Graduation Course Requirements for Students Entering the Ninth Grade for the First Time in 2018-2019 and Beyond

Advanced Studies Diploma Requirements: Coursework & Verified Credits

Subject Areas	Course Credits	Verified Credits	Notes
English	4	2	Students are required to earn one verified credit in reading and one in writing.
Mathematics	4	1	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 Virginia Board of Education shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement. Per the Standards of Quality, certain computer science courses credit earned by students may be considered a mathematics course credit based on guidelines outlined by the Virginia Board of Education.
Laboratory Science	4	1	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 Virginia Board of Education shall approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement. Per the Standards of Quality, certain computer science courses credit earned by students may be considered a science course credit based on guidelines outlined by the Virginia Board of Education.
History & Social Sciences	4	1	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.
World Language	3	0	Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include three years of one language or two years of two languages.
Health & Physical Education	2	0	
Fine Arts or Career & Technical Education	1	0	Per the Standards of Quality, a computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a career and technical credit.

Economics & Personal Finance	1	0	
Electives	3	0	Courses to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two sequential electives as required by the Standards of Quality.
TOTAL	**26**	**5**	

Advanced Studies: Additional Requirements for Graduation

• **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.
• **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 Requirements: Coursework & Verified Credits

Subject Areas	Course Credits	Verified Credits	Notes
English	4	2	Students are required to earn one verified credit in reading and one in writing.
Mathematics	3	1	Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two different course selections from among: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra Functions, and Data Analysis, Algebra II, or other mathematics courses approved by the Virginia Board of Education to satisfy this requirement. Per the Standards of Quality, a computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a mathematics course credit.

Laboratory Science*	3	1	Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include course selection from at least two different science disciplines: 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 Virginia Board of Education shall approve 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 *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.
History & Social Sciences*	3	1	Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include Virginia and U.S. history, Virginia and U.S. government, and one course in either world history or geography or both. The Virginia Board of Education shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement. *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.
Health & Physical Education	2	0	

Fine Arts or Career & Technical Education	1	0	Per the Standards of Quality, 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 credit.
Economics & Personal Finance	1	0	
Electives	4	0	Courses to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two sequential electives as required by the Standards of Quality.
TOTAL	**22**	**5**	

Additional Requirements for Graduation

- **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.
- **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.