



# GRADUATION FROM VERITAS ACADEMY

~ CLASS OF 2025 AND FORWARD ~

## DIPLOMA PLANS & GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To earn a diploma from Veritas Academy, a student must successfully complete all requirements listed below. Credit will be awarded only for courses passed with a grade of 70% or higher. Restrictions apply to credits earned outside of Veritas.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION	VERITAS DISTINGUISHED DIPLOMA	VERITAS DIPLOMA	VERITAS CLASSICAL CORE DIPLOMA
♦ ENGLISH	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits
♦ HISTORY/GOVERNMENT	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits
♦ MATHEMATICS <i>(must include Algebra I, Geometry &amp; Algebra II)</i>	4 credits	4 credits	3 credits
♦ SCIENCE <i>(must include Biology, Chemistry &amp; one physical lab science)</i>	4 credits	4 credits	3 credits
♦ FOREIGN LANGUAGE <i>(3 or more years of the same language; Latin I also required)</i>	3-4 credits <i>(3 consecutive years of a language and one year of Latin)</i>	3-4 credits <i>(3 consecutive years of a language and one year of Latin)</i>	2-3 credits <i>(2 consecutive years of a language and one year of Latin)</i>
♦ LEADERSHIP <i>(0.5 credit per year for 4 years)</i>	2 credits	2 credits	2 credits
♦ ELECTIVES			
• P.E. or ATHLETICS	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit
• FINE ARTS	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit
• GENERAL ELECTIVES <i>(excludes Athletics; may include an additional core course)</i>	1 credit	1 credit	2 credits
♦ ADDITIONAL VERITAS REQUIREMENTS	- Speech (0.5 credit) - Formal Logic (0.5 credit) - Senior Thesis (1.0 credit)  <u>Thesis options:</u> □ Honors Thesis (memorized) □ XRT Thesis  <u>Distinguished must also include:</u> ★ 3 Weighted Courses ★ Weighted GPA of 3.5+ ★ Cumulative Leadership GPA of 3.5+ ★ Completed Honors Thesis	- Speech (0.5 credit) - Formal Logic (0.5 credit) - Senior Thesis (1.0 credit)  <u>Thesis options:</u> □ Honors Senior Thesis (memorized) □ Senior Thesis □ XRT Thesis	- Speech (0.5 credit) - Formal Logic (0.5 credit) - Senior Thesis (1.0 credit)  <u>Thesis options:</u> □ Honors Senior Thesis (memorized) □ Senior Thesis □ XRT Thesis
<b>Total Credits Required</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>

## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

A minimum of at least 70 hours of unpaid community service with a non-profit organization must be completed and submitted to College Advising after completion of 8<sup>th</sup> grade and before April of the student's senior year. Forms are available from College Advising. Hours may be completed during the summer months. At least 35 of these hours must be completed in and around the Austin area. Students who enroll later than the summer before 9<sup>th</sup> grade will have the required number of service hours reduced, depending on the grade level of enrollment. (see *Residency Requirements on page 6*)

## SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

In addition to earning a diploma from Veritas Academy, students may earn special recognition from the faculty and administration. Students may be given cords or other regalia to wear during the Commencement Ceremony to recognize these honors:

<p><b>VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN</b></p>	<p>The Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be selected from among the Veritas Distinguished Diploma scholars on the basis of cumulative weighted GPA (both with and without sports and electives), the number of weighted courses completed and the total number of credits completed. In order to be considered, students must have completed at least 20 credits of coursework at Veritas Academy. (See the Valedictorian and Salutatorian section near the end of this document for additional details.)</p>
<p><b>LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION</b></p>	<p>For Leadership Recognition, a student must meet all Graduation Requirements and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Perform over 150 hours of unpaid community service.</li> <li>◆ Serve in at least two leadership positions at Veritas (e.g., Student Ambassador, Team Captain, Club President, House Prefect or Reliquarian) at least one year each (or serve in the same position for at least two years) while in the School of Rhetoric; and</li> <li>◆ Achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher in the Leadership Course Track.</li> </ul>
<p><b>HUMANITIES RECOGNITION</b></p>	<p>For Humanities Recognition, a student must meet all Graduation Requirements and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Earn a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher in all Humanities courses, including 2 or more weighted Humanities courses, and at least one Humanities elective or advancement to the Senior Thesis Final Forum.</li> </ul>
<p><b>MATH RECOGNITION</b></p>	<p>For Math Recognition, a student must meet all Graduation Requirements and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Earn a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher in all Mathematics courses, including at least two weighted Math courses, and</li> <li>◆ Adequately prepare for and participate in an approved Math competition or successfully complete at least one Math elective. Approval for Math competition is done by the Math department head.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SCIENCE RECOGNITION</b></p>	<p>For Science Recognition, a student must meet all Graduation Requirements and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Earn a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher in all Science courses, including at least one weighted Science course; and</li> <li>◆ Participate and earn at least a 3.3 in Independent Science Research (ISR).</li> </ul>
<p><b>FOREIGN LANGUAGE RECOGNITION</b></p>	<p>For Foreign Language Recognition, a student must meet all Graduation Requirements and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Earn a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher in all Foreign Language courses, including at least one level IV foreign language course or one (1.0) more credit of additional core foreign language or foreign language electives.</li> </ul>

<b>FINE ARTS RECOGNITION</b>	<p>For Fine Arts Recognition, a student must meet all Graduation Requirements and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Earn a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher in all Fine Arts courses, with a minimum of at least 2 Fine Arts credits; and</li> <li>◆ Complete a Fine Arts Capstone project in the Junior or Senior year under the guidance of the Fine Arts Department. (Capstone projects may include qualifying for state level competition in speech or theater; senior art show; student direction of school production; etc.)</li> </ul>
<b>LIBERAL ARTS RECOGNITION</b>	<p>For Liberal Arts Recognition, a student must meet all Graduation Requirements and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Earn 4 or more credits of electives (courses other than additional cores or athletics)</li> <li>◆ Earn a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher in all elective courses</li> </ul>
<b>ATHLETICS RECOGNITION</b>	<p>For Athletics Recognition, a student must meet all Graduation Requirements and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Participate in nine athletic seasons with at least one All-State recognition; or</li> <li>◆ Letter in five sports with at least four All-State recognitions.</li> </ul>

## GRADE POINT AVERAGES (GPA)

FINAL COURSE GRADE	LETTER GRADE	POINTS FOR GPA (NON-WEIGHTED COURSE)	POINTS FOR GPA (WEIGHTED COURSE)
93 – 100%	A	4.0	5.0
90 – 92	A-	3.7	4.7
87 – 89	B+	3.3	4.3
83 – 86	B	3.0	4.0
80 – 82	B-	2.7	3.7
77 – 79	C+	2.3	3.3
73 – 76	C	2.0	3.0
70 – 72	C-	1.7	2.7
67 – 69	D+	1.3	2.3
63 – 66	D	1.0	2.0
60 – 62	D-	0.7	1.7
< 60%	F	0.0	0.0

A student's GPA will begin to accumulate on the official transcript in 9th grade and will include only year-end grades for Veritas coursework taken in grades 9-12.

The Veritas grading scale is presented in the table to the left.

*Students will not earn course credit for any grades below 70%; however, they will earn some GPA points for course grades between 60% and 70%.*

## WEIGHTED GPA

Veritas will show both weighted and unweighted GPAs on the official transcript. The weighted GPA (GPA +1.0 added to each weighted course) will be calculated using year-end grades from specified courses within the core curricular areas. Courses earning a weighted GPA include:

Honors English 11	AP Spanish IV	Honors PreCalculus	AP Physics I / AP Physics II
AP US History 11	AP Latin IV	AP Calculus	Honors Spanish Lit & Poetics
Honors Senior Humanities Seminar		AP Statistics	Honors Molecular Biology
AP Computer Science		Honors Latin V	Honors ASL IV

For transfer students, only AP courses and upper-level weighted courses that are also offered at Veritas Academy may be transferred as a weighted course on the Veritas transcript. Weighting of AP transfer credits requires an official AP Exam score of 3,4, or 5 to be submitted with the final transcript.

## DUAL CREDIT COURSES

Dual Credit Courses require separate registration by the student with the participating University for the dual credit course(s). Veritas Academy is not responsible for verifying dual credit transfers. Only pre-approved partnership dual credit courses will be added to the Veritas Academy transcript and counted toward graduation requirements. Dual credit courses will not be noted as *dual credit* on the Veritas Academy transcript. A transcript from the awarding college for dual credit should be submitted separately from the Veritas Academy transcript for college applications.

## COLLEGE ADVISING

Students who are enrolled and pursuing a diploma at Veritas are eligible to receive full college advising services from the academy's College Advisors. These services include access to relevant assessments in career interests, aptitudes, intelligences and personality, and individualized advising on topics including standardized testing, course planning, college research, and step-by-step support through the college application process.

Veritas Academy uses Scoir in the college planning process. This web-based tool will be used by the advising office to facilitate student self-assessments, career research, college research as well as providing electronic document tracking and institutional data collection in the college application process. Upon entering the School of Rhetoric, all students and parents will receive a Scoir account and be trained on the software in stages as the student progresses towards his/her senior year.

A student withdrawing (not graduating) from Veritas Academy, specifically those in grades 9-12, will **no longer** receive the following services:

- **SCOIR** - The student will be *deactivated* from SCOIR, the College Admissions Network, in relation to Veritas Academy. This means access to any documents, applications or reference letters that were uploaded to SCOIR during the student's time at Veritas Academy are no longer accessible.
- The student will no longer receive college application assistance or any advising services from the Veritas Academy College & Academic Advising Department. Once a student withdraws from Veritas Academy, the final step of this department is to provide an official Veritas transcript to the student and, if needed, several sealed transcripts for the student to send to colleges in the future.
- Veritas Academy teachers are under no obligation to write recommendation letters for withdrawn students. Their first priority is to write letters for *enrolled* Veritas students.

## GRADE DISPUTES

Grades will be made available shortly after the end of each semester. Students have one week after grades are released at the end of each semester to initiate a grade dispute with their teachers. These deadlines are not flexible. Grade disputes must be made in writing via email directly to the teacher (with the registrar copied) and must be dated within the deadlines given above. These deadlines include final grades that were lowered due to excessive absences. Grades from past semesters are not open to dispute.

## ADDING A COURSE MID-YEAR

For a course to be added to a student's schedule, the course add date must fall on or before the two (2) week mark of the first day of class for year-long courses, the one (1) week mark of the first day of class for one semester courses. Students are not allowed to attend the class until approval has been granted by the course teacher, the department head, the school head and the student's college advisor. The Registrar will notify the student and family once these approvals have been finalized. The coursework necessary for the student to "catch up" in the class will be at the teacher's discretion.

## WITHDRAWING FROM COURSES MID-YEAR

For a course to be dropped from a student's *transcript*, the course drop date must fall on or before the six (6) week mark of the first day of class for year-long courses or the two (2) week mark of the first day of class for one semester courses.

If a student withdraws from a course after the course has started (6 weeks + one day for year-long courses; 2 weeks + one day for one semester courses), the official transcript will show the withdrawal as follows:

- ◆ For a withdrawal while passing, the transcript will reflect a "WP" and will show zero credits earned for the course with no effect on the cumulative GPA.
- ◆ For a withdrawal while failing, the transcript will reflect a "WF" and will show zero credits earned for the course; however, the student's cumulative GPA will be adversely affected as the course hours are counted but zero grade points are earned for those hours. The process of withdrawing from a credit-bearing course for any reason begins with the Registrar and requires Administrator approval.

## CREDIT RECOVERY

Credit recovery is an alternative to course repetition for students who have failed a core course. Typically completed online during the summer, credit recovery involves the student registering for the approved online course and first taking a preliminary online exam to determine which concepts from the course were not mastered. Any failed units or concepts are then taught and graded in the online credit recovery course.

Credit recovery is available **by Administrator approval only** to students who failed to pass a credit-bearing course taken at Veritas but earned a final grade in the course of greater than 59.9%. Students with a final grade lower than 60% are not eligible for credit recovery. Credit recovery eligibility is determined by the Head of SR as well as the Registrar, Academic Dean and Academic Advisors. This team will evaluate the student's year-long test grades, attendance records as well as attendance at teacher office hours and mandatory study hall for extra assistance. The parent-school partnership will also be considered. All of this data will be used to determine if a student will be allowed to recover the credit. Students who fail *both* semesters **or** one semester *and* the final exam are **not** eligible for credit recovery and must repeat the course the following school year. Students who fail a course only because of a failed final exam, but passed both semesters, *may* be eligible to complete ten (10) hours of approved tutoring and then retake the (revised) final exam. If the final exam is failed a second time, the student must repeat the course the following year. Students are only allowed one credit recovery per core subject.

The options for recovery will be presented to students and their parent(s) after final grades are calculated. Any credit recovery option must be completed by August 15th, unless otherwise approved by the Registrar. It is highly unlikely that a student is allowed more than one credit recovery in a core subject and/or more than two total credit recoveries. However, the final decision for each credit recovery is up to the Head of SR as well as the Academic Dean and Academic Advisors.

If a student successfully completes the credit recovery process, a new passing grade of 70 will replace the first attempt on the transcript and in the GPA calculations but will be designated with a "CR" indicating that the student has recovered the course credit. For students who elect to **repeat** the course at Veritas Academy, or through another provider with prior approval, their new course and grade will be listed on the transcript designated with an "R." The first attempt will remain on the transcript. Students who have a "CR" or "R" are not eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian honors.

## OUTSIDE CREDIT FOR ACADEMIC COURSEWORK

While enrolled at Veritas Academy, a student may have no more than two credits from accredited entities outside of the academy counted as credits toward meeting the Graduation Requirements, and only in the following circumstances: (1) the student needs a specific course that is unavailable at Veritas, or (2) the student is unable to fit a course required for graduation into his/her schedule at Veritas. Accredited courses/entities must be approved by Veritas prior to its consideration of the

coursework. Transfer students will have previously-earned credits evaluated by the Registrar and Academic Dean and be given a list of their approved transfer courses to count for Veritas graduation requirements. A transfer student who has already started a foreign language not offered at Veritas may continue that language in order to complete foreign language graduation requirements. The outside course must be equivalent in rigor, content and/or worldview to a Veritas course, as determined solely by a Veritas administrator and his/her designees.

All high school outside credit requests must be accompanied by the *Outside Course Credit Request* form in writing and must be pre-approved before registering for the coursework. Requests for forms should be made to the Veritas Registrar. Directions for providing supporting documentation will be given at that time. Before an approved outside credit will appear on the official Veritas transcript, students will be required to provide proof of a passing score of 70% or better and to pass the Veritas proficiency test where applicable. Parameters for acceptance of outside credit will be established during the pre-approval process.

## **OUTSIDE CREDIT FOR THE P.E. GRADUATION REQUIREMENT**

No more than 1.0 credits of outside Physical Education (“P.E.”) or sports participation in an activity not offered at Veritas Academy may be considered with prior approval. These requests must be accompanied by the *Outside Course Credit Request* form in writing and must be pre-approved prior to the start of the school year or affected semester. Requests for forms should be made to the Veritas Registrar. As part of the credit request process, **the student must log a minimum of 33 hours per semester of instructional and participation hours in that activity.** Travel to and from the site, set up of equipment, and “dressing out” for the activity may not be included in the hours. The student is responsible for submitting a completed log signed by the instructor/coach, along with the instructor’s/coach’s comments and final summary, to the Veritas Registrar by May 5th. Seniors must have their paperwork in by April 30th. These deadlines are not flexible. Credit will not be issued until the required documentation is submitted to the Registrar for final approval.

## **OUTSIDE CREDIT FOR THE FINE ARTS GRADUATION REQUIREMENT**

The Fine Arts graduation requirement and Fine Arts Recognition requirements must be met with Veritas coursework only. While students are encouraged to continue extracurricular activities, this coursework will not be counted for Veritas credit.

## **CREDITS FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS**

Courses taken by a student transferring to Veritas will be considered for Veritas credit once the student has passed, within the first year of enrollment at Veritas, the next course within the sequence for that subject. An official transcript from the previous school is required to award any credit. Veritas Academy reserves the right to make exceptions and substitutions at its own discretion.

Transfer students must meet the following requirements in order to earn a diploma at Veritas Academy.

\* **Those transferring in 10th grade** - Must complete eighteen credits at Veritas Academy.

\* **Those transferring in 11th grade** - Must complete twelve credits at Veritas Academy. May waive the Classical Language graduation requirement with approval. Must complete a minimum of 40 unpaid service hours.

\* **Those transferring in 12th grade** - Must complete six credits at Veritas Academy and complete the senior thesis requirement. May waive the Logic and Classical Language graduation requirement with approval. Must complete a minimum of 40 unpaid service hours.

## EXEMPTION FROM FINAL EXAMS

Seniors who successfully complete a passing final Thesis draft and deliver an Honors (memorized) Senior Thesis are exempted from all final exams, except for dual credit courses.

Students earning an average grade of 80% or higher in an AP course and who take the AP exam will be exempt from taking the final exam in that course.

Students who earn less than 80% in an AP course will be required to take the final exam whether they sit for the AP exam or not, unless they are exempted by some other means.

ALL students taking a dual credit course, whether exempt from finals or not, will need to take the final course exam per dual credit policy. Dual credit courses require a final exam as part of the college credit.

## CLASS RANKING FOR SENIOR YEAR

Veritas Academy does not rank our students. However, for the purpose of top 5-10 percent for college applications, the student cumulative GPA is calculated at the end of junior year, generating a ranked list of the upcoming seniors. The top 5-10 percent ranking will be noted on those students' transcripts and may include the student's numerical position in that ranked list. Students must have completed a minimum of 20 credit hours at Veritas Academy to be considered for the top 5-10 percent ranking. A student entering Veritas Academy as an 11th grader has the option of appealing to an academic committee to be considered for the top 10 percent ranking.

## VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

The Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be selected from among the Veritas Distinguished Diploma scholars on the basis of cumulative weighted GPA (both with and without sports and electives), the number of weighted courses completed and the total number of credits completed. (See the Valedictorian and Salutatorian Recognition on page 2 for additional details.)

For transfer students, the lower of their Veritas GPA or a recalculated GPA to include transferred credits from 9<sup>th</sup> grade and above using the Veritas grading scale will be used. In the event that a transfer student earns the Valedictorian or Salutatorian honor, an adjustment will then be made to the GPA of the next highest ranking student from among those possessing 26 or more credits earned at Veritas in order to determine if that student will join the transfer student in sharing the award. The adjustment is as follows: the student's *oldest* Veritas credits will be dropped until the student has an equivalent number of Veritas credits as the transfer student in order to allow for an apples-to-apples comparison of academic achievement in Veritas coursework. Should the resulting GPA match or exceed the transfer student's Veritas GPA, then the student with the adjusted GPA will share the award with the transfer student.

## COMMENCEMENT

To participate in the annual commencement ceremony in May, a currently enrolled and attending Senior must have met the requirements for Veritas graduation. A *Senior* is defined as a student who is enrolled in the following senior-level courses: English 12 & Government & Economics or the Senior Humanities Seminar, Senior Thesis and Senior Leadership.

With the approval of Veritas Administration, an exception to participation may be made for a senior who has not completed a required course(s) due to extenuating or medical circumstances and will be recovering that credit or finishing the course following Commencement. The student in this scenario will receive a blank folder at the graduation ceremony, with the diploma and final transcript given to the student after successful completion of all graduation requirements. Students will have one calendar year from the original date of graduation to finish incomplete graduation requirements.

Only regalia earned at and representing Veritas Academy may be worn during the commencement ceremony.

~ The student and his/her parents must annually acknowledge receipt of these Graduation Requirements by completing the digital signature page [here](https://tinyurl.com/y6jmje8). <https://tinyurl.com/y6jmje8> ~