

ADVANCED STUDIES DIPLOMA

24 CREDIT DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

The requirements for a student to earn a diploma shall be those in effect when the student enters the ninth grade for the first time.

To graduate from high school, students shall meet the minimum requirements for the advanced studies diploma as outlined below which include 24 credits, 9 of which must be verified credits. A **standard** credit is earned when a student passes a course. A **verified** credit is earned when a student passes a course and the associated end-of-course SOL test. In some cases, students may utilize substitute tests or certifications to earn verified credits. State guidelines prescribe the number of verified credits required for graduation for students entering a Virginia public high school for the first time during tenth grade or after. Consult your school counselor for specific information.

Students in grades 7-12 receive credit toward graduation for high school courses taken in middle school. These courses count toward credits in the required sequences as well as toward the total number of credits required for graduation and calculation of the grade point average (GPA). **Middle school parents may request that grades for any high school credit-bearing course taken in the middle school be removed from the student's high school transcript, and therefore the student will not earn high school credit for the course.** In addition, the student will not be eligible for a verified credit in any course which has been removed from the transcript. **The request to remove a course from the transcript must be made in writing to the middle or high school the student will attend prior to the beginning of the next school year.**

Advanced Studies Diploma: 24 Units of Credit

Advanced Studies Diploma Course Requirements (8VAC 20-131-50.C)		
Subject Area	Standard Credits	Verified Credits
English	4	2
Mathematics ¹	4	2
Laboratory Science ²	4	2
History and Social Science ³	4	2
Foreign Languages ⁴	3	
Health and Physical Education	2	
Fine Arts or Career and Technical Ed	1	
Electives	2	
Student Selected Test ⁵		1
Total Credits	24	9: 2 English; 2 mathematics; 2 science; 2 history/social science; 1 student selected

¹ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall be at or above the level of algebra and 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 may approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.

² 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 may approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.

³ 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 may approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.

⁴ Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include three years of one language or two years of two languages.

⁵ A student may utilize additional tests for earning verified credit in computer science, technology, career or technical education or other areas as prescribed by the Board in 8 VAC 20-131-110.