Diploma Options and Graduation Requirements

Parent Resource Services Presentation
Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Dr. Tracy L. Jackson, Supervisor, School Counseling Services
Leigh Bennett, Supervisor, Assessment Services
Bridget Gorey, Supervisor, Special Education
Virginia Board of Education Diploma Types

- Advanced Studies Diploma
- Standard Diploma
- Applied Studies Diploma
Advanced Studies Diploma *for students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2011-2012 through 2017-2018*

- 26 Standard Unit of Credits
- Nine Verified Units of Credits
- Three years of one foreign language or two years of two foreign languages
- One credit in Fine or Performing Arts and one in Career or Technical Education Electives
- Economics and Personal Finance
### Advanced Studies Diploma Course Requirements (8VAC20-131-50)

for Students Entering the Ninth Grade for the First Time in 2011-2012 through 2017-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline Area</th>
<th>Standard Credits</th>
<th>Verified Credits</th>
<th>Specifications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include at least three different course selections from among: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of Algebra II. The board shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement. Per the Standards of Quality, a computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a mathematics course credit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory Science</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include course selections from at least three different science disciplines from among: earth sciences, biology, chemistry, or physics or completion of the sequence of science courses required for the International Baccalaureate Diploma. The board shall approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement. Per the Standards of Quality, a computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a science course credit.</td>
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<tr>
<td>History &amp; Social Sciences</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include U.S. and Virginia History, U.S. and Virginia Government, and two courses in either world history or geography or both. The board shall approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include three years of one language or two years of two languages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Physical Education</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts or Career &amp; Technical Education</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Per the Standards of Quality, a computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a career and technical education course credit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics and Personal Finance</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Selected Test</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>A student may utilize additional tests for earning verified credit in computer science, technology, career or technical education, economics or other areas as prescribed by the board in 8VAC20-131-110.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>26</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional Requirements for Graduation for students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2011-2012 through 2017-2018

- **Virtual Learning** - Students shall successfully complete one virtual course, which may be a noncredit-bearing course, or may be a course required to earn this diploma that is offered online.

- **Training in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and the use of automated external defibrillators (AED)** - Beginning with first-time ninth-grade students in the 2016-2017 school year, students shall be trained in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of automated external defibrillators, including hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Students with an IEP or 504 Plan that documents that they cannot successfully complete this training shall be granted a waiver from this graduation requirement, as provided in 8VAC20-131-420 B.
Advanced Studies Diploma for students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2018-2019 and beyond

- 26 Standard Unit of Credits
- Five Verified Units of Credits
- Three years of one foreign language or two years of two foreign languages
- One credit in Fine or Performing Arts and one in Career or Technical Education Electives
- Economics and Personal Finance
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<th>Subject Area</th>
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<td>Laboratory Science</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include course selections from at least three different science disciplines from among: earth sciences, biology, chemistry, or physics or completion of the sequence of science courses required for the International Baccalaureate Diploma and shall include interdisciplinary courses that incorporate Standards of Learning content from multiple academic areas. The board shall approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement. Per the Standards of Quality, a computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a science course credit.</td>
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<tr>
<td>History and Social Sciences</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include Virginia and U.S. history, Virginia and U.S. government, and two courses in either world history or geography or both. The board shall approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Courses to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two sequential electives as required by the Standards of Quality.</td>
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<td>Total Credits</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>5</td>
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Additional Requirements for Graduation for students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2018-2019 and beyond

- Advanced Placement, Honors, or International Baccalaureate Course or Career and Technical Education Credential - In accordance with the Standards of Quality, students shall either (i) complete an Advanced Placement, honors, or International Baccalaureate course or (ii) earn a career and technical education credential approved by the board, except when a career and technical education credential in a particular subject area is not readily available or appropriate or does not adequately measure student competency, in which case the student shall receive satisfactory competency-based instruction in the subject area to satisfy the advanced studies diploma requirements. The career and technical education credential, when required, could include the successful completion of an industry certification, a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency assessment, or the Virginia workplace readiness assessment.

- Virtual Course - Students shall successfully complete one virtual course, which may be a non-credit-bearing course or a required or elective credit-bearing course that is offered online.
Additional Requirements for Graduation for students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2018-2019 and beyond

- Training in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and the use of automated external defibrillators (AED) - Students shall be trained in emergency first aid, CPR, and the use of AED, including hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Students with an IEP or 504 Plan that documents that they cannot successfully complete this training shall be granted a waiver from this graduation requirement, as provided in 8VAC20-131-420 B.

- Demonstration of the five Cs - Students shall acquire and demonstrate foundational skills in critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and citizenship in accordance with the Profile of a Virginia Graduate approved by the board.
Standard Diploma for students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2018-2019 and beyond

- 22 Standard Unit of Credits
- Five Verified Units of Credits
- At Least Two Sequential Electives
- Economics and Personal Finance
- One Virtual Course
- One CTE Credential
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<td>Laboratory Science</td>
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<td>Students who complete a career and technical education program sequence and pass an examination or occupational competency assessment in a career and technical education field that confers certification or an occupational competency credential from a recognized industry, or trade or professional association, or acquires a professional license in a career and technical education field from the Commonwealth of Virginia may substitute the certification, competency credential, or license for either a laboratory science or history and social science verified credit when the certification, license, or credential confers more than one verified credit. The examination or occupational competency assessment must be approved by the board as an additional test to verify student achievement.</td>
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- **Advanced Placement, Honors, or International Baccalaureate Course or Career and Technical Education Credential** - In accordance with the Standards of Quality, students shall either (i) complete an Advanced Placement, honors, or International Baccalaureate course, or (ii) earn a career and technical education credential approved by the board, except when a career and technical education credential in a particular subject area is not readily available or appropriate or does not adequately measure student competency, in which case the student shall receive satisfactory competency-based instruction in the subject area to satisfy the standard diploma requirements. The career and technical education credential, when required, could include the successful completion of an industry certification, a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency assessment, or the Virginia workplace readiness assessment.

- **Virtual Course** - Students shall successfully complete one virtual course, which may be a non-credit-bearing course or a required or elective credit-bearing course that is offered online.
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<td>World Language, Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Pursuant to § 22.1-253.13:4 of the Code of Virginia, credits earned for this requirement shall include one credit in fine or performing arts or career and technical education. Per the Standards of Quality, a computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a career and technical education course credit.</td>
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<td>Economics and Personal Finance</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>Student Selected Test</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>A student may utilize additional tests for earning verified credit in computer science, technology, career and technical education, economics or other areas as prescribed by the board in 8VAC20-131-110.</td>
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<td>Career and Technical Education</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>Students shall earn a career and technical education credential approved by the Board of Education, except when a career and technical education credential in a particular subject area is not readily available or appropriate or does not adequately measure student competency, in which case the student shall receive satisfactory competency-based instruction in the subject area to satisfy the standard diploma requirements. The career and technical education credential, when required, could include the successful completion of an industry certification, a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency assessment, or the Virginia workplace readiness assessment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional Information for Students Entering Ninth Grade for the First Time in 2011-2012 through 2017-2018

- For students entering the ninth-grade class for the first time in 2013-2014 and beyond: Students shall successfully complete one virtual course, which may be a noncredit-bearing course or a required or elective credit-bearing course that is offered online.

- For students entering the ninth-grade class for the first time in 2016-2017 and beyond: Students shall be trained in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of automated external defibrillators, including hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan that documents that they cannot successfully complete this training shall be granted a waiver from this graduation requirement, as provided in 8VAC20-131-420 B.
The Applied Studies Diploma is a diploma option available to students identified as having a disability who complete the requirements of their individualized education programs (IEPs) and meet certain requirements prescribed by the Board of Education pursuant to regulations, but do not meet the requirements for any named diploma.

While considered a Virginia diploma, this may impact financial aid if remedial courses are needed.
Verified Credits Are Required For A Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma

Students may earn verified credits needed for their diploma by:
- Passing an EOC SOL test with a score of 400 or higher
- Achieving a VDOE determined cut score or higher on an approved substitute test
- Meeting eligibility criteria for a locally awarded verified credit
  - Passing/has passed the course
  - Took the SOL test twice, with one score between 375-399
  - Submission of documentation of content mastery to a review panel
ASSESSMENT CHANGES AND OPTIONS

Implementation of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Changes to Virginia’s Standards of Accreditation

Changes to Assessment Administration beginning 2018-2019
Assessment Changes For All Students

Effective immediately, high school students only need to take an SOL test if they require the resulting verified credit for their diploma or if the test is federally mandated.

Federally Mandated:
- EOC Reading
- EOC Math
- EOC Science

State Required:
- EOC Reading, Math & Science
- EOC Writing
- EOC History

Previously, high school students were required to take an SOL test if one was associated with their course, regardless of whether they needed the resulting verified credit.

This change, coupled with the decrease in verified credits, results in less testing for all students.
Federal Accountability

ESSA requires that states identify one specific high school test that will be used to calculate federal pass rates and student participation. This data is reflected in the School Quality Profile on VDOE’s website.

Virginia Selected:
- EOC Reading
- EOC Math (Algebra I or Algebra II or Geometry) or AP, IB, SAT, ACT*
- EOC Science (Biology)

There is an expectation that all high school students will take the Biology SOL test even if they have already earned the verified credit they require from passing the Earth Science SOL test.

There is an expectation that all 9th grade students will take an EOC Math SOL test even if they have already earned the verified credit they require from passing Algebra I while in middle school.
If a middle school student successfully completes a high school level math course (in middle school) and passes the SOL test, they have earned the 1 verified credit they require in mathematics for a standard or advanced studies diploma.

Per the Standards Of Accreditation, the student would not have to take any more math SOL tests because they earned the necessary verified credit.

However, per ESSA, the student must still be assessed in mathematics once they enter high school.

The student would be expected to take the EOC Math SOL test that corresponds to their math course in grade 9.

If a student completed Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II in middle school, they would be expected to use their SAT or AP test to meet federal accountability requirements.
The Standards of Accreditation allow school divisions to choose between offering the EOC Writing SOL test or offering a Performance Based Assessment (PBA). Divisions must make a choice and may not offer both. Student work samples are collected during grades 9-11 and scored by the division, using Virginia Department of Education training materials and scoring rubrics. Students who achieve proficiency are awarded a verified credit for their standard or advanced studies diploma, just as if they passed the EOC Writing SOL test. Substitute tests (WorkKeys) remain an option for students even if the PBA is selected.
Assessment Options-
Instruction Determines Assessment

- SOL Tests with or without accommodations - Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma
- VAAP - Applied studies diploma or certificate of completion

- WorkKeys
  - Students must be offered the EOC Reading SOL test prior to taking the WorkKeys test. Parent must permit or refuse testing for the EOC Reading SOL test
Accommodations

- Available for state and federally required tests
- Intended to allow for meaningful engagement with an assessment, not enhance performance
- Should be implemented instructionally prior to use in assessment
- VDOE/Vendor does set rules for eligibility that must be followed, but there may be a pathway for unique accommodations
- The College Board must review and approve test accommodations - SSD Coordinator at your high school, also varies for CTE tests/certifications
- Should be discussed at least annually during the IEP/504/EL Team meeting and documented
- Contact your School Test Coordinator and/or your child’s Case Manager for more information
Credit Accommodations

Credit accommodations provide alternatives for students with disabilities in earning the standard diploma and verified credits required to graduate with a *Standard Diploma*.

Credit accommodations for students with disabilities may include:

- Alternative courses to meet the standard credit requirements
- Modifications to the requirements for locally awarded verified credits
- Additional tests approved by the Board of Education for earning verified credits
- Adjusted cut scores on tests for earning verified credits
- Allowance of work-based learning experiences through career and technical education (CTE) courses
## Credit Accommodations at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accommodation</th>
<th>Available to All Students</th>
<th>Students with Disabilities (IEP and 504) who Qualify for Credit Accommodations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expanded Score Range for Expedited Retake</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Students with a scaled score between 350-374 are eligible for an expedited retake on that test with the exception of English Writing. No expedited retakes are available in English Writing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Expanded Use of Locally Awarded Verified Credit (LAVC)** | Mathematics, English Reading and Writing, Science and History/Social Sciences  
- Students who entered the ninth grade for the first time prior to 2018-2019 are limited to three LAVC in any subject that may be applied toward a Standard Diploma.  
- Students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2018-2019 and beyond are limited to one LAVC in any subject that may be applied toward a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma. | Students eligible for credit accommodations shall not be subject to the limitations on the number of verified credits that may be awarded through this process:  
- Students who entered the ninth grade for the first time prior to 2018-2019 that require more than three LAVC in any subject must have the eligibility criteria for credit accommodations properly documented in the IEP or 504 Plan.  
- Students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2018-2019 and beyond that require more than one LAVC must have the eligibility criteria for credit accommodations properly documented in the IEP or 504 Plan.  
Special Permission Locally Awarded Verified Credit Accommodation (SPLAVC-A): Participate in subject/course related SOL- non-modified curriculum, test and score below 375; meet requirements stated in the Eligibility Criteria Request for Review; and follow local school division’s LAVC appeal process. |
| **Economics and Personal Finance**                | Economics and Personal Finance (6120) | Personal Living and Finances (3120) substitutes for Economics and Personal Finance (6120) (must have earned three standard credits in History/Social Sciences) |
| Courses Taught in Two Parts                       | One elective credit and one standard credit | Two standard credits for one sequence in a content area. ** |

*Credit accommodations may only be applied toward a Standard Diploma.

**Examples using mathematics: Algebra I Part 1 = 1 standard credit, Algebra I Part 2 = 1 standard credit; Geometry I Part 1 = 1 elective credit, Geometry I Part 2 = 1 standard credit; OR Algebra I = 1 standard credit; Geometry I Part 1 = 1 standard credit, Geometry I Part 2 = 1 standard credit

Rev 7/31/2019
The Special Permission Credit Accommodation for Locally Awarded Verified Credit was added to provide those students with disabilities who previously might have used the Virginia Substitute Evaluation Program (VSEP) with a pathway to earn the necessary locally awarded verified credits to obtain a **standard diploma**.
Process to Consider a Credit Accommodations for Students with IEPs

A student is struggling with course content and requires significant support. The student’s IEP/504 Plan has a standards-based goal for this content area.

IEP/504 Team meets and determines student is eligible for a credit accommodation in the content area. The team completes the eligibility form and a copy is placed in the student’s Scholastic Record.

As a result of eligibility, the student can now earn a verified credit if they test twice, fail both SOL tests and score between 375-399 OR the student can earn a retake if they test once and fail with a score between 350-374 OR they can pursue an alternate test OR they can take the next course in 2 parts.
VDOE CREDIT ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/credit_accommodations.shtml
Planning Together

- Make an appointment with your child’s counselor and case manager
- Utilize Transition Teachers at each high school
- Ask for Academic and Career Plan, if you have not seen it
- Ask about plans for each year
- Ask about course selection options each year
- Ask about credit accommodations
**Profile of a Virginia Graduate**

In Virginia, the Life Ready Individual:

**CONCEPTual KNOWLEDGE**
- Attains and is able to use the knowledge and skills described in the Standards of Learning for core instruction areas (English, math, science, and history/social science), the arts, personal wellness, languages, and Career and Technical education programs.
- Attains and demonstrates the knowledge and skills necessary to transition to and achieve in a global society and be prepared for life beyond high school graduation.
- Explores multiple subject areas that reflect personal interests and abilities.

**WORKPLACE SKILLS**
- Attains and demonstrates productive work ethic, professionalism, and personal responsibility.
- Communicates effectively in a variety of ways, and to a variety of audiences, to interact with individuals and within groups.
- Demonstrates workplace skills including collaboration, communication, creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, and responsible citizenship.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & Civic RESPONSIBILITY**
- Makes connections and is involved in the community through civic opportunities.
- Demonstrates integrity, maintains personal health and wellness, and shows respect for others.
- Shows respect for diversity of individuals, groups, and cultures in words and actions.
- Understands and demonstrates citizenship by participating in community and government decision-making.

**CAREER EXPLORATION**
- Understands knowledge, skills, and abilities sought by employers for career opportunities.
- Aligns knowledge, skills, and abilities with personal interests to identify career opportunities.
- Sets goals for career, school and life and has knowledge of a variety of pathways, course work, and/or requirements to achieve goals.
- Develops skills to align to current workplace needs, and that adapt to evolving job opportunities.
- Applies skills and knowledge by participating in workplace experiences.

**Critical Thinking, Creative Thinking, Collaboration, Communication, and Citizenship**
Profile of a Virginia Graduate

In Virginia, the Life Ready Individual Will, During His or Her K-12 Educational Experience:

- Achieve and apply appropriate academic and technical knowledge
- Attain and demonstrate productive workplace skills, qualities, and behaviors
- Align knowledge, skills, and personal interests with career opportunities
- Build connections and value for interactions with diverse communities

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE

CAREER EXPLORATION

WORKPLACE SKILLS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY
DISCUSSION