

# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

## ADVANCED DIPLOMA

Discipline Area	Standard Credits Effective with Ninth Grade Classes of 2003–2004 through 2010–2011++	Standard Credits Revised Advanced Studies Diploma Effective with the Ninth Grade Class of 2011–2012 and beyond++	Advanced Technical Diploma 2011–2012 and beyond++	Verified Credits
English	4	4	4	2
History and Social Sciences	4	4	4	2
Mathematics	4	4	4	2
Laboratory Science	4	4	4	2
Health and Physical Education	2	2	2	
Fine Arts or Career & Technical Education (CTE)	1	1	1	
CTE			3	
World Languages	3	3	3	
Fundamentals of Human Growth and Development #	1 #	1 #	1 #	
Economics and Personal Finance		1 ***	1 ***	
Electives	1	2		
Student Selected Tests				1
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>9</b>

Note: Requirements for a student to earn a diploma from a Virginia high school shall be those in effect when that student enters the 9th grade for the first time.

++ Advanced Studies Diplomas – one credit must be earned in an Advanced Placement or Dual Enrollment course.

\*\*\* Students who enter ninth grade in the 2011-2012 academic year and beyond must earn one full credit in an Economics and Personal Finance Course.

# To opt out of this requirement, follow the directions on pages 10-13.

## EXPLANATIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

### 1. DISCIPLINES AND COURSES.

#### English –

English 9, honors or standard  
 English 10, honors or standard  
 English 11, honors or standard, Advanced Placement (AP) English Language and Dual Enrollment (DE) College Composition  
 English 12, AP English Literature and Composition, DE College Composition or DE Survey of World Literatures

**Mathematics** – At or above the level of algebra, credits shall include at least three course selections from among Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or above Algebra II. Students in grades 7 and 8 who take Algebra and Geometry during middle school will earn a high school credit for each subject.

**Laboratory Science** – Four credits must be earned from among three different science disciplines: earth science, biology, chemistry, or physics. *Students who enroll in AP science courses must co-enroll in and complete the appropriate AP Science Lab Seminar. When planning course selections, students must count two full periods for each AP science course. The AP course earns science credit and the AP Science Lab Seminar earns elective credit.*

#### Social Sciences –

World History and Geography, Part I, standard or honors  
 World History and Geography, Part II, standard or honors, or Advanced Placement World History  
 Virginia and United States History, standard, AP, or DE  
 Virginia and United States Government, standard or AP

**World Languages** – Three years of one language or two years each of two languages.

Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 who successfully complete both IA and IB and year two of a world language will earn two high school credits.

**Electives** – Academics, Fine Arts, and Career and Technical Education courses.

2. **DIPLOMA SEALS** – Refer to “Diploma Seals” on page 31.

3. **VERIFIED CREDITS** – To earn verified credits, students must pass Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) end-of-course tests in certain subjects, in addition to two end-of-program English tests administered in Grade 11. Students must pass the course and the corresponding SOL test(s) to be awarded verified credit. (Refer to “Standards of Learning, End-of-Course Tests, and Verified Credits” on page 33.)

4. **CERTIFICATE OF PROGRAM COMPLETION** – Students who successfully complete all academic coursework required for the Advanced Studies Diploma, but who have not earned/been awarded the necessary number of verified credits required by the state for the awarding of a diploma, will be awarded a Certificate of Program Completion. These students may continue to take the SOL tests needed to upgrade their Certificate of Program Completion to a diploma.

5. **NOTE** – Each middle and high school student shall take ALL applicable SOL, AP and CTE tests following course instruction.

6. **NOTE** – Grades earned in Algebra, Geometry, and/or world language during middle school will be used to calculate the high school grade point average (GPA) unless the parents exercises the option to omit the grades and credits from the high school transcript. When these high school courses are omitted from the student’s transcript, all graduation requirements must be met. For example, omitting Algebra I in middle school will require the student to earn three or four standard and verified credits of high school mathematics to meet graduation requirements.

# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

## STANDARD DIPLOMA

Discipline Area	Standard Credits Effective with Ninth Grade Classes of 2003–2004 through 2010–2011	Standard Credits Revised Standard Diploma Effective with the Ninth Grade Class of 2011–2012 and beyond	Standard Technical Diploma 2011–2012 and beyond	Verified Credits
English	4	4	4	2
History and Social Sciences	4	4	4	1
Mathematics	3	3	3	1
Laboratory Science	3	3	3	1
Health and Physical Education	2	2	2	
Fine Arts or Career & Technical Education (CTE)	1			
World Languages, Fine Arts, or CTE		2		
World Languages or Fine Arts			1	
CTE			4	
Fundamentals of Human Growth and Development #	1 #	1 #	1 #	
Economics and Personal Finance		1 ***	1 ***	
Electives **	4 **	2	1	
Student Selected Tests				1
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>

Note: Requirements for a student to earn a diploma from a Virginia high school shall be those in effect when that student enters the 9th grade for the first time.

\*\* Courses to satisfy the electives requirement shall include at least two sequential electives.

\*\*\* Students who enter ninth grade in the 2011-2012 academic year and beyond must earn one full credit in an Economics and Personal Finance Course.

# To opt out of this requirement, follow the directions on pages 10-13.

## EXPLANATIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

### 1. DISCIPLINES AND COURSES.

#### English –

English 9, honors or standard  
 English 10, honors or standard  
 English 11, honors or standard, Advanced Placement (AP) English Language and Dual Enrollment (DE) College Composition  
 English 12, AP English Literature and Composition, DE College Composition or DE Survey of World Literatures

**Mathematics** – At or above the level of algebra, credits shall include at least three course selections from among Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra Functions and Data Analysis, Algebra II, or above Algebra II. Students in grades 7 and 8 who take Algebra and Geometry during middle school will earn a high school credit for each subject.

**Laboratory Science** – Three credits must be earned from at least two different science disciplines: earth science, biology, chemistry, or physics, for the Standard Diploma and three different disciplines for the Standard Technical Diploma.

#### Social Sciences –

World History and Geography, Part I, standard or honors  
 World History and Geography, Part II, standard or honors, or Advanced Placement World History  
 Virginia and United States History, standard, AP, or DE  
 Virginia and United States Government, standard or AP

**World Languages** – Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 who successfully complete both IA and IB and year two of a world language will earn two high school credits.

**Electives** – Academics, Fine Arts, and Career and Technical Education. (See “Sequential Electives and the Standard Diploma” on page 33.)

**2. DIPLOMA SEALS** – Refer to “Diploma Seals” on page 31.

**3. VERIFIED CREDITS** – To earn verified credits, students must pass Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) end-of-course tests in certain subjects, in addition to two end-of-program English tests administered in Grade 11. Students must pass the course and the corresponding SOL test(s) to be awarded verified credit. (Refer to “Standards of Learning, End-of-Course Tests, and Verified Credits” on page 33.)

**4. CERTIFICATE OF PROGRAM COMPLETION** – Students who successfully complete all academic coursework required for the Standard Diploma, but who have not earned/ been awarded the necessary number of verified credits required by the state for the awarding of a diploma, will be awarded a Certificate of Program Completion. These students may continue to take the SOL tests needed to upgrade their Certificate of Program Completion to a diploma.

**5. NOTE** – Each middle and high school student shall take ALL applicable SOL, AP and CTE tests following course instruction.

**6. NOTE** – Grades earned in Algebra, Geometry, and/or world language during middle school will be used to calculate the high school grade point average (GPA) unless the parents exercises the option to omit the grades and credits from the high school transcript. When these high school courses are omitted from the student's transcript, all graduation requirements must be met. For example, omitting Algebra I in middle school will require the student to earn three or four standard and verified credits of high school mathematics to meet graduation requirements.

# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

## MODIFIED STANDARD DIPLOMA (20 STANDARD CREDITS)

Discipline Area	Standard Credits Required
English	4
Mathematics	3
Science Laboratory	2
History and Social Sciences	2
Health and Physical Education	2
Fine or Practical (Career and Technical) Arts	1
Electives	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>

Note: Requirements for a student to earn a diploma from a Virginia high school shall be those in effect when that student enters the 9th grade for the first time.

In addition to these credits, students must:

- pass the 8th grade English (Reading, Literature, and Research) Standards of Learning (SOL) test OR
- pass the 11th grade English (Reading, Literature, and Research) SOL test AND
- pass the 8th grade mathematics SOL test OR
- earn a verified credit in high school mathematics.

## EXPLANATIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

### 1. DISCIPLINES AND COURSES.

#### English –

English 9, honors or standard  
 English 10, honors or standard  
 English 11, honors or standard, Advanced Placement (AP) English Language and Dual Enrollment (DE) College Composition  
 English 12, AP English Literature and Composition, DE College Composition or DE Survey of World Literatures

**Mathematics** – From among applications of algebra, geometry, personal finance, and statistics. Students in grades 7 and 8 who take Algebra and Geometry during middle school will earn a high school credit for each subject.

**Science** – From at least two of the following: applications of earth science, biology, chemistry, or physics.

**Social Sciences** – To include one unit of credit in Virginia and United States History and one unit of credit in Virginia and United States Government.

**Fine or Practical Arts** – Includes Career and Technical Education courses.

**Electives (Academics, Fine Arts, and Career and Technical Education)** – Including at least two sequential electives.

- ### 2. NOTE
- Students pursuing the Modified Standard Diploma and choosing to take SOL courses are required to take the corresponding SOL test(s).

## SPECIAL DIPLOMA

The Special Diploma Program is intended for certain students at the secondary level who have a disability and who will not meet credit requirements for another type of diploma. Eligibility and participation in the Special Diploma program shall be determined by the student's IEP team and the student, when appropriate. The school must secure informed written consent of the parent and the student, when appropriate, to change this diploma program.

For more information, call the ACPS Office of Student Services at (703) 824-6650.