

Regulations Governing the General Achievement Diploma

8VAC 20-680-10. Eligibility Requirements for the General Achievement Diploma.

The General Achievement Diploma is intended to provide a diploma option for individuals who exit high school without a diploma. It should not be a first option for high school students.

Individuals who meet one of the following criteria shall be eligible to earn the General Achievement Diploma: 1) Individuals who are at least 18 years of age and not enrolled in public school; or 2) Individuals who are not otherwise subject to the compulsory school attendance requirements set forth in §22.1-254 of the Code of Virginia.

8 VAC 20-680-20. Course, Credit, and Assessment Requirements

A. Credit and assessment requirements for graduation with a General Achievement Diploma:

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Discipline Area	Standard Units of Credit Required
English	4
Mathematics	3
Science	2
History and Social Sciences	2
Electives	9
TOTAL	20

Assessment Required: Achieve a passing score on the GED examination

B. Courses completed to satisfy the requirements in mathematics and science shall include content in courses that incorporate or exceed the content of courses approved by the Board to satisfy any other Board-recognized diploma.

C. Courses completed to satisfy the history/social science requirements shall include one unit of credit in Virginia and U.S. History and one unit of credit in Virginia and U.S. Government in courses that incorporate or exceed the content of courses approved by the Board to satisfy any other Board-recognized diploma.

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D. Courses completed to satisfy the electives requirement shall include at least two sequential electives in an area of concentration or specialization, which may include career and technical education and training.

E. The required number of standard units of credit may be earned by enrolling in:

1. A public school if the individual meets the age requirements;
2. A community college or other institution of higher education;
3. An adult high school program; or
4. Correspondence, distance learning, and online courses.

F. Diploma candidates shall participate in GED preparation.