

Board of Education Approved Courses to Satisfy Graduation Requirements for the Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas in Virginia Public Schools

Revised August 2024

Background Information

Sections [8VAC 20-131-50](#) and [8VAC 20-131-51](#) of *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* ([8VAC 20-131-10](#) et. seq.) (Standards of Accreditation or SOA) set forth the requirements for awarding diplomas in Virginia. Those requirements specify which level of courses and/or subject area disciplines students must complete to earn either a standard or a verified unit of credit in the areas of mathematics, laboratory science, and history and social science.

Further, the requirements identify the credit requirements in other content disciplines. The regulations also specify that the Board shall approve courses (other than those specifically named in the standards) to satisfy the requirements in those areas.

In February 1998, the Virginia Board of Education approved certain courses that would satisfy the mathematics, science, and history and social science course requirements for the Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas. Subsequent to that time, additional courses have been approved as additions to or removed from the original list.

The Board's 2017 revisions to the Standards of Accreditation, as implemented in the 2018-2019 school year, aligned new graduation requirements with the Profile of a Virginia Graduate. The Profile of a Virginia Graduate comprises the course and credit requirements students must meet to earn a Standard Diploma or Advanced Studies Diploma and the skills, experiences, and attributes essential for success in college and the workforce. Students meeting the Profile of a Virginia Graduate achieve the Commonwealth's high academic standards and graduate from high school with workplace skills, an understanding of their responsibilities as citizens, and career plans aligned with their talents, interests, and experiences.

The following tables contain a list of the courses to satisfy graduation requirements for the Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

Courses from this list must be selected to satisfy the content level requirements prescribed in 8VAC 20-131-50 and 8VAC 20-131-51.

Courses in Mathematics

Course Title	SCED Code	Associated SOL Assessment(s)
Algebra I ¹	02052	Algebra I See Footnote #3

Course Title	SCED Code	Associated SOL Assessment(s)
Pre-IB Algebra I	02052-PreIB	Algebra I See Footnote #3
Geometry ¹	02072	Geometry
Pre-IB Geometry	02072-PreIB	Geometry
Computer Mathematics ²	02156	None
Algebra, Functions, and Data Analysis	02902	None
<u>Courses at or above the level of Algebra II</u>		
Algebra II	02056	Algebra II See Footnote #3
Algebra III/Advanced Mathematics	02057	None
Algebra I/Geometry/Algebra II, 3-yr. Sequence Course I	02062	See Footnote #3
Algebra I/Geometry/Algebra II, 3-yr. Sequence Course II	02063	See Footnote #3
Algebra I/Geometry/Algebra II, 3-yr. Sequence Course III	02064	See Footnote #3
Analytic Geometry	02073	None
Discrete Mathematics ⁵ (one-semester or two-semester course)	02102	None
Trigonometry (one-semester course)	02103	None

Course Title	SCED Code	Associated SOL Assessment(s)
Mathematical Analysis/Precalculus	02104	None
Algebra II and Trigonometry	02106	Algebra II See Footnote #3
Pre-IB Algebra II/Trigonometry	02106-PreIB	Algebra II See Footnote #3
Elementary Mathematics Functions	02109	None
Advanced Placement (AP) Precalculus ⁶	02114	None
Multivariate Calculus	02122	None
Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus AB	02124	None
Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus BC	02125	None
International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation	02139	None
International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches	02140	None
Probability and Statistics ⁵ (one-semester or two-semester course)	02201	None
Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics	02203	None
Geometry/Algebra II/Mathematical Analysis, 3-yr. Sequence Course I	02900-I	See Footnote #3

Course Title	SCED Code	Associated SOL Assessment(s)
Geometry/Algebra II/Mathematical Analysis, 3-yr. Sequence Course II	02900-II	See Footnote #3
Geometry/Algebra II/Mathematical Analysis, 3-yr. Sequence Course III	02900-III	See Footnote #3
Mathematics Capstone ⁴	02905	None
Data Science ⁵ (one-semester or two-semester course)	02911	None
Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science A	10157	None
International Baccalaureate (IB) Computer Science	10159	None

¹The Board of Education’s Guidelines on Credit Accommodations allow students with disabilities who are eligible for credit accommodations in mathematics to use each part of Algebra I, Parts I and II, and Geometry, Parts I and II, to earn a standard credit towards the three mathematics credits required for the Standard Diploma only. A student who chooses to earn standard credits by taking both Algebra I and Geometry in two parts must complete *both* parts of both courses to meet the minimum course requirements and would earn three standard credits in mathematics plus one additional elective credit. Two-part courses may also be combined with full-year courses in other Board-approved mathematics courses to meet the requirements.

²Computer Mathematics may be used in conjunction with Algebra I and Geometry to satisfy mathematics graduation requirements if the student also completes a career and technical concentration.

³Students will take the End-of-Course Mathematics Standards of Learning (SOL) assessment in Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II when the student has completed the associated SOL content as determined by the local school division. Assessments will be administered when needed to meet verified credit diploma requirements or to satisfy federal testing requirements.

⁴Prerequisites for the 12th-grade (senior level) course include earning verified credits in mathematics and satisfactory completion of either Algebra, Functions, and Data Analysis or Algebra II. Students seeking the Advanced Studies Diploma, whose course sequences include the Mathematics Capstone course, must also take Algebra II.

⁵May be a one-semester or two-semester course.

⁶Course may substitute for Mathematical Analysis/Pre-Calculus.

Courses in Science

Course Title	SCED Code	Associated SOL Assessment(s)
Earth Science Discipline		
Earth Science I ¹	03001	Earth Science See Footnote #3
Earth Science II: Geology	03002	None
Environmental Science ²	03003	None
Earth Science II: Astronomy	03004	None
Earth Science II: Oceanography	03005	None
Earth Science II: Advanced Survey of Earth Science Topics	03008	Earth Science See Footnote #3
Advanced Placement (AP) in Environmental Science ²	03207	None
International Baccalaureate (IB) Environmental Systems and Societies ²	03208	None
Biology Discipline		
Environmental Science ²	03003	None
Biology ¹	03051	Biology ³
Biology II: Advanced Survey of Biology Topics	03052	Biology ³

Course Title	SCED Code	Associated SOL Assessment(s)
Biology II: Anatomy/Physiology	03053	None
Advanced Placement (AP) Biology	03056	Biology ³
International Baccalaureate (IB) Biology	03057	Biology ³
Biology II: Genetics	03059	None
Biology II: Ecology	03063	None
Advanced Placement (AP) Environmental Science ²	03207	None
International Baccalaureate (IB) Environmental Systems and Societies ²	03208	None
Chemistry Discipline		
Chemistry I	03101	Chemistry See Footnote #3
Chemistry II	03102	None
Advanced Placement (AP) Chemistry	03106	Chemistry See Footnote #3
International Baccalaureate (IB) Chemistry	03107	Chemistry See Footnote #3
Physics Discipline		

Course Title	SCED Code	Associated SOL Assessment(s)
Physics I	03151	None
Physics II	03152	None
Principles of Technology I in conjunction with Principles of Technology II ⁴	03153-I 03153-II	None
Advanced Placement (AP) Physics C	03156	None
International Baccalaureate (IB) Physics	03157	None
Advanced Placement (AP) Physics 1	03165	None
Advanced Placement (AP) Physics 2	03166	None
Integrated Science, 3-yr Sequence, Course I	03201-I	See Footnote #5
Integrated Science, 3-yr Sequence, Course II	03201-II	See Footnote #5
Integrated Science, 3-yr Sequence, Course III	03201-III	See Footnote #5
Non-Discipline Science Alternative		
Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science A	10157	None
International Baccalaureate (IB) Computer Science	10159	None

¹The Board of Education's Guidelines on Credit Accommodations allow students with disabilities who are eligible for credit accommodations in science to use each part of Earth Science, Parts I and II, and Biology, Parts I and II, to earn a standard credit towards the three science credits required for the Standard Diploma only. A student who chooses to earn standard credits by taking both Earth Science and Biology in two parts must complete *both* parts of both courses to meet the minimum course requirements and would earn three standard credits in science plus one additional elective credit. Two-part courses may also be combined with full-year courses in other Board-approved science courses to meet the requirements.

²Environmental Science, Advanced Placement Environmental Science, and IB Environmental Systems and Societies may count towards the Biology or Earth Science discipline. It is highly recommended that students planning to apply or attend college take four science courses to include Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

³The End-of-Course Biology I SOL assessment is required for all students enrolled in Biology I to meet federal testing requirements. School divisions may administer End-of-Course Earth Science I or Chemistry I SOL assessment to students who need a verified credit in science to graduate.

⁴The sequence of Principles of Technology I (03153-I) and Principles of Technology II (03153-II) will satisfy one (1) standard unit of credit in laboratory science for physics and one (1) elective credit. Students who enroll in the Principles of Technology I and II sequence for a physics credit must have completed Algebra I and two (2) other laboratory science courses as specified by the Standards of Accreditation prior to enrolling in Principles of Technology I. There are no SOL assessments associated with the Principles of Technology I and II sequence.

⁵School divisions will administer the End-of-Course Biology I SOL test when the student has completed the associated SOL content. The Earth Science I and Chemistry I SOL assessments will be administered when needed to meet verified credit diploma requirements.

Courses in History and Social Science

Course Title	SCED Code	Associated SOL Assessment(s)
World Geography	04001	World Geography
International Baccalaureate (IB) Geography I	04003-I	See Footnote #2
International Baccalaureate (IB) Geography II	04003-II	See Footnote #2
Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography	04004	See Footnote #2
World History and Geography to 1500 AD (CE)	04052-I	World History and Geography to 1500 AD (CE)
World History and Geography: 1500 AD (CE) to the Present	04052-II	World History and Geography: 1500 AD (CE)
International Baccalaureate (IB) History (SL)	04054-I	See Footnote #2
International Baccalaureate (IB) History (HL)	04054-II	See Footnote #2
Advanced Placement (AP) European History	04056	See Footnote #2
Advanced Placement (AP) World History: Modern	04067	See Footnote #2

Course Title	SCED Code	Associated SOL Assessment(s)
Virginia and United States History ¹	04101	Virginia and United States History
Advanced Placement (AP) United States History	04104	See Footnote #2
American Civilization (Must include the SOL for Virginia and United States History)	04149	Virginia and United States History
Virginia and United States Government ¹	04151	None
Advanced Placement (AP) Government and Politics: United States	04157	None
Advanced Placement (AP) Government and Politics: Comparative (Must include the SOL for Virginia and United States Government - State and Local Government)	04158	None

¹The Board of Education’s Guidelines on Credit Accommodations allow students with disabilities who are eligible for credit accommodations in history and social science to use each part of Virginia and United States History, Parts I and II, and Virginia and United States Government, Parts I and II, to earn a standard credit towards the three history and social science credits required for the Standard Diploma only. A student who chooses to earn standard credits by taking both Virginia and United States History and Virginia and United States Government in two parts must complete *both* parts of both courses to meet the minimum course requirements and would earn three standard credits in history and social science plus one additional elective credit; and the only verified credit available in this course configuration would be in Virginia and United States History. Two-part courses may also be combined with full-year courses in other Board-approved history and social science courses to meet the requirements.

²School divisions may administer End-of-Course History and Social Science SOL assessments to students who need a verified credit to meet graduation requirements in history and social science.

Courses in English

Course Title	SCED Code	Associated SOL Assessment(s)
English 9	01001	See Footnote #1, #2
International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program Language A: English, Level IV ³	01010	See Footnote #1, #2

Course Title	SCED Code	Associated SOL Assessment(s)
English 10	01002	See Footnote #1, #2
International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program Language A: English, Level V ³	01010	See Footnote #1, #2
Advanced Placement (AP) Seminar: English ⁴	01013	See Footnote #1, #2
English 11	01003	See Footnote #1, #2
International Baccalaureate (IB) Language A: English 11 ⁵	01011	See Footnote #1, #2
International Baccalaureate: (IB) Literature and Performance: English 11 ⁵	01012	See Footnote #1, #2
International Baccalaureate (IB): Language A; Literature English: English 11 ⁵	01007	See Footnote #1, #2
English 12	01004	None
International Baccalaureate (IB) Language A: English 12 ⁵	01007	None
International Baccalaureate: (IB) Literature and Performance: English 12 ⁵	01012	None
International Baccalaureate (IB): Language A; Literature English: English 12 ⁵	01007	None
Advanced Placement (AP) Language & Composition ⁶	01005	See Footnote #1, #2
Advanced Placement (AP) Literature & Composition ⁶	01006	See Footnote #1, #2

¹A cumulative (grades 9-11) End-of-Course Reading SOL assessment is administered to students to meet federal testing requirements.

²School divisions may administer the cumulative (grades 9-11) End-of-Course Writing SOL assessment to students who need a verified credit in writing to graduate.

³International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program Language A courses Levels 4 and 5 may substitute for English 9 and 10.

⁴Course may substitute for English 10.

⁵IB Language A: English courses including IB Language A: English Literature, IB Language A: English Language and Literature, and IB Language A: English Literature and Performance may substitute for English 11 and 12.

⁶Course may substitute for English 11 or 12. When considering courses for English, review [8VAC20-131-70](#). As required by the Standards of Quality, each local school board shall develop and implement a program of instruction for grades kindergarten through 12 that is aligned to the Standards of Learning and meets or exceeds the requirements of the Board.

Additional Requirements

Fine Arts, Career, and Technical Education

The Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas each contain options or requirements in Fine Arts, and/or Career and Technical Education.

The Standards of Accreditation do not require that the Board approve courses used to satisfy the requirements in these subject areas. Therefore, local school officials should use their own judgment in determining which courses, aligned to the discipline assigned in the Virginia Active SCED list, students take to satisfy the specific credit requirements in Fine Arts and/or Career and Technical Education for the Standard, Advanced Studies, and Applied Studies Diplomas. Board approved courses to satisfy the requirements for Fine Arts and/or Career and Technical Education must have an associated SCED code from these areas.

Physical, Health, and Driver Education

The Standard and Advanced Studies Diploma each contain requirements in Physical Education and Health Education. In addition, divisions may choose to incorporate 36 hours of Driver Education instruction into the 10th grade Health and Physical Education requirements.

Course Title	SCED Code
Physical Education, Grade 9	08001
Physical Education, Grade 10	08005
Adapted Physical Education ¹	08049
Health Education-Grade 9 (not Driver Education)	08051
Health Education-Grade 10 (not Driver Education)	08057

Driver Education-Classroom Instruction	08151
Health, Physical, and Driver Education	08201
Physical Education Substitution	
Army JROTC ²	SCED Based on Military Branch
Unified Physical Education ²	22104

¹The Board of Education’s Guidelines on Credit Accommodations allow students with disabilities who are eligible for credit accommodations in Physical Education to use adapted Physical Education to meet graduation requirements.

²Divisions that allow for the substitution of JROTC or Unified Physical Education to meet graduation requirements for physical education must provide students with coursework aligned to the Health *Standards of Learning* and Driver Education *Standards of Learning*.

World Language

The Advanced Studies Diploma contains a requirement for three years either of one world language or two years of two languages. Students who earn less than three credits from any of the alternative pathways must still complete the sequence requirement by taking additional courses in the same language until they reach the minimum of three credits in the same language, or by earning two credits in each of two different languages. The following options may be used to satisfy this requirement:

A. **Credits in any modern or classical language other than English**, which are either earned through coursework taken at the local school or transferred in through approved courses taken outside the school. Transfer credits may be awarded for any world language, even if the language is not offered at the local level, including American Sign Language. [§ 22.1-207.5](#) of the *Code of Virginia*. Approved courses in addition to those offered by the local school division include:

- Courses offered by a comprehensive community college;
- Courses offered by Virtual Virginia;
- Courses offered by an approved Multidivision Online Provider (MOP);
- Courses accepted as part of a transferring student’s transcript equating; and
- Courses approved via local policy for awarding credit for other than clock hours pursuant to the SOA Section [8VAC 20-131-110](#). Standard and verified units of credit. See the [Guidance Document Governing Certain Provisions of the SOA](#), under 8VAC20-131-110 in the section titled “Alternatives to the 140 Clock Hour

Requirement for Standard Units of Credit.”

B. Credits in American Sign Language (ASL)-American Sign Language is accepted for world language credit and to meet graduation requirements¹ with the same options as all other world languages².

Course Title	SCED Code
American Sign Language I	24852
American Sign Language II	24853
American Sign Language III	24854
American Sign Language IV	24855

C. Credits in English as a Second Language (ESL)³-Credit for grades 9-12 English as a Second Language (ESL) courses may be counted for world language credit using the following course codes in the table below.

Course Title	SCED Code
English as a Second Language I	01008-I
English as a Second Language II	01008-II
English as a Second Language III	01008-III
English as a Second Language IV	01008-IV

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D. **Credits for Demonstrated Proficiency**-Credits may be granted for demonstrated proficiency in a language other than English to students who achieve a minimum score on an approved assessment⁴ using the following score to credit ratios.

Qualifying Score	Number of Credits
Novice High	One (1) credit
Intermediate Low	Two (2) credits
Intermediate Mid	Three (3) credits

E. **Course Substitution for English Learners (EL)**⁵-Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, English Learners who have previously earned a sufficient score in one of the world language assessments listed below may substitute computer coding course credit⁶ for any world language course credit required to graduate, except in cases in which such world language course credit is required to earn an advanced diploma offered by a nationally recognized provider of college-level courses. [§ 22.1-253.13:4](#) of the *Code of Virginia*. The following shall be used to meet the sufficient scores for this provision.

Qualifying Assessments	Minimum Score
Advanced Placement (AP) World Language Examination	Three (3) or higher
International Baccalaureate (IB) World Language Examination	Four (4) or higher
SAT II World Language Subject Test with Listening (discontinued)	400 or higher

The Standards of Accreditation do not require that courses used to satisfy the computer coding credits for this requirement be approved by the Board. Therefore, local school officials should use their own judgment in determining which courses students take to satisfy the specific credit requirements. A general guideline is courses for which at least 50 percent or more of the learning objectives relate to computer coding may be counted as a computer coding course for the purpose of this substitution.

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F. **Course Substitution for Certain Students with Disabilities**-Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, a student who is pursuing an advanced diploma and whose individualized education program specifies a credit accommodation for world language may substitute two standard units of credit in computer science for two standard units of credit in a world language. This credit accommodation could apply towards either the three consecutive years or the 2 + 2 option for fulfilling the world language requirement ([§ 22.1-253.13:4](#) of the *Code of Virginia*).

¹In March 1998, the Board of Education approved the provision of three years of instruction in American Sign Language (ASL) for world language credit toward meeting graduation requirements.

²House Bill 84 from the 2018 General Assembly requires that school divisions that do not offer ASL courses accept transfer credit for successful completion of ASL courses taken through a comprehensive community college, Virtual Virginia, or an approved multidivision online provider on the same basis as any other world language.

³Credit for a single ESL course may be given in the area of world language or electives. If a student receives world language credit for an ESL course, then he or she may not receive credit for the same course as an elective.

⁴See [Guidance Document Governing Certain Provisions of the SOA](#), under 8VAC20-131-110 in the section titled “Alternatives to the 140 Clock Hour Requirement for Standard Units of Credit.”

⁵This option is available only to students classified as English Learners under Section 8101(20) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) guidelines.

⁶English Learners using this option to meet the world language course credit requirements for an Advanced Studies diploma will need to take three years of computer coding courses, or two years of coding plus two years of a world language to meet the sequence requirements.

Economics and Personal Finance

Economics and Personal Finance is a required course for graduation in the Commonwealth. Various options exist to satisfy the Economics and Personal Finance graduation requirement for the Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas, including the following:

- Economics and Personal Finance (19262-I), 36 weeks (formerly named Finance)
- Semester options:
 - Personal Finance 19262-II, 18 weeks *along with*
 - Economics 04249, 18 weeks
- Other courses that are aligned with the Economics and Personal Finance Standards of Learning.

Provisions in Economics and Personal Finance for students with disabilities who are eligible for Credit Accommodations, may be determined by their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

The Personal Living and Finance course (02003) may satisfy the Economics and Personal Finance requirement for the Standard Diploma if:

- It has been augmented to include the 21 Work Readiness Skills (WRS) for the Commonwealth, *and*
- The student earns at least 3 standard credits in history and social science, with the economics strands in these courses serving as a credit accommodation.

Upon completion of the augmented Personal Living and Finance course, the student may take the WRS assessment to earn the Board-approved Work Readiness Skills credential. This approach would satisfy the graduation requirements for Economics and Personal Finance, history and social science, and the workplace credential.