

#### **Ministry of Advanced Education**

# Post-Secondary Institution Proposal System (PSIPS) For BC Public Institutions

# **User Guide**

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#### **Document Purpose**

The Post-Secondary Institution Proposal System (PSIPS) is a web-based system for supporting the post-secondary program proposal and quality assessment review processes for degree-granting institutions in British Columbia. The purpose of this guide is to document the functions of PSIPS for BC public post-secondary institutions.

#### Overview

#### **Degree Quality Assessment Board (DQAB) Process**

In British Columbia, public universities are subject to the *Universities Act* (UA) while colleges and institutes are subject to the *College and Institute Act* (CIA) to operate as degree-granting institutions or make use of the word "university." Universities, colleges and institutes must undergo a quality assessment process and meet established criteria prior to the Minister granting approval for new degree programs. The full text of the UA can be found at: <u>University Act</u> and the full text of the CIA can be found at: <u>College and Institute Act</u>.

The <u>Degree Quality Assessment Board (DQAB)</u> is appointed by the Minister to conduct quality assessment reviews and make recommendations on whether institutions and proposals meet the established criteria. The Board Secretariat within the Ministry provides administrative support to the DQAB, the quality assessment process and applicant institutions.

The quality assessment process is initiated with a 30-day public/peer review of the proposal. The proposal is posted on the <u>Degree Authorization website</u> via PSIPS, enabling the general public (including academic experts from inside and outside British Columbia) the opportunity to review the proposal and provide comments to the applicant institution and the Board for consideration in the review process. Other BC public institutions can view the proposal via PSIPS and provide peer comments directly within the system to the applicant institution. The Board's recommendation and the Minister's decision to approve or deny degree program proposals are also posted on the <u>Degree Authorization website</u> via PSIPS. This is to reflect the Board and the Ministry's commitment to ensuring the interests of the public are served by having an open and accountable process.

Applicants should review the <u>Degree Authorization website</u> that includes complete information on the submission, review and approval processes and the quality assessment criteria established by the Minister prior to submitting a proposal. Institutions are encouraged to submit proposals on PSIPS 12-18 months prior to the planned implementation date of the program to allow enough time for the quality assessment process to be completed.

# The System in a Nutshell

PSIPS is a central online program for institutions to submit proposals for degree programs and applications for Qualified for Expedited Review. Key documents and decisions about an institution's program proposal are stored in a database. Documents and data are entered electronically and Institutional Contacts are notified automatically by email at key review points. Comments can be entered directly on an online screen or documents can be attached to a proposal.

# **About Documents and Comments**

The system is designed to be somewhat like a message board and does not limit the number of comments or documents that can be posted regarding a proposal. Unlike an informal message board, all postings become part of the government record. Institutions are encouraged to post only official communications (i.e., no draft documents or unofficial responses).

If the applicant institution wishes to clarify a posted statement, an additional comment or document must be posted. Detailed discussions or questions about the proposal should be conducted offline with the Board Secretariat via phone or e-mail. The results of these discussions may then be posted as a single comment. Following this guideline will create a clear record of specific issues, responses and positions related to the proposal.

The PSIPS system allows for online comments to be recorded (up to 4500 characters). If a more detailed comment is required, a PDF document may be attached.

#### Why do we use Adobe Acrobat PDF files?

We want everyone to be able to view attachments regardless of what type of computer, word processor or toolset was used to create a document. If your institution does not have Adobe Acrobat software, Adobe offers a free reader and an affordable online subscription service to convert your documents at <a href="https://www.adobe.com">www.adobe.com</a>. If you have specific questions on the creation of PDF documents, please refer to Adobe Acrobat documentation.

#### Where can I get help?

In addition to this manual, the following help is available:

Ministry web site outlining application and review steps Degree Authorization website

The Degree Quality Assessment Board Secretariat at 250-356-5406 (Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm)

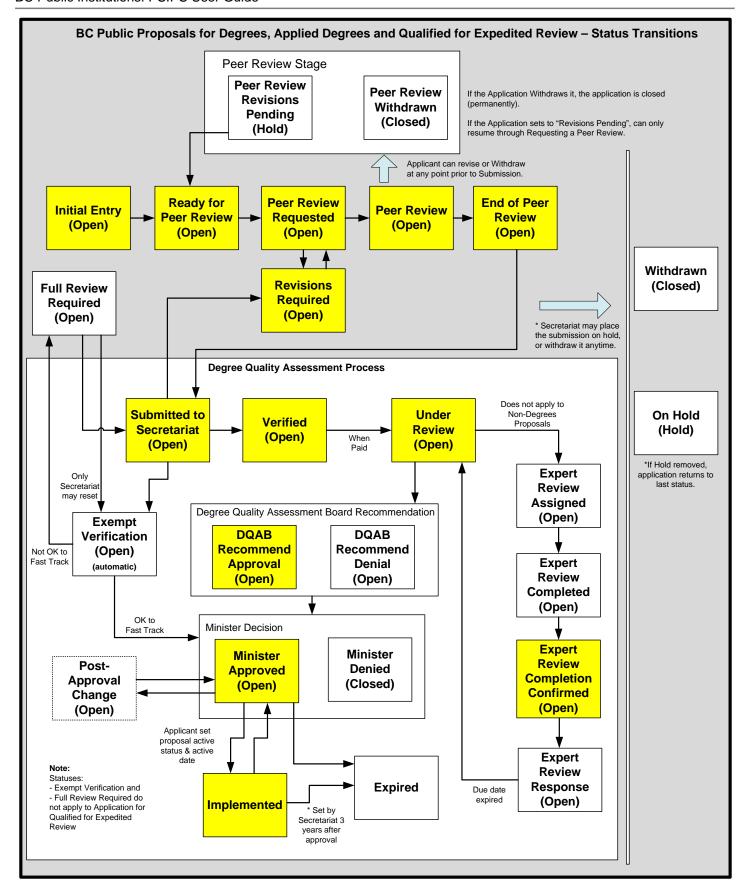
#### **Application States**

An application will be in one of several states depending on the type of application, applicant actions, time in review, and Board Secretariat actions. Allowable actions are limited based on user role.

For the most part, users will not need to worry about status changes as the system manages status changes automatically, but it is useful to know the stages an application must go through before a Ministerial decision is made.

The diagram covers three types of applications:

- BC Public Degree Proposals
- BC Public Applied Degree Proposals
- BC Public Qualified for Expedited Review Proposals



Institutions that have obtained Qualified for Expedited Review to a particular degree level are eligible to submit new degree proposals at or below this degree level directly to the Minister for approval (i.e. the Board review of the application is most often waived).

NOTE: Information on the submission process for Non-Degree Proposals can be found on page 15 of this manual.

#### **System Basics**

## **Minimum Requirements**

A web browser is required to access PSIPS; recommended are MS Internet Explorer version 7 or higher and Mozilla Firefox.

Most of proposal document attachments must be saved in the Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF) to address software compatibility issues. You must have the Adobe Acrobat software installed on your system to create PDF files, or subscribe to Adobe's online PDF service. In order to view PDF files, you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader (version 4 or higher) installed.

For Institution Appendices, other document formats such MS Excel spreadsheets and MS Word documents are also acceptable.

It is also advisable that users have and maintain current anti-virus software and updates.

#### **Browser Navigation Buttons**

After you sign on, **use of your browser BACK and FORWARD buttons is not recommended** as their use could lead to unexpected results on the screen. For instance, after using the BACK button, the system could lose track of you as a logged in user; the screens may appear to be functioning normally, but your work may not be saved. As a rule, navigation must be performed using the links presented in the system, normally found along the top (e.g. breadcrumbs) or at the bottom of each screen (e.g. links).



However, given the nature of Internet applications, there may be times when you might encounter an error that forces you to use the BACK button to return to a screen such as "The page cannot be found (HTTP 404) error." If this happens, you may press BACK and then click on the HOME tab to return to a 'clean' screen. (See TIP below and Error message sections for further information.)

If a print copy of a screen's contents is desired, the browser's PRINT button may be used.

The use of the STOP button is not recommended as this may also lead to unexpected results on the screen.

Please log out of the system and shut down your browser when finished on the system. 'Surfing' to another page on the Internet while logged on is not recommended.

#### **Applicant Actions - BC Public Institutions**

Applicants (Institutional Contacts) will use the system to post degree program applications and applications to obtain Qualified for Expedited Review. This section details the most common steps to posting applications, using the degree program application as an example.

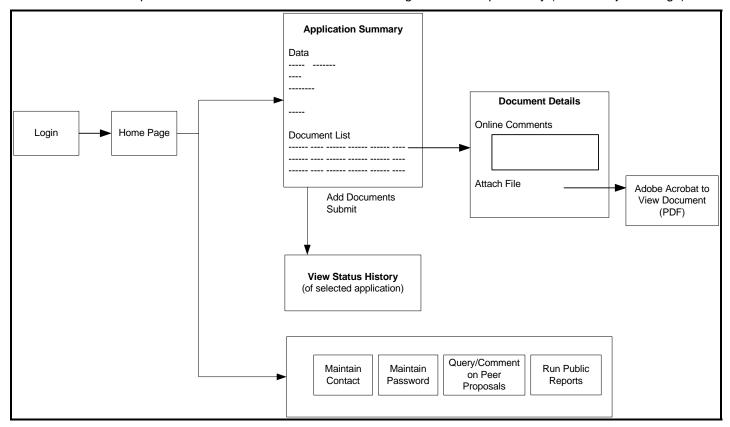
An application cannot be modified unless the Board Secretariat moves the status to "Revisions required". If the applicant chooses to withdraw the application or put it on hold, he/she must do so by notifying the Board Secretariat in writing.

#### **Screen Reference**

The following diagrams outline the screen flows.

Applicant (Institutional Contact) is able to perform the following actions:

- Submit applications;
- View own application and its status history;
- Submit peer comments on proposals posted by other BC Public Institutions;
- Maintain own password and contact information and reassign user ID responsibility (in case of job change).



The following sections comprise a visual reference guide including sample screen shots of these screens with descriptions of the data and functions.

<sup>\*</sup> Note: All sample screens use illustrative data and are not actual proposals.

#### **Visual Reference Guide**

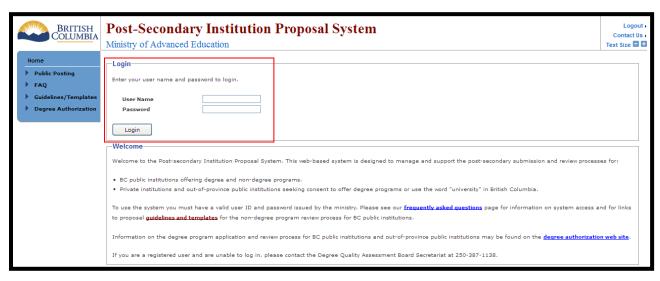
#### How do I log in?



To access the system, select the "Sign on to the Post Secondary Institution Proposal System" link on the Degree Authorization website at <a href="https://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/psips/">www.aved.gov.bc.ca/psips/</a>.

https://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/psips/.

The following screen will be displayed:



Step 2:

Enter your user ID and password to begin using the system. The Home Page is the first page to display after logging in:



The Home Page is the gateway to managing your contact and organization information, creating and managing new proposals and accessing information about the proposal process.





If you find yourself 'lost' in the screen navigation, you may always click the "Home" tab at the top left-hand corner of the screen to return to the Home Page.

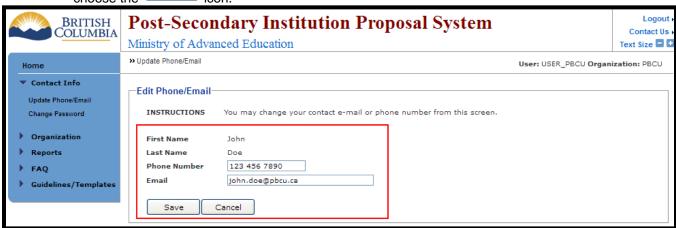
#### **How do I update contact information?**

Step 1:

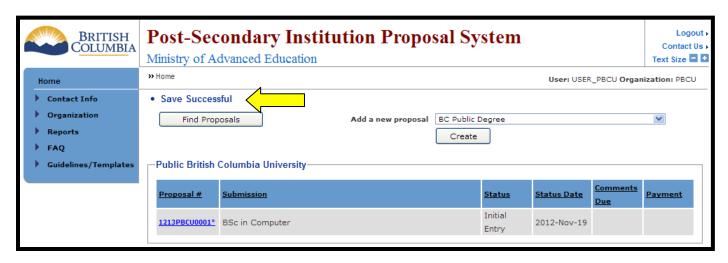
To access and update your contact information on the <u>Home Menu</u> choose the <u>Contact Info</u> tab and choose the <u>Update Phone/Email link</u>



Step 2: Fill in the new information and choose the Save icon. If you do not want to change your information choose the Cancel icon.



After saving you will be redirected back to the Home Page with a "Save Successful" notice at the top of the page.



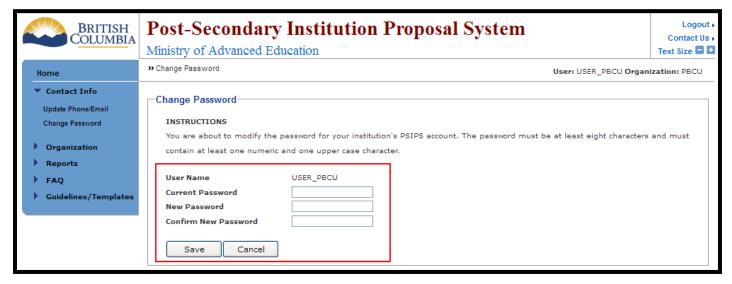
#### **How do I modify my password?**

Step 1:

To change your password on the <u>Home Menu</u> select the <u>Contact Info</u> tab and then choose the <u>Change</u> Password link.

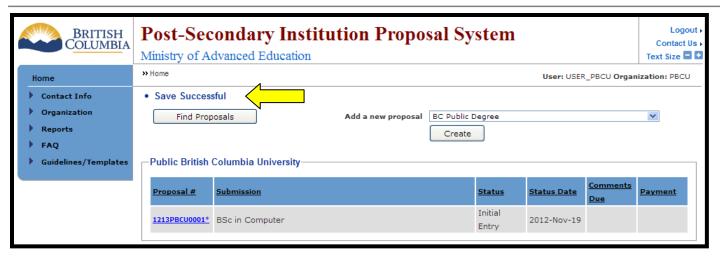


Step 2: You will be redirected to the Change Password page. Follow the instructions at the top of the page.

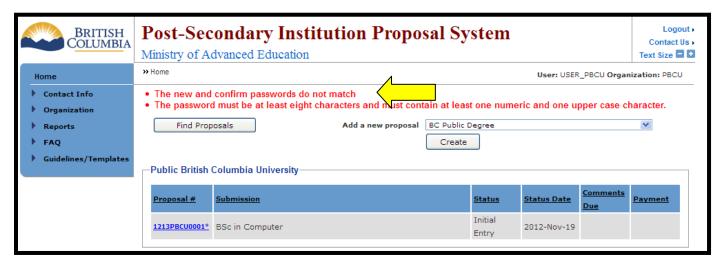


Step 3:

After choosing a new password, enter the information into the fields and click the licon. If you do not wish to change your password click the licon. If you are successful at changing your password you will be redirected back to the Home Page with a "Save Successful" notice at the top of the page.



If you are not successful at changing your password you will be redirected to the Home Page with a notice in red at the top of the page.



If you are not successful, follow the instructions in red and try again from the Change Password tab.

## **How do I re-assign an Institutional Contact?**

Step 1:

If you would like to change your Institutional Contact on the <u>Home Menu</u> click on the <u>Organization</u> tab and choose the <u>Reassign Contact</u> link. Follow the instructions on the page.

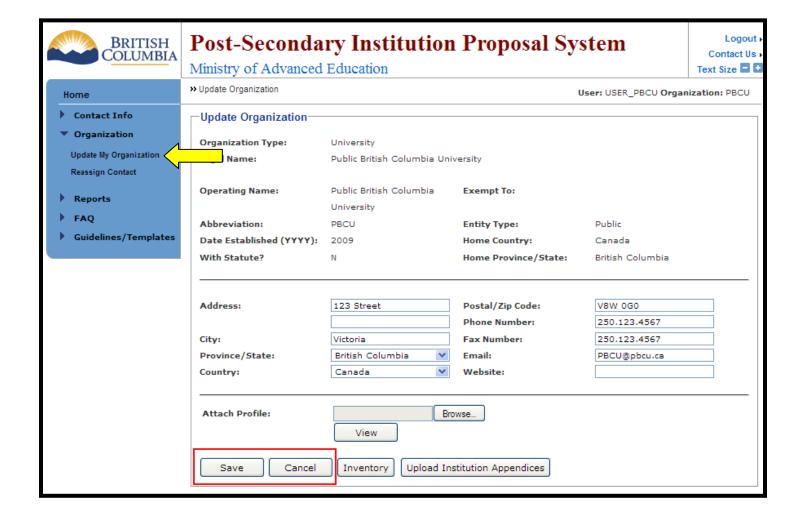


## How do I confirm organization information and attach an organization profile?

Step 1: If you want to change your organization information on the <u>Home Menu</u> choose the <u>Organization</u> tab and then choose the <u>Update My Organization</u> link.

Step 2: Enter the desired information into the fields, and/or attach an Organization Profile using the icon to locate the document on your computer.

Once you are finished making your changes choose the save icon. If you decide not to make any changes choose the changes choose choose the changes choose choose the changes choose choose the changes choose ch



#### **How do I upload Institution Appendices?**

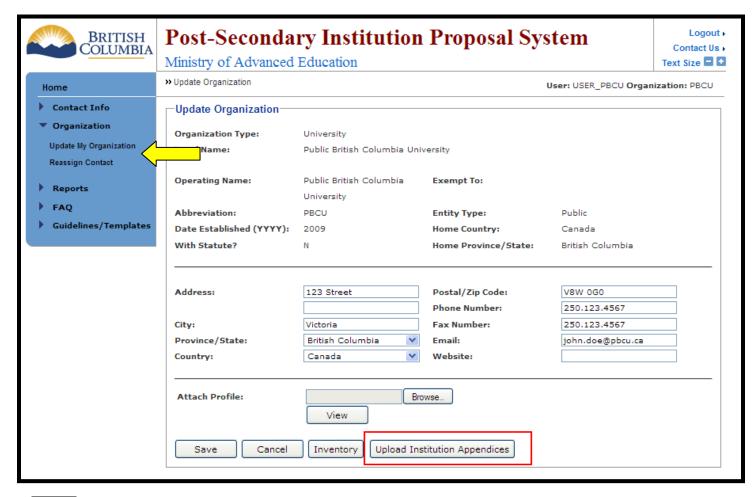
All institutions, i.e. institutions having the type 'University', 'College, Institute or Agency', 'University College Or Provincial Institute', 'Private an Out-of-Province Public', have a possibility to upload one or many appendices related to their Institution, i.e. appendices such as the financial calculation spreadsheet, Periodic Reviewed financial statements, etc. These appendices may have any proprietary format.



Go to the <u>Home Menu</u> and choose the <u>Organization</u> tab then choose the <u>Update My Organization</u> link.

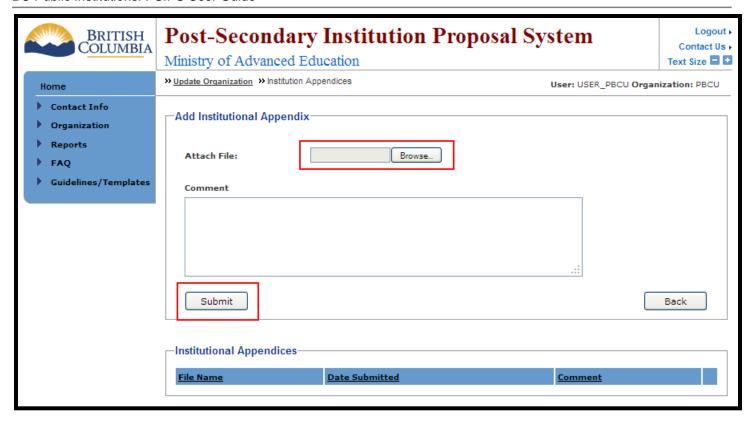


Click on the Upload Institution Appendices icon



Step 3:

Click on the Browse... icon to attach file. Provide any comment for the document. Click on the icon when done.



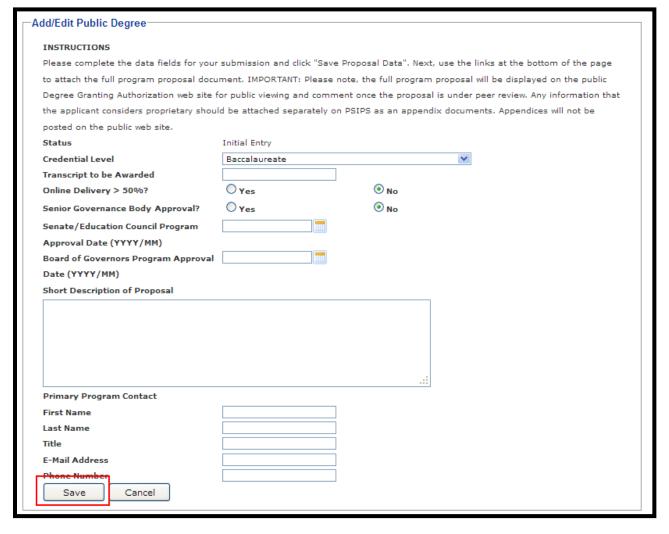
## How do I submit a proposal?

NOTE: Information on the submission process for Non-Degree Proposals can be found on page 20 of this manual.

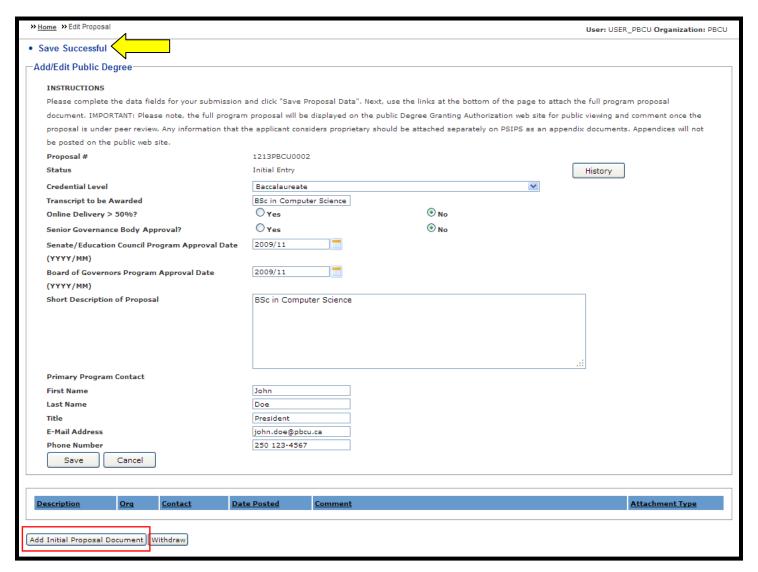
Step 1: From the Add a new proposal dropdown menu, choose 'BC Public Degree' (or another option depending on your application) and then click the Create icon.



Step 2: You will automatically be redirected to the <u>Add/Edit Public Degree</u> screen. Enter the information required for each of the fields and when you are finished choose the Save icon.



Once the information has been saved a "Save Successful" notice will appear at the top of the screen and the Add Initial Proposal Document icon will appear at the bottom of the screen.

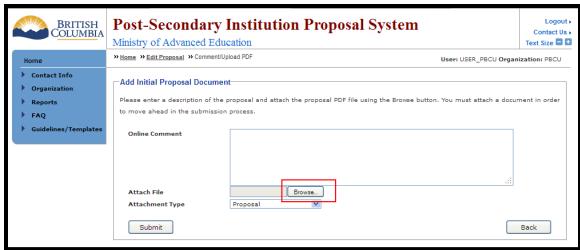


Step 3:

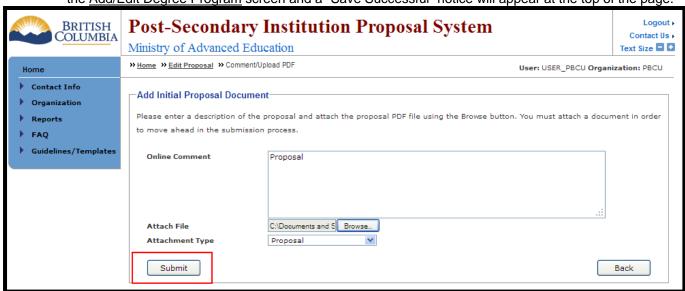
Click on the Add Initial Proposal Document icon to attach the proposal documents to the application.

Step 4:

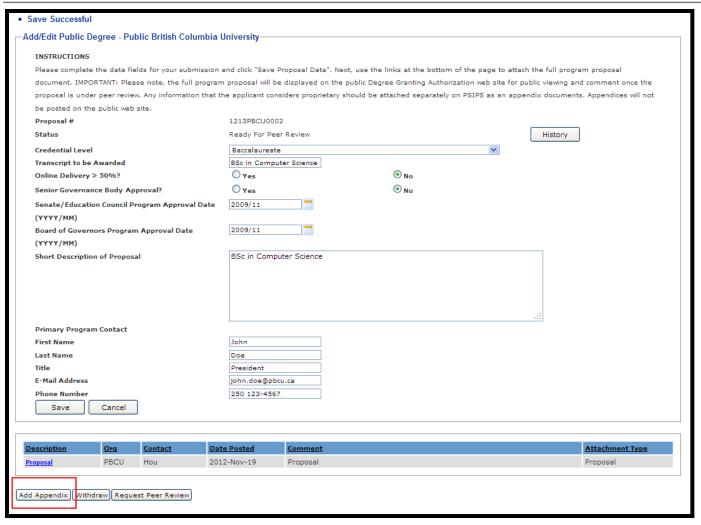
From the Add Initial Proposal Document screen you can attach a PDF file by selecting the Browse... icon to locate the proposal document on your computer.



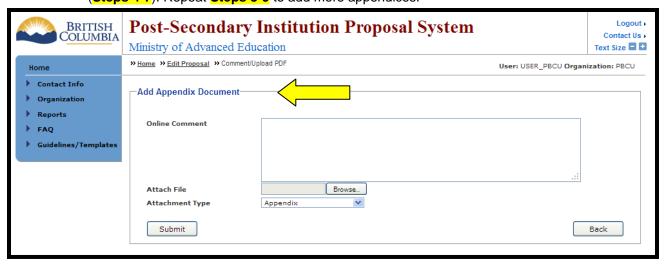
- Step 5: Find the PDF document on your computer in the "Look in" field and click "Open".
- Step 6: Once the proposal file is attached choose the attachment type (in this case "Proposal") from the Attachment Type dropdown menu. Provide a short description of the attached document in the "Online Comment" field (i.e. Proposal or Appendix A Full Course Outlines, etc).
- Step 7: Click the Submit icon. Once the Proposal Document has been submitted you will automatically return to the Add/Edit Degree Program screen and a "Save Successful" notice will appear at the top of the page.



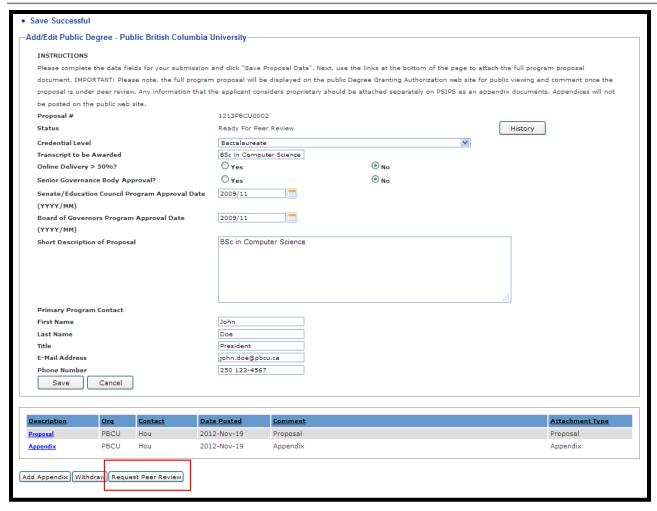
Step 8: To add an appendix file choose the Add Appendix icon.



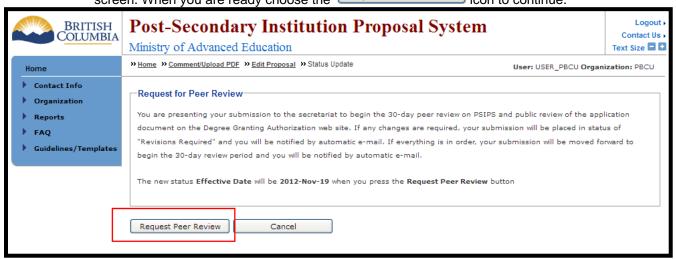
Step 9: Follow the same directions for Adding an Initial Document on the Add Appendix Document screen (Steps 4-7). Repeat Steps 8-9 to add more appendices.



After submitting the appendix documents you will be redirected back to the Add/Edit screen where a "Save Successful" notice will be at the top of the page. Once the proposal document and all appendices are attached click on the Request Peer Review icon.

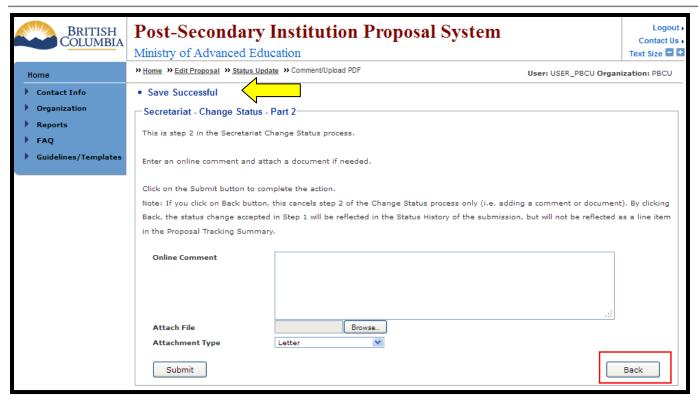


Step 11: You will be asked to read the privacy and access to information notice on the Submit to Secretariat screen. When you are ready choose the Request Peer Review icon to continue.



Step 12: Click the Back icon.

OPTIONAL: You have the option to add a comment by entering it into the "Online Comment" field. Once you are finished choose the Submit icon. Your comment will be displayed in a separate comment line below your proposal and appendices documents.

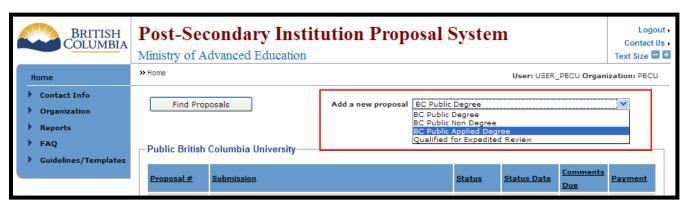


The <u>View Proposal</u> screen will display a "Save Successful" notice. You may now view your submitted application but the system will not permit you to edit documents or make other changes.

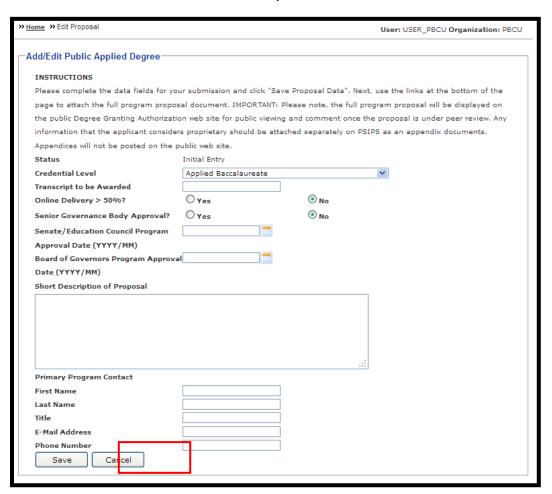
#### How do I submit a BC Public Applied Degree proposal?

NOTE: Information on the submission process for Non-Degree Proposals can be found on page 20 of this manual.

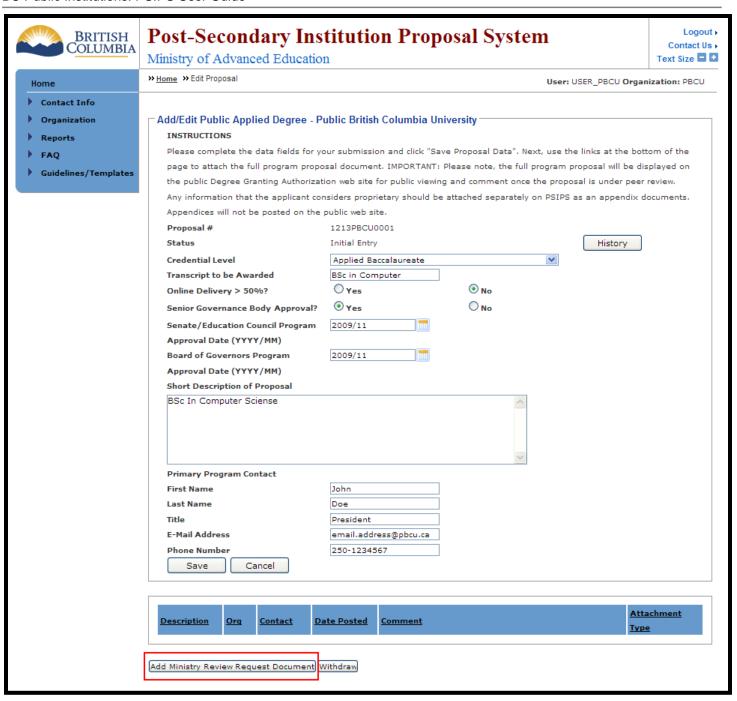
Step 1: From the Add a new proposal dropdown menu, choose 'BC Public Applied Degree' (or another option depending on your application) and then click the Create icon.



You will automatically be redirected to the <u>Add/Edit Public Degree</u> screen. Enter the information required for each of the fields and when you are finished choose the <u>Save</u> icon.



Once the information has been saved a "Save Successful" notice will appear at the top of the screen and the Add Ministry Review Request Document icon will appear at the bottom of the screen



Step 3:

Click on the Add Ministry Review Request Document icon to attach the proposal documents to the application.

Step 4:

From the <u>Add Ministry Review Request Document</u> screen you can attach a PDF file by selecting the Browse... icon to locate the proposal document on your computer.



- Step 5: Find the PDF document on your computer in the "Look in" field and click "Open".
- Once the review request file is attached choose the attachment type (in this case "Ministry Review Request") from the <u>Attachment Type</u> dropdown menu. Provide a short description of the attached document in the "Online Comment" field (i.e. Ministry Review Request Full Course Outlines, etc).
- Click the Submit icon. Once the Proposal Document has been submitted you will automatically return to the Add/Edit Degree Program screen and a "Save Successful" notice will appear at the top of the page.
- Step 8: Please continue the rest of the steps by following Step 3 of "How do I submit a proposal" section.

#### How do I submit a Non Degree proposal?

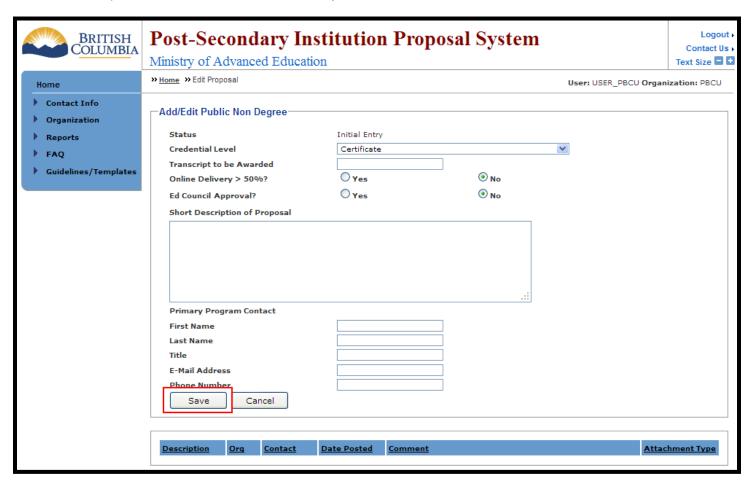
Step 1:

From the Add a new proposal dropdown menu, choose 'BC Public Non Degree' and then click Create

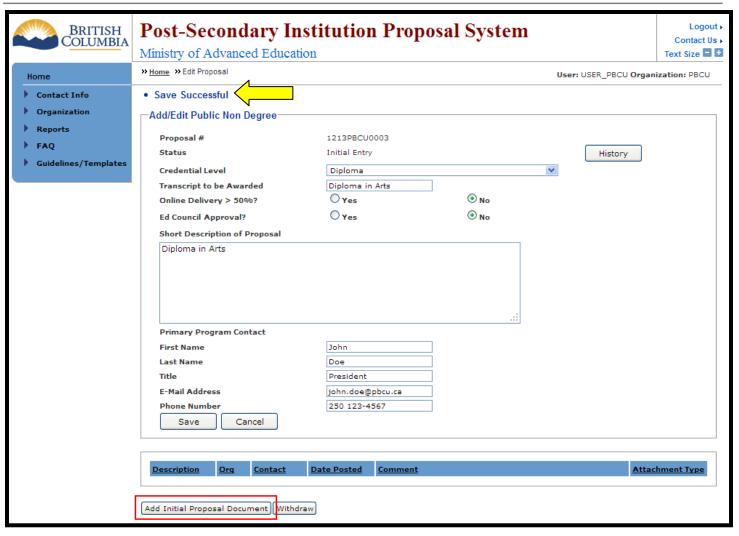


Step 2:

You will automatically be redirected to the <u>Add/Edit Public Non Degree</u> screen. Enter the information required for each of the fields and when you are finished choose the <u>Save</u> icon.



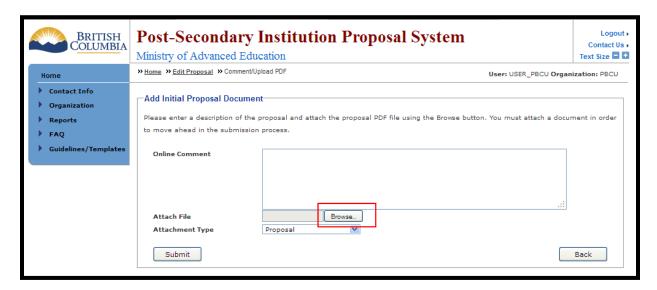
Once the information has been saved a "Save Successful" notice will appear at the top of the screen and the Add Initial Proposal Document icon will appear at the bottom of the screen.



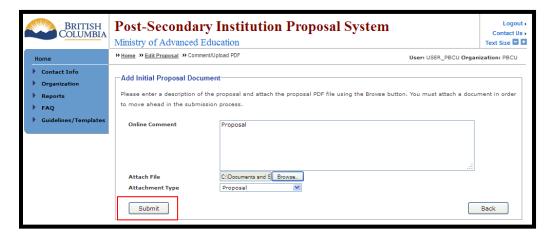
Step 3:

Click on the Add Initial Proposal Document icon to attach the proposal documents to the application.

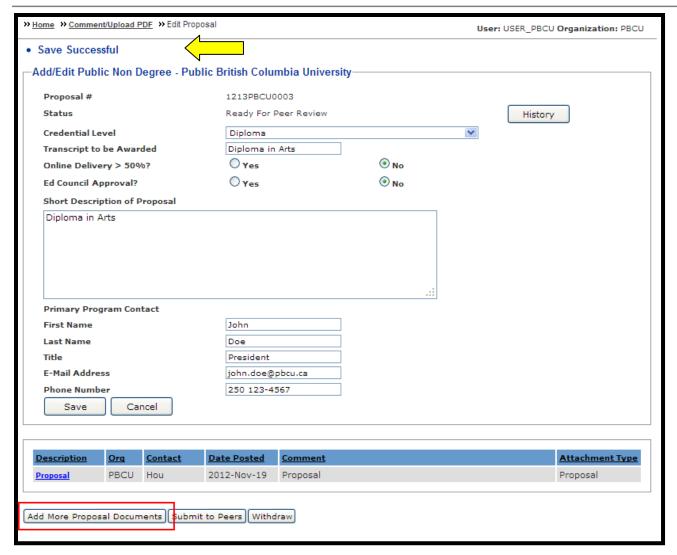
Step 4: From the Add Initial Proposal Document screen you can attach a PDF file by selecting the icon to locate the proposal document on your computer.



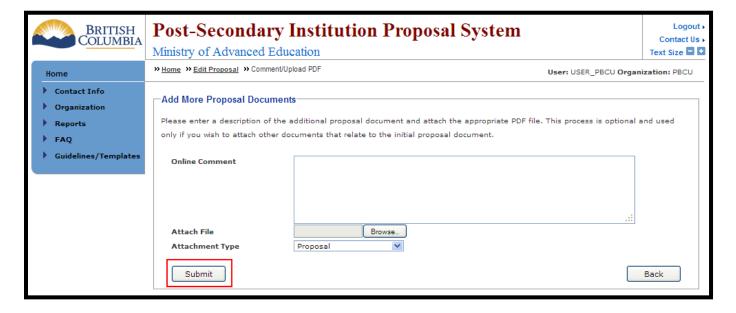
- Step 5: Find the PDF document on your computer in the "Look in" field and click "Open".
- Once the proposal file is attached choose the attachment type (in this case "Application") from the Attachment Type dropdown menu. Provide a short description of the attached document in the "Online Comment" field (i.e. Proposal).
- Step 7: Click Submit. Once the Proposal Document has been submitted you will automatically return to the Add/Edit Non Degree Program screen and a "Save Successful" notice will be at the top of the page.



Step 8: To add another proposal document choose the Add More Proposal Documents icon.



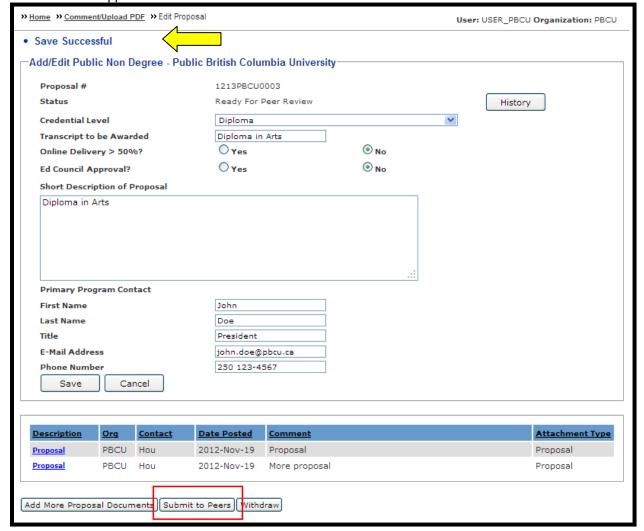
Step 9: Follow the same directions for Adding an Initial Document on the <u>Add More Proposal Documents</u> screen (Steps 4-7). Repeat Steps 8-9 to add more appendices.



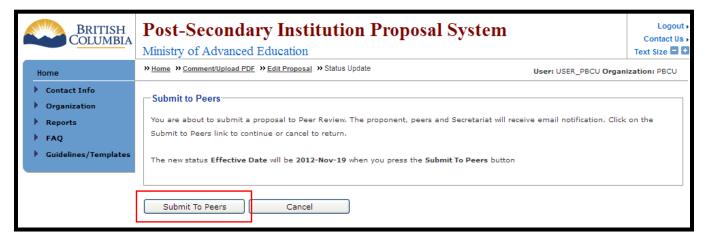
Step 10:

After submitting the proposal documents you will be redirected back to the <u>Add/Edit</u> screen where a "Save Successful" notice will appear at the top of the page. Once the proposal document and all

appendices are attached click on the Submit to Peers icon



Step 11: You will be asked to read the privacy and access to information notice on the <u>Submit to Peers</u> screen. When you are ready choose the <u>Submit to Peers</u> icon to continue.

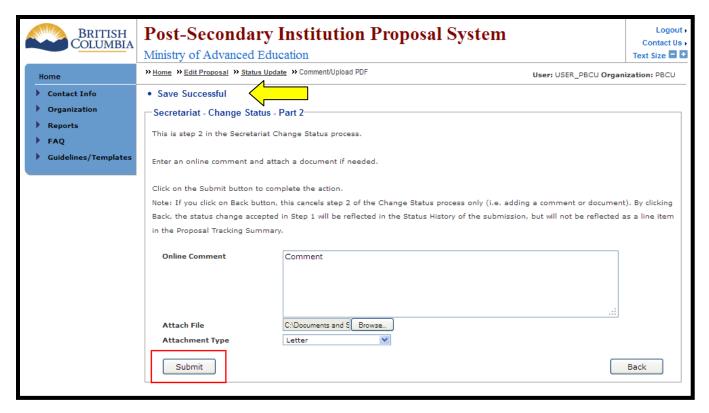


Step 12:

Click the Back icon.

OPTIONAL: You have the option to add a comment by entering it into the "Online Comment" field. Once

you are finished choose the Submit icon. Your comment will be displayed in a separate comment line below your proposal and appendices documents.



The View Proposal screen will display a "Save Successful" notice.

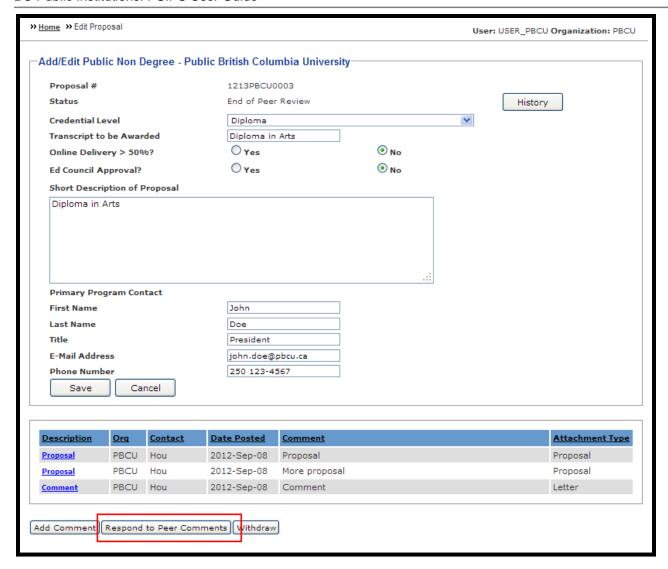
You may now view your submitted application but the system will not permit you to edit documents or make other changes for the 30-day peer review period. Once the 30-day period is complete the proposal status will automatically be set to "End of Peer Review" and you will receive an automatic email notification.



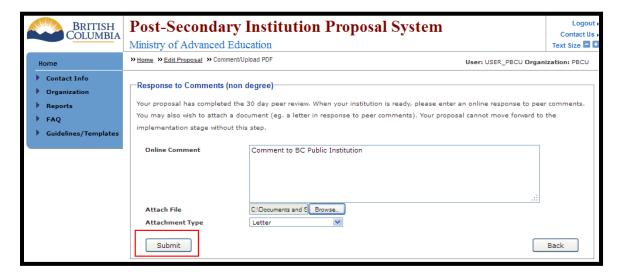
Once you are ready to respond to the peer comments, select the Respond to Peer Comments icon.

NOTE: Even if you did not receive any peer comments, you must still select

Respond to Peer Comments and follow step 14b in order to move the application forward to implementation.

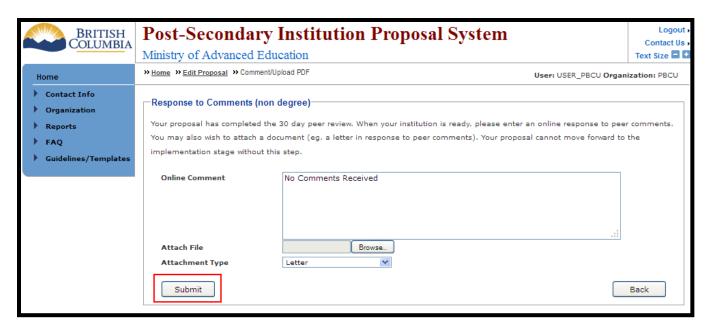


Step 14a: If peer comments were received, enter a short description in the Online Comment field and attach the response as a PDF file by following Steps 4-7.



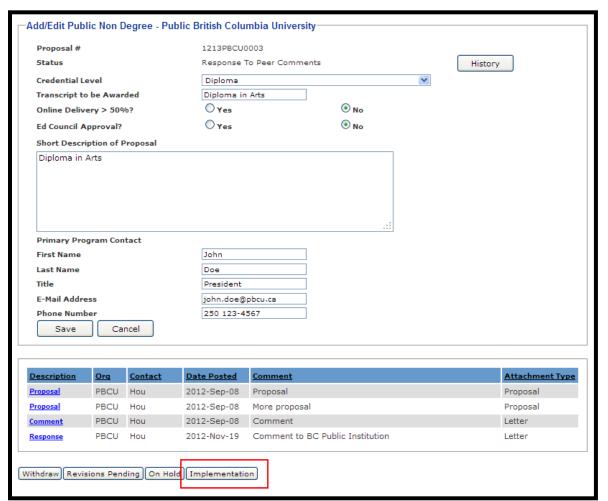
Step 14b:

If no peer comments were received, enter a short comment in the Online Comment field noting that comments were not received and click the Submit icon.



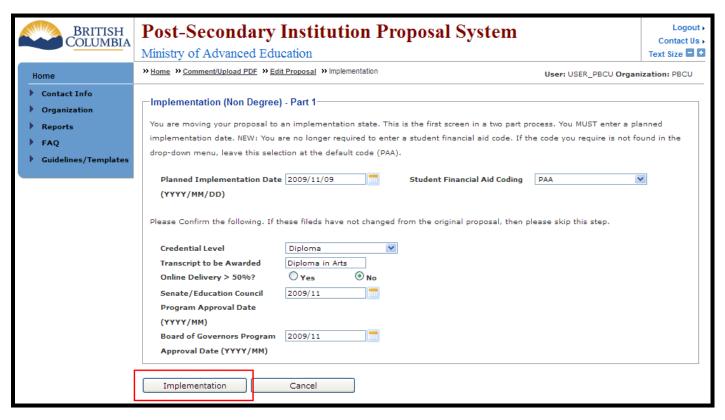
Step 15:

After a response to comments has been posted the Implementation icon will appear at the bottom of the View/Edit screen. Click the Implementation icon to continue.

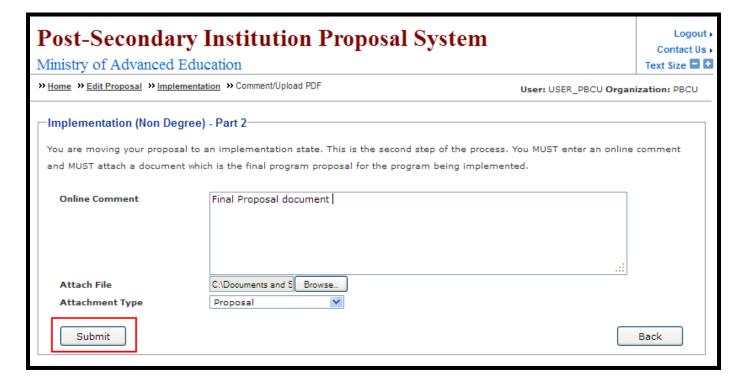


Step 16:

Fill in all of the data entry fields on the <u>Implementation (Non Degree) - Part 1</u> screen and choose the <u>Implementation</u> icon.



Step 17: On the Implementation (Non Degree)-Part 2 screen attach a final program proposal by following Steps 4-7.



The Non-Degree Proposal can now be implemented.

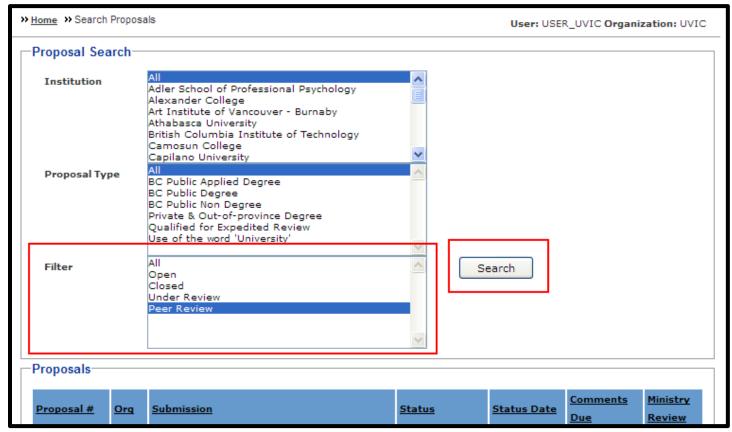
#### Who will review my proposal?

Any BC Public institution and Private and Out-Of-Province Institution will review your proposal and provide comment. You can also review any BC Public institution and Private and Out-Of-Province Institution's proposal and provide peer comments.

# How do I view proposal information and provide peer comments?

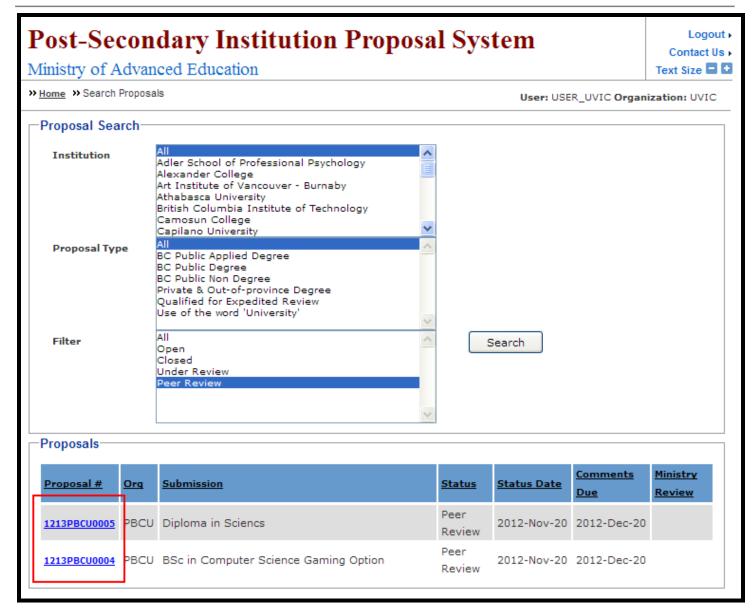
Step 1: Find Proposals To view other institutions' proposals select the icon. Post-Secondary Institution Proposal System Logo **BRITISH** Contact U Columbia Ministry of Advanced Education Text Size 🖃 >> Home User: USER PBCU Organization: PBCU Home Contact Info Find Proposals Add a new proposal BC Public Degree Organization Create Reports Public British Columbia University Guidelines/Templates Proposal # Submission Status Status Date <u>Payment</u>

Step 2: Select Peer Review in the Filter and press Search icon.



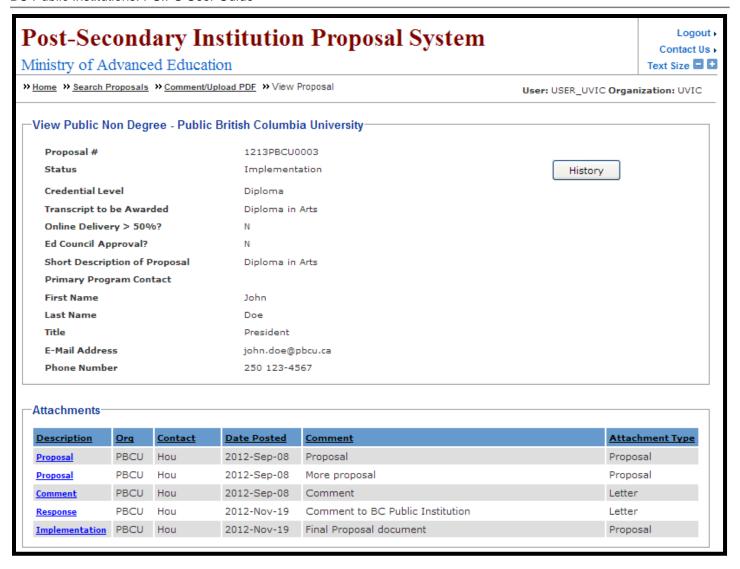
Step 3:

To review a proposal, appendices or comments, select the proposal link (in blue) from the <u>Proposal #</u> column. You will be redirected to the View Proposal screen.

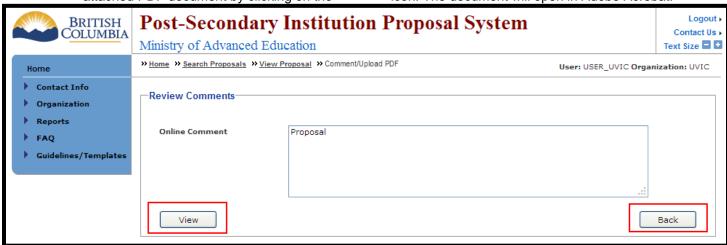


Step 4:

The Attachments section is where all documents related to the proposal are listed. Under the Attachments section of the <u>View Proposal</u> screen, select the document you wish to view and select the link (in blue).



Step 5: You will be redirected to the Review Comments screen where you can click to view and print the attached PDF document by clicking on the view icon. The document will open in Adobe Acrobat.



TIP:

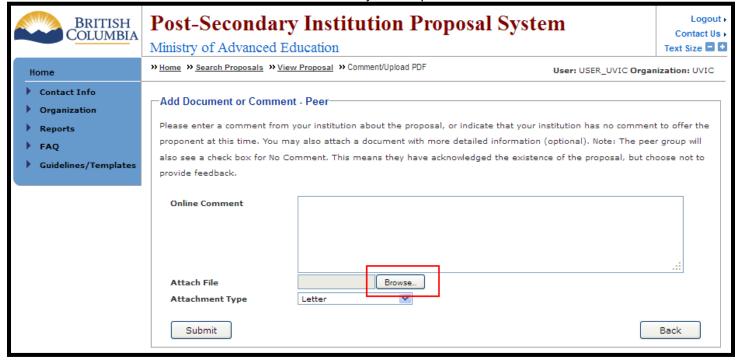


While viewing a document in Adobe Acrobat do not exit out of the document by closing your browser window. Instead use the browser's back button to return to PSIPS.

Step 6: To return to the View Proposal screen choose the Back ico

Step 7: To add a comment select the Add Comment icon.

From the Add Document or Comment – Peer screen you can attach a PDF file by selecting the Browse icon to locate the document on your computer.

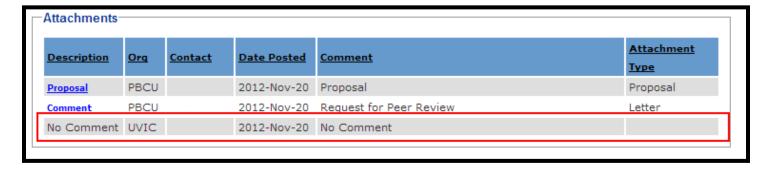


Step 9: Find the PDF document on your computer in the "Look in" field and click "Open".

Step 10: Once the file is attached choose the <u>Attachment Type</u> from the dropdown menu. Provide a short description of the attached document in the "Online Comment" field (i.e. Comment to Proposal etc).

Step 11: Click the Submit icon. After the comment has been added a "Save Successful" notice will appear at the top of the View Proposal screen.

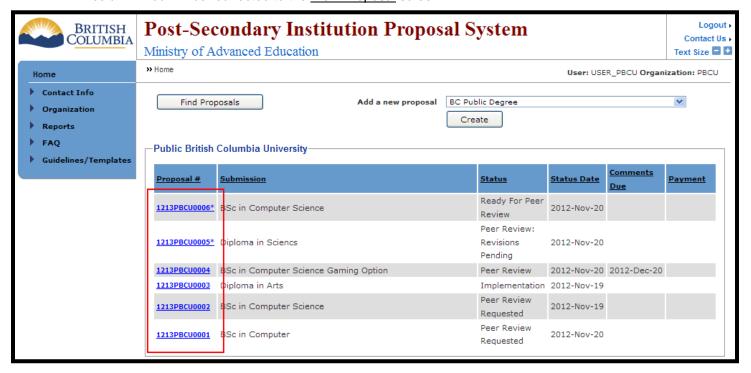
If you prefer to not leave a comment but would like the institution to know you reviewed their proposal select the No Comment icon and it will be noted on the View Proposal screen.



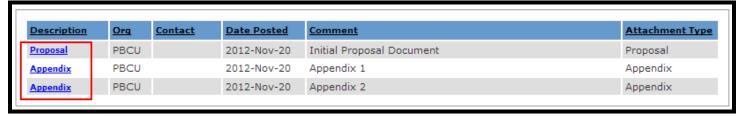
#### How do I replace a document if revisions are required?

Step 1:

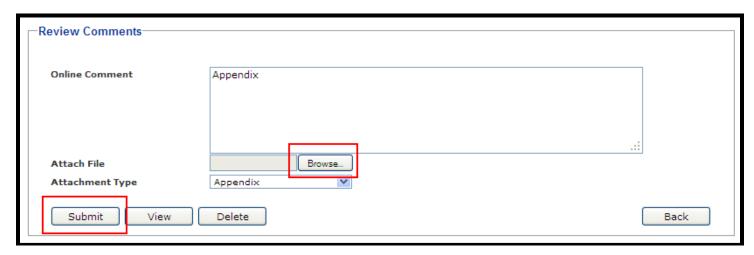
To add a revised proposal document select the proposal link (in blue with a \*) from the <u>Proposal #</u> column. You will be redirected to the View Proposal screen.



Step 2: The Attachments section is where all documents related to the proposal are listed. Under the Attachments section of the <u>View Proposal</u> screen, select the document you wish to replace and select the link (in blue).



Step 3: From the Revised Document screen you can attach a revised PDF file by selecting the Browse... icon.



Step 4:

Find the revised PDF document on your computer in the "Look in" field and click "Open".

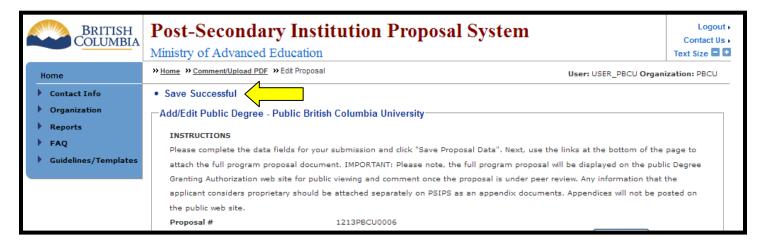


Once the revised file is attached confirm the attachment type (in this case "Application") from the Attachment Type dropdown menu. Provide a short description of the attached document in the "Online Comment" field (i.e. Revised Proposal or Revised Appendix A – Full Course Outlines, etc).





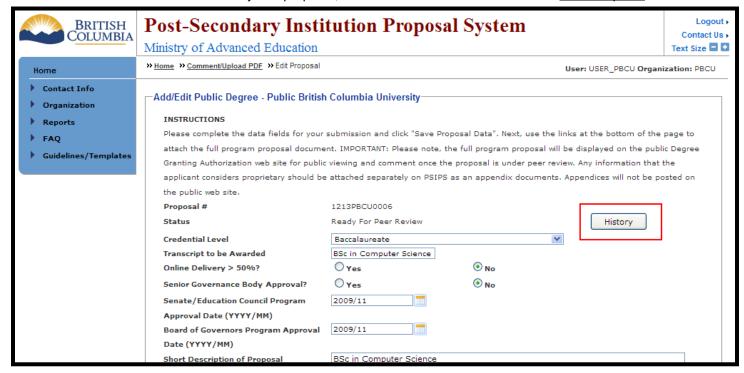
You will be redirected to the Add/Edit screen with a "Save Successful" notice at the top.



## How do I view the status history of a proposal?

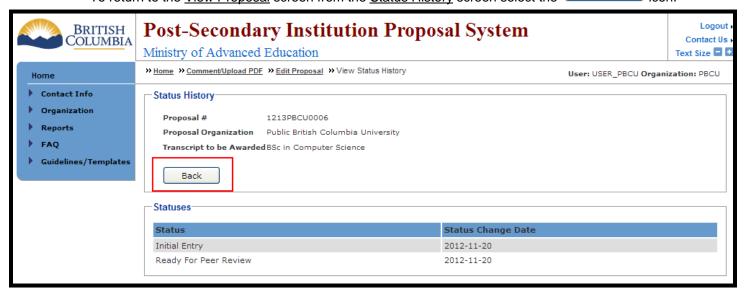
Step 1:

To review the status history of a proposal, select the History icon on the View Proposal screen.



Step 2:

To return to the <u>View Proposal</u> screen from the <u>Status History</u> screen select the <u>Back</u> icon.



# How do I provide response to a proposal with "Expert Review Completion Confirmed" status?

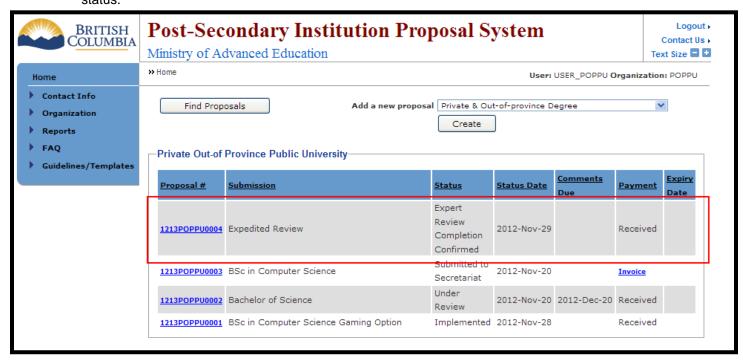
The Expert Review process has been introduced in 2012. The general idea is to provide additional audit for proposals which have reached the Under Review status. During the Expert Review process a proposal will undergo a review by a team of experts assigned by the Secretariat. A deadline for the review is defined by the Review Due date, which is set by Secretariat at the initial point and may be changed by the Secretariat later.

When experts finish their job and upload an expert review document, the Secretariat confirms that review is completed. At this point a notification is sent to a proponent by e-mail saying that the proponent has to provide a response in a form of comments or a PDF document. As soon as it is done, the expert review process is considered as completed, and the next day the proposal will return to the *Under Review* status. This transition is also followed by an e-mail notifying that the proposal has successfully completed the Expert Review process and will be reviewed by the Degree Quality Assessment Board at its next available meeting

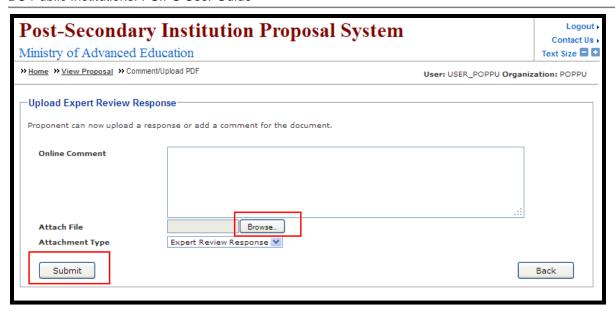
Note that if the Review Due date is expired no actions can be done to a proposal unless the Secretariat extends the date manually.

Steps below describe in details how a proponent can submit a response to expert review results.

Step 1: On your home page, click on any proposal number with have "Expert Review Completion Confirmed" status.



- Step 2: Review all comments provided by expert reviewer. Those documents are labelled "Expert Review Document".
- Step 3: Once you have reviewed documents, scroll to the bottom of the proposal detail page and click on the Upload Expert Review Response button.
- Step 4: Provide comment in the "Online Comment" field. If your comment is more than 1000 words, please add your comment as an attachment by clicking on the "Browse" button. Click "Submit" button to add the comment.



Step 5:

Once you have submitted your comment, the proposal will change to the status of "Expert Review Response".

#### How do I withdraw a proposal?

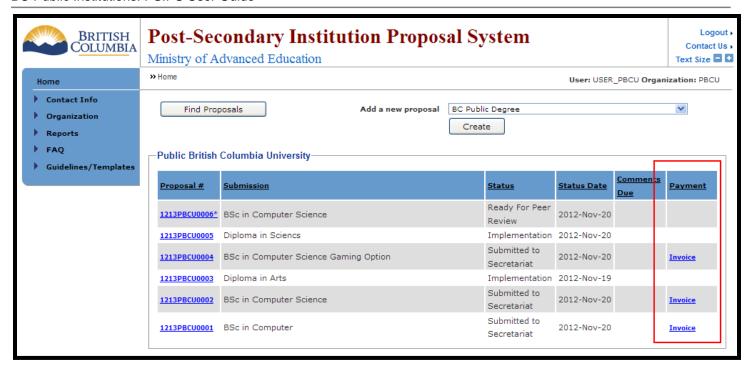
An application may be withdrawn at any time. The applicant must contact the Board Secretariat in writing to request the application be withdrawn.

## How do I put a proposal on hold?

An application may be put on hold at any time. The applicant must contact the Board Secretariat in writing to request the application be put on hold. Applications can be put on hold for a maximum of two years after which the application will be automatically withdrawn by the Board Secretariat. Institutions wishing to proceed with an application once it has been withdrawn must re-apply by creating a new proposal in PSIPS.

## How do I view my invoice?

If you chose not to print the invoice at the time of submission or if you would like to print an additional copy of your invoice go to the Home Page and click on the appropriate "Invoice" link (in red) under the <u>Payment</u> column. Please note your invoice is only available on PSIPS until payment has been processed by the Ministry.

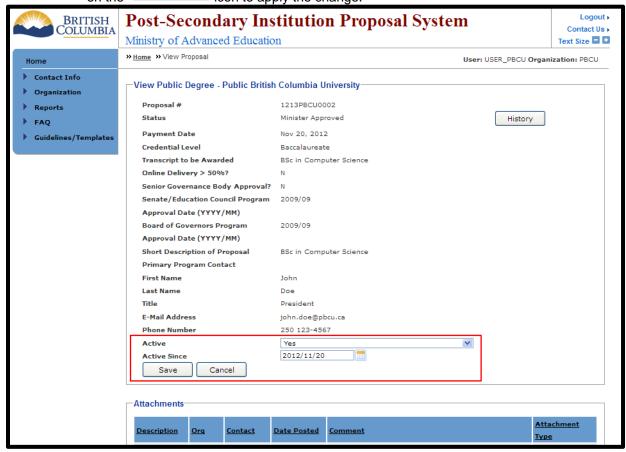


## How do I report the implementation status of an approved proposal?

Step 1: In the Home page, click on any proposal's blue link which status is Minister Approved.

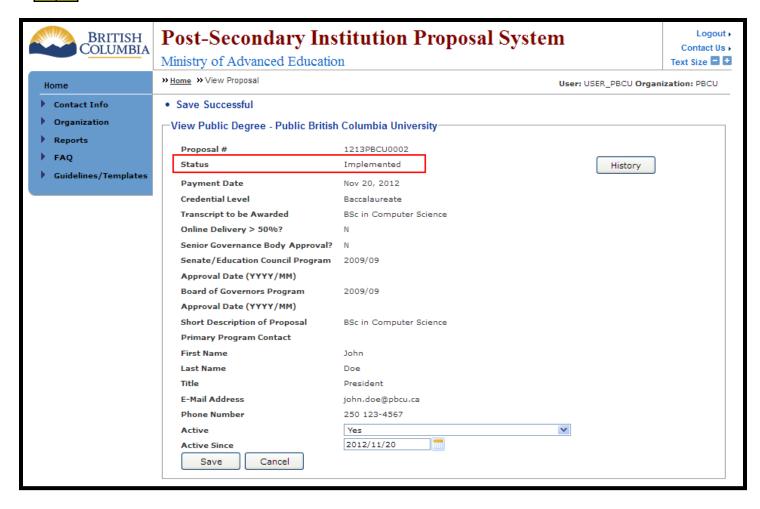


Step 2: In the proposal information page, change the Active pull down menu to Yes and fill in the date. Click on the Save icon to apply the change.



Step 3:

The proposal should now have the status of **Implemented**.



## When will my proposal expire?

Proposals of any type can be transferred to the *Expired* status by Secretariat manually. Normally it happens when a proposal has spent a significant amount of time in one of the following states:

- Ministerial Consent
- Minister Approved
- Post Consent Change

This means that the proposal has not been implemented yet and is unlikely to be implemented in the future. For how to set a proposal as implemented refer to the "How do I report the implementation status of an approved proposal?" section.

Here is a brief description of how expiration notifications are dispatched:

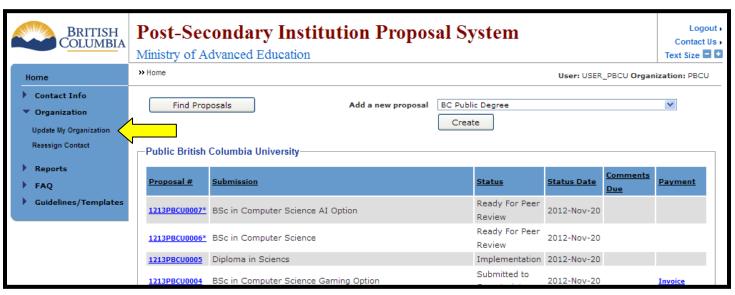
- As soon as the proposal has spent 2 years in the *Ministerial Consent* phase, an e-mail is sent to a proponent and members of Secretariat, notifying them that the proposal is about to expire within one year.
- The next expiration notification is sent 6 month later, if the proposal is still in the *Ministerial Consent* state, and a proponent has not submitted a renewal document. The e-mail is also sent to a proponent and the Secretariat.
- The final notification comes out 3 years after the approval date if the proposal is in the *Minister Approved* state or 3 years after the status change date for proposals in the *Ministerial Consent* state. It is also sent to a proponent and the Secretariat.

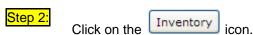
## How do I add a Program in the Inventory Report?

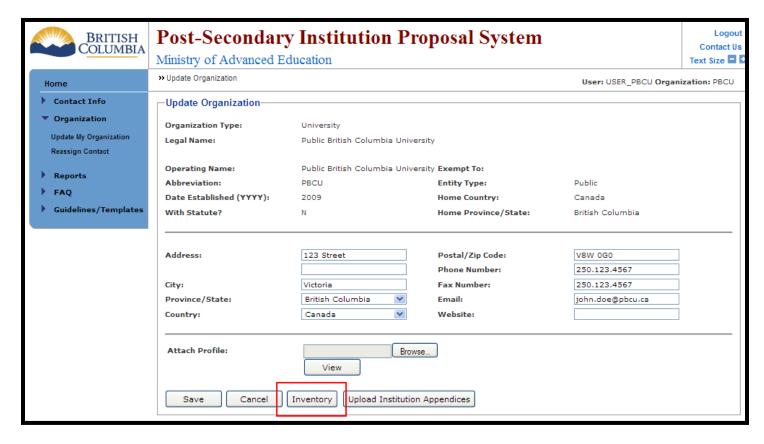
The Inventory functionality allows users to add or update all other programs program they may offer, even if they received Ministry approval prior to the implementation of PSIPS. Any Credential which are not being offered but approved by Ministry will need to be entered as well.

Step 1:

If you want to update your program, on the <u>Home Menu</u> choose the <u>Organization</u> tab and then choose the <u>Update My Organization</u> link.







Step 3:

In the Edit Program page, enter your program information with current active status. If you checked

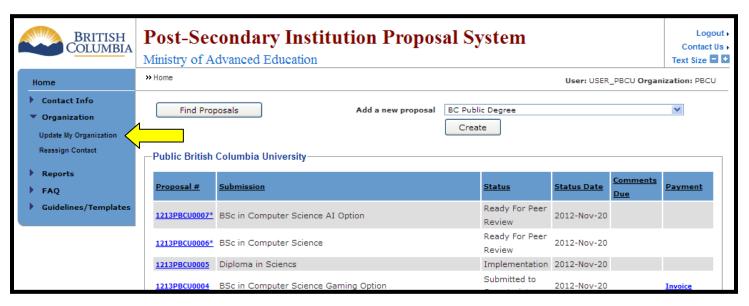
Yes in Active field, you need to fill the Active Since date. Click change.



## How do I modify a Program in the Inventory Report?

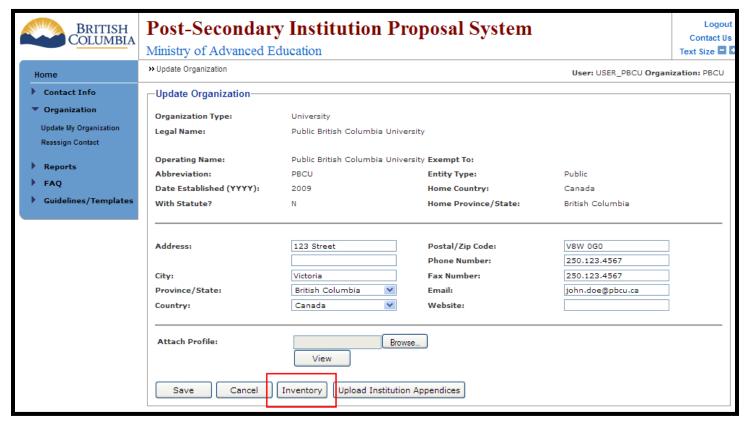


If you want to update your program, on the <u>Home Menu</u> choose the <u>Organization</u> tab and then choose the <u>Update My Organization link</u>.



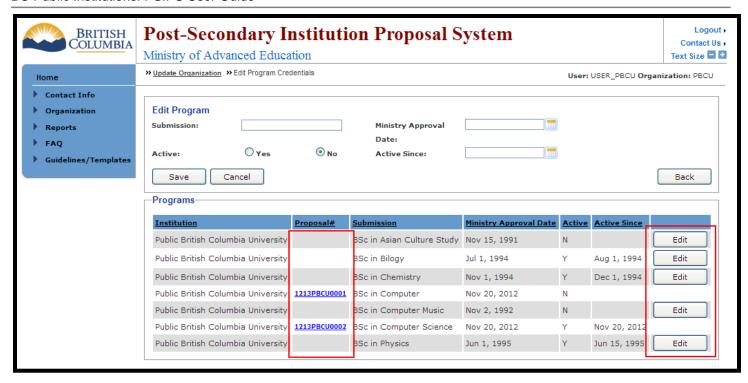


Click on the Inventory icon.

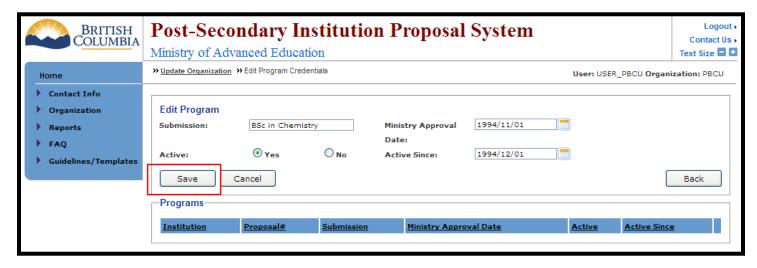


Step 3:

Click on the icon beside any of the program you want to edit. To edit a proposal, click on the proposal number (in blue).



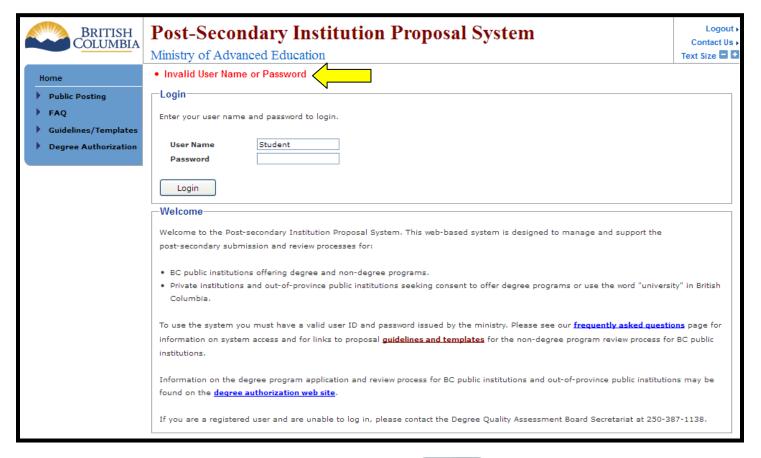
Step 3: In the Edit Program page, enter your program information with current active status. If you checked Yes with Active field, you need to fill the Active Since date. Click save licon to save the change.



#### **Error Messages**

#### **Log-in Errors**

If you incorrectly enter your user name or password, the following screen will appear:



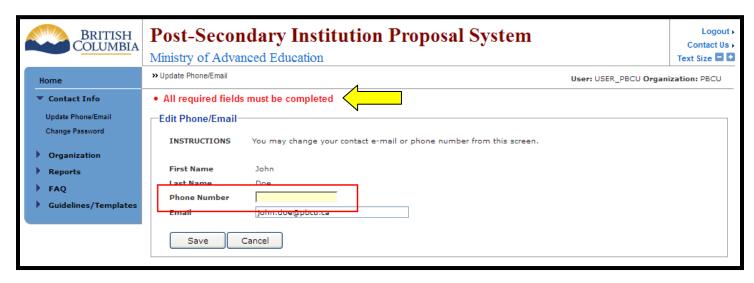
To continue, enter the correct username and password and click the Login icon. If you have forgotten your user name or password contact the Board Secretariat by phone or email.

## **Timeout Errors**

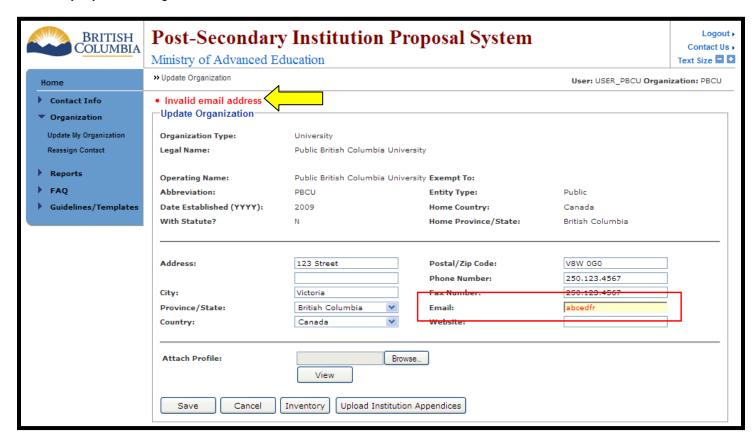
As a measure of enhanced security, users are automatically logged out of PSIPS after <u>35</u> minutes of inactivity. If this occurs, the system will return a timeout error. This may also occur if the Ministry servers are experiencing problems or a high transaction load. To recover from this, press the REFRESH button on the browser window. If this does not rectify the problem, try accessing the system again later.

#### **Field Errors**

Field errors occur when the user does not complete a required field or inputs data incorrectly into the system. If the user does not complete a required field the following error message is displayed and the required field is highlighted.



If a field is entered in the incorrect format, a notification is displayed at the top of the screen and the entry in question is marked by a yellow background.



To correct field errors re-input the data and choose the Save Successful" notice will appear at the top of the screen once the information has been saved correctly.

## Glossary

Term	Definition or Synonym
Applicant	The organization submitting a proposal for a degree program, a non-degree program, or to obtain Qualified for Expedited Review.
Degree Quality	This board is responsible for reviewing degree program proposals and applications to obtain
Assessment Board	Qualified for Expedited Review from BC public institutions and private and out-of-province
(DQAB)	public institutions. The Board may consult with subject experts, as required, and is responsible
	for making recommendations for approval or consent to the Minister.
DQAB Secretariat (the	Ministry Staff providing administrative support to the DQAB including administering the quality
Board Secretariat)	assessment process and communicating with applicants regarding issues and outcomes.
Institutional Contact	The individual who is the assumed owner of the PSIPS ID for their institution. This individual is
	usually the Vice President of Academics for an institution. The VP Academic is the assumed
	owner of the PSIPS user ID; however, they may delegate their responsibilities to others within
	their institution who have the authority to act on their behalf.
Ministry	The Ministry of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology works with the DQAB to
	assist in the quality assessment process. The Ministry also provides the overall technical
	infrastructure as well as requiring specialized reporting from the system.
Peer	An Institutional Contact in the same institutional grouping as the Applicant (BC public degree
	and non-degree institutions).
Proponent	Same as applicant – the institution submitting an application.
Proposal	A document outlining an application for a degree program or to obtain Qualified for Expedited
-	Review.

Status	Description
DQAB Recommend Approval	Once the DQAB assessment is complete, if the Board decides to recommend the application for approval to the Minister, the Board Secretariat will record the status as "DQAB Recommend Approval" with a recommendation date and synopsis of the DQAB's assessment.
DQAB Recommend Denial	Once the DQAB assessment is complete, if the Board decides not to recommend the application for approval to the Minister, the Board Secretariat will record the status as "DQAB Recommend Denial" with a recommendation date and synopsis of the DQAB's assessment.
End of Peer Review	Peer review is complete and peers may no longer post comments.
Exempt Verification	Only for institutions that have obtained Qualified for Expedited Review. Application is under review.
Full Review Required	Only for institutions that have obtained Qualified for Expedited Review. If after review, the application is not deemed to be within the guidelines for Qualified for Expedited Review, the Board Secretariat will change the status to "Full Review Required". The Board Secretariat will contact the applicant directly. The applicant will take the next steps to either submit a full application and fees or withdraw.
Initial Entry	The applicant has entered and saved some data related to an application, but has not yet attached a proposal document.
Minister Approved/ Denied	The Minister's written decision based on the Board's recommendation.
On Hold	The applicant wishes to temporarily suspend the review of the application. This action must be vetted and executed by the Board Secretariat. To resume the process, the applicant must contact the Board Secretariat. If appropriate, the Board Secretariat will remove the hold, which will reset the application to its "pre-hold" state.
Peer Review	The application is under peer review for a 30-day period. All peers will be notified once the application has been put to peer review and other BC public institutions can post comments on PSIPS regarding the application. The application is also posted to the Degree Authorization website for the general public to have the opportunity to review the proposal and provide comments to the submitting institution and the Board.
Post-approval Change (Degree Program Only)	To record a change after ministerial approval is in place.
Request Peer Review	The applicant has attached the proposal document and appendices, if applicable and submits to the Board Secretariat to request peer review.

Revisions Required	After an application is submitted, the Board Secretariat deems that it requires revisions or additions by the applicant. The status "Revisions Required" allows the applicant to edit the application and re-submit.
Implemented	After a proposal has been approved, there are two fields displayed in the proposal detail page. They are "Active" and "Active Since". By setting the "Active" field to "Yes" and add a date in the "Active Since" the proposal will changed from "Minister Approved" to "Implemented" status. Setting the "Active" status to "No" will revert the status from "Implemented" to "Minister Approved".
Expired	3 years after a proposal has approved, the proposal is expired.

Status (cont)	Description
Under Review	The application is officially under review by the DQAB after being verified by the Board Secretariat and having all fees paid. When the status changes to Under Review, auto-emails are sent to the applicant, Board Secretariat, and the DQAB. The application will remain in this state until the DQAB makes its recommendation.
Verified	The Board Secretariat has verified the application and deems it to be complete and ready to begin the quality assessment process, but related fees are outstanding.
Withdrawn	The applicant has provided the Board Secretariat with a written request to withdraw the application.

Data Entry Field	Description
Approval Body	Record any prior accrediting body approvals that may help the DQAB decide how to proceed in reviewing an application.
Attach File	This field is where the PDF file is located and then attached to the proposal.
Attachment Type	A one-word descriptor of the type of file that has been attached (e.g. letter). This defaults to letter if a proposal document has already been attached, but a drop-down list provides other options (proposal, addendum, précis), or you may type in a one word description of your own.
Confirm New Password	To ensure the correct password was entered, information entered in this field must be exactly the same as what was entered in the new password field.
Contact Email	E-mail address of the Institutional Contact. Automatic e-mail notifications are sent to this address at significant points in the proposal review process. Format: xxx@xxx.xx
Contact Phone	This is a free screen field that allows the institutional contact to provide a business phone number. Format: xxx.xxx.xxx
Credential Level	The credential applicable to the program proposal.
Degree Name on Transcript	Full name of the credential/program as it will appear on the student's transcript. (e.g. Bachelor of Science, Physics)
New Password	This is the new password for the account. It must be a least eight characters long and contain at least one numeric and one upper case character.
Primary Program Contact Information	This set of fields identifies the primary contact for this particular proposal. This individual may be different than the Institutional Contact. All official correspondence on the outcome of the application will be sent only to the Institutional Contact.
Senior Governance Body Approval Date	This is the date that the institution's senior governance body approved the proposal. Note: An institution must receive approval from its senior governing bodies before submitting an application.
Short Description of Proposal	This is a free screen field where a summary of the proposal may be entered. The maximum size of this field is 4500 characters. It is recommended that the summary be kept to the size of one or two paragraphs or less.

Icons	Description
Add Appendix	This displays a screen that allows the applicant to post appendices as PDF documents. For example, an applicant may wish to post proprietary information or full course outlines in an appendix. Appendix documents will not be posted on the public Degree Authorization website.
Add Comments	This displays a screen that allows the applicant to post additional PDF documents or comments. For example, an applicant may wish to post additional background material that

## BC Public Institutions: PSIPS User Guide

	complements the main proposal document.
Add Documents	This displays a screen that allows the applicant to post additional PDF documents or comments. For example, an applicant may wish to post additional background material that complements the main proposal document.
Add Initial Proposal Document	This allows the applicant to post the main proposal PDF document. This is the first step after initial entry.
Request Peer Review	This displays a screen that allows the applicant to submit an application to the Board Secretariat for peer review.

#### **PSIPS Quick Reference Guide (BC Public Institutions)**

## Adding A Proposal (Degree Program and Qualified for Expedited Review Status)

#### Screen Step **Notes** Home 1. On the Home screen choose from the Add New Proposal Dropdown You will be redirected to the Proposal Menu the type of proposal you would like to add and then click Create Application Screen Proposal 2. Enter the information required for each of the fields and when you are All fields must be Application entered prior to finished click Save saving. 3. Click on Add Initial Proposal Document to attach the proposal documents to the application. Add Initial 4. From the Add Initial Proposal Document screen you can attach a The online comment PDF file by selecting Browse..... Proposal will appear in the **Document Summary** Document List on the View 5. Find the PDF document on your computer in the "Look in" field and Application Screen. click "Open." A record of the 6. Once the proposal file is attached choose the attachment type (in this document(s) will case "Application) from the Attachment Type dropdown menu. Provide appear on the View a short description of the attached document in the "Online Comments" Application Screen. field. 7. Click Submit 8. To add appendices choose Add Appendix on the Proposal Application screen and follow steps 4-7. Proposal 9. Once the proposal document and all appendices are attached click You must already Application have added all Request Peer Review required documents Request to the application 10. Read the privacy and access to information notice on the Request Peer Peer Review screen. When you are ready choose Request Peer Review to Review continue. Comments on the Comments screen. 12. Choose From the home screen choose the Find BC Public Proposals icon Select the proposal to view by its PSIPS code (in blue). Adding a Select the document you would like to review by clicking the link (in blue) under Peer Review attachments. Comment After review select Add Comment icon on the proposal screen and attach your

document by following steps 4-7 under Adding a Proposal.

#### Login/Logout

- 1. To access the system, select the "Online Application" Link on the Degree Authorization website at <a href="https://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/degree-authorization">www.aved.gov.bc.ca/degree-authorization</a> or bookmark <a href="https://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/psips/">www.aved.gov.bc.ca/psips/</a>.
- 2. Enter your user ID and password to begin using the system.
- 3. When finished using the system choose <u>Logout</u> at the top right hand corner of the Home screen.

#### **Update Organization Info**

- 1. On the Home screen from the Home Menu choose Organization then choose Update My Organization.
- 2. Enter the information required and/or change the Organization Profile document by selecting Browse... and locating the document on your computer.
- 3. Once you are finished with your changes choose Save

#### **Update Institutional Contact**

- 1. On the <u>Home Menu</u> choose <u>Organization</u> and then choose the <u>Reassign Contact</u> link.
- 2. Follow the directions on the Reassign Contact screen.

#### **Change Password**

- 1. On the <u>Home</u> screen from the <u>Home Menu</u> choose the <u>Contact Info</u> tab and choose Change Password.
- 2. Follow the directions on the Change Password screen.
- 3. After changing your password a notice will be shown if the password was changed successfully.

#### **Revising Documents**

- 1. On the <u>Home</u> screen click on the Application from the application list with the status "Revisions Required."
- 2. Under the <u>View Application</u> screen click on the document that will be replaced from the document list.
- 3. Attach the new document by selecting Browse... and choosing the new document from your computer using the "Look in" field and then click "Open."
- 4. Once the revised document has been attached check to make sure the attachment type is correct from the <u>Attachment Type</u> dropdown menu.
- 5.Click Submit
- 6. Repeat Steps 2-5 to revise more documents.