

COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING

ACPS provides for the early identification and enrollment of students in a program with a range of educational and academic experiences related to college and career readiness in and outside the classroom, including an emphasis on experiences that will support students from traditionally marginalized populations in preparing for a career or postsecondary education.

Alexandria City High School and each ACPS elementary and middle school provides for the identification by all students of personal interests and abilities to support planning for postsecondary opportunities and career preparation. Such support includes provision of information concerning exploration of career cluster areas in elementary schools, and course information and planning for college preparation programs, opportunities for educational and academic experiences in and outside the classroom, including internships and work-based learning, and the multiple pathways to college and career readiness in middle and high school.

Beginning in the elementary school years, students explore the different occupations associated with career clusters and select an area or areas of interest. Students begin the development of an Academic and Career Plan Portfolio (ACPP) in elementary grades to include information about interests, values such as dependability and responsibility, and skills supporting decisions about their future interests and goals. The information contained in the ACPP serves as the foundation for creating the Academic and Career Plan (ACP) during middle school.

In middle school, students complete a career interest inventory and select a career pathway. To support development of the ACP, students complete at least one course in career investigation selected from the Career and Technical Education (CTE) state-approved list, or an ACPS-provided alternative means of delivering the career investigation course content, provided that the alternative is equivalent in content and academic rigor.

The School Board may require additional components focused on college and career readiness as it deems appropriate. Additional course requirements at the high school level would be subject to approval by the Virginia Board of Education (VBOE).

All schools continue development of a personal ACP during middle school with completion during the student's eight grade year. The components of the ACP include the student's program of study for high school graduation and a postsecondary career pathway based on the student's academic and career interests. During annual reviews in high school, a career-related learning experience is chosen by the student and documented in the ACP.

The ACP is developed in accordance with guidelines established by VBOE and reviewed by parents/guardians and a school administrator or designee. The ACP is included in the student's record and is reviewed and updated annually.

Lists, as compiled annually by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and provided to the School Board, of 1) the top 100 professions in Virginia by median pay and the education, training and skills required for each such profession and 2) the top 10 degree programs at

institutions of higher education in Virginia by median pay of program graduates are provided as part of the ACP process.

Beginning in middle school, students are counseled on opportunities for beginning postsecondary education and opportunities for obtaining industry certifications, occupational competency credentials, or professional licenses in a CTE field prior to high school graduation, as described in Policy LEB: *Advanced/Alternative Courses for Credit*. Such opportunities include access to at least three Advanced Placement (AP) or college-level courses for degree credit pursuant to 8 VAC 20-131-100. Students taking advantage of such opportunities are not denied participation in school activities for which they are otherwise eligible. Wherever possible, students are encouraged and afforded opportunities to take college courses simultaneously for high school graduation and college degree credit (dual enrollment), under the following conditions:

- a. Written approval of the high school principal prior to participation in dual enrollment (DE) must be obtained;
- b. The college must accept the student for admission to the course or courses; and
- c. The course or courses must be given by the college for degree credits (no remedial courses will be accepted).

Adopted: December 16, 2021

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-253.13:1, 22.1-253.13:3.

8 VAC 20-131-100.

8 VAC 20-131-140.

Guidelines for Academic and Career Plans (Adopted by the Virginia Board of Education Sept 17, 2009).

Cross Refs.:	IGAD	Career and Technical Education
	IJ	Guidance and Counseling Program
	JO	Student Records
	LEB	Advanced/Alternative Courses for Credit