Contact the Post Secondary Administrator Counsellor with the mailing information.

#### A. English and Mathematics Tests

Nelson Denny Reading Comprehension	32 minutes
Nelson Denny Reading Vocabulary	24 minutes
Wide Range Mathematics Achievement	40 minutes
Differential Aptitude Test; Language Arts	15 minutes
Informal Writing Sample	40 minutes

#### B. Reasoning Ability:

Differential Aptitude Test; Verbal Reasoning	25 minutes
Differential Aptitude Test; Abstract Reasoning	20 minutes

Required materials will be provided. Calculators cannot be used. The full test will run, including a lunch break, a full 4.0 to 4.5 hours.

Test preparation is encouraged, particularly in reading, grammar, and basic arithmetic. Improving reading speed and comprehension is essential. Practice taking timed tests is recommended.

Two (2) weeks from test date, a written summary is provided by an independent testing agent, scores are recorded for each testing category, and an overall recommendation is summarized. The final decision regarding an individual's funding eligibility is made by the Department of Education.

Guidelines for qualification for course categories are as follows:

<u>Index Score:</u>	<u>Course Category:</u>
Greater than 65	College or University Program*
Between 50 to 60	College Preparation Program**
Less than 50	Referred to Stitsma for a partially funded pre-college preparation program **

\* Provided the Program Requirements are met.

\*\*Require retaking Assessment Test after program is completed.

If a candidate has written the test twice and scored below the thirty (30) percentile, that individual must undertake an upgrading program before being allowed to rewrite the test again or follow the route of Students with Learning Difficulties.

**Appendix 1**

## **II. Students with Learning Disabilities or Learning Difficulties**

If a candidate has been identified with Learning Disabilities or has a history of Learning Difficulties that individual will be referred to the Adult Learning Development Association (ALDA), #604 - 409 Granville Street, Vancouver, BC. The process will be as follows:

**Initial Interview:** An informal meeting with the Career Counsellor at ALDA to inform the client, obtain relevant candidate history and arrange further assessment.

**Psycho-Educational and Vocational Assessment:** A series of tests administered by the ALDA Licensed Psychologist to assess Academic Achievement, Behaviour, Vocational Area of Interest, Intellectual Functioning, and the presence of a designated Learning Disability.

**Post Test Debriefing Session:** The Psychologist will meet with the client to discuss the results of the testing.

**Formal Report Submission:** ALDA will submit a full report to the Education Department detailing the results of the testing, observations, assessment and recommendations for career training or education where the individual is most likely to be successful.

Provided that the client meets all the post secondary program requirements as specified in the policy and procedure manual, he/she will receive funding for a college or technical program of studies, if and only if the program has been recommended in the ALDA report.

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