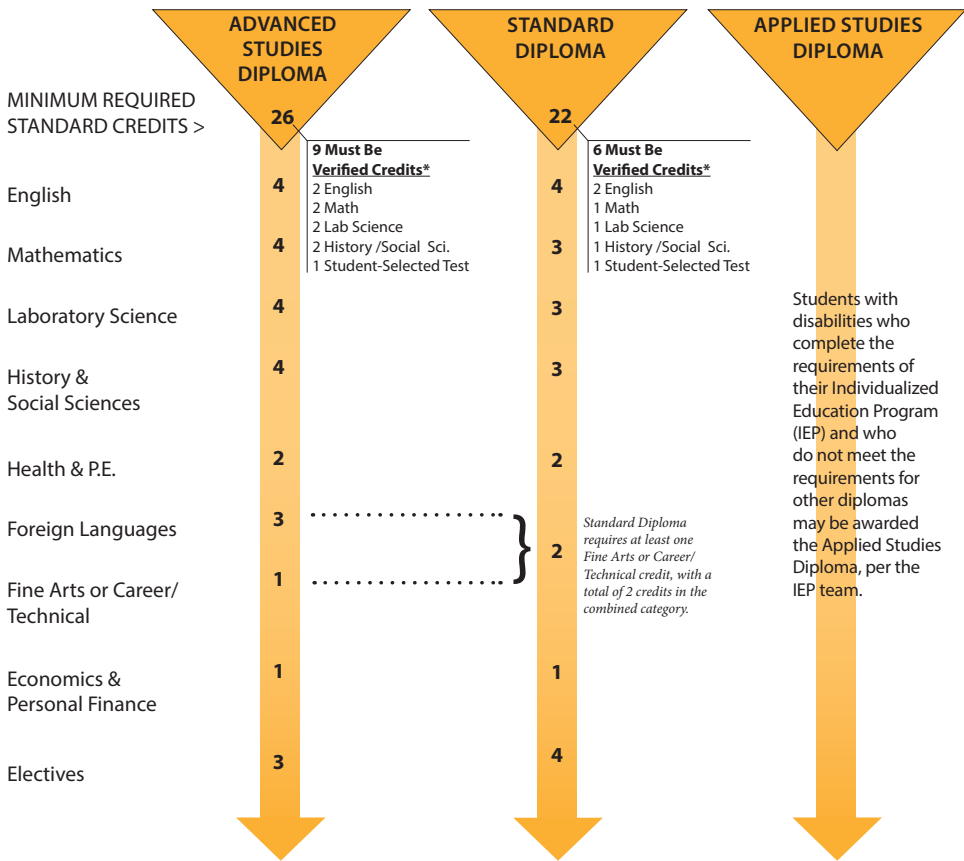


# Virginia Diploma Options and Possible Outcomes



- Vocational, Technical & Trade School
- Community College
- 4 Year College/University
- Military Service (Must Take ASVAB)
- Apprenticeships
- Gap Year Program
- Service Learning Program
- Professional Internships
- Adult Education

- APS Program for Employment Preparedness (PEP)
- Adult Education
- Community College
- Vocational/Career Training
- Apprenticeships
- Military Service (Must Take ASVAB)
- Gap Year Program
- Service Learning Program

Adult Service Agency Support, if eligible

**EMPLOYMENT**

\*A verified credit is based on successful completion of the course and achievement of a passing score on the SOL test. For more information, see Definitions.

## STANDARD DIPLOMA COURSE REQUIREMENTS (8 VAC 20-131-50.B)

Discipline Area	Standard Credits: effective with first- time ninth graders in 2011-2012 and beyond	Verified Credits: effective for first- time ninth graders in 2003-2004 and beyond
<b>English</b>	4	Must earn passing score on <b>both</b> SOLs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English 11 Reading</li> <li>• English 11 Writing</li> </ul>
<b>Mathematics</b> Select <b>at least two</b> different courses from among: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra Functions and Data Analysis, Algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of Algebra II.	3	Must earn passing score on <b>one</b> of the following SOLs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algebra 1</li> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• Algebra II</li> </ul>
<b>Laboratory Science</b> Select courses from <b>at least two</b> different science disciplines: Earth Sciences, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics.	3	Must earn passing score on <b>one</b> of the following SOLs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earth Science</li> <li>• Biology</li> <li>• Chemistry</li> </ul>
<b>History &amp; Social Sciences</b> Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include: <b>Both</b> U.S./Virginia History and U.S./Virginia Government – <b>plus one</b> course in either World History or World Geography or both.	3	Must earn passing score on <b>one</b> of the following SOLs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World History to 1500 AD</li> <li>• World History after 1500 AD</li> <li>• World Geography</li> <li>• U.S./Virginia History</li> </ul>
<b>Health &amp; Physical Education</b>	2	
<b>Foreign Language, Fine Arts or Career &amp; Technical Education</b> Credits earned for this requirement shall include <b>one</b> credit in fine or performing arts or career and technical education.	2	
<b>Economics and Personal Finance</b>	1	
<b>Electives</b> Courses to satisfy this requirement shall include <b>at least two sequential electives</b> .	4	
<b>Student Selected Test</b> A student may utilize additional tests for earning verified credit in: Computer Science, Technology, Career/ Technical Education, Economics, or other areas.		Choose <b>one</b> additional SOL from any discipline area listed above, except English.
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>

**Note:** Beginning with students entering ninth grade for the first time in 2013-2014, a student must also:

- Earn a board-approved career and technical education credential, and
- Successfully complete one virtual course, which may be non-credit bearing.

## ADVANCED STUDIES DIPLOMA COURSE REQUIREMENTS (8 VAC 20-131-50.C)

Discipline Area	Standard Credits: effective with first- time ninth graders in 2011-2012 and beyond	Verified Credits: effective for ninth graders in 2000-2001 and beyond
<b>English</b>	4	Must earn passing score on <b>both</b> SOLs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English 11 Reading</li> <li>• English 11 Writing</li> </ul>
<b>Mathematics</b> Select <b>at least three</b> different courses from among: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of Algebra II.	4	Must earn passing score on <b>two</b> of the following SOLs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algebra 1</li> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• Algebra II</li> </ul>
<b>Laboratory Science</b> Select courses from <b>at least three</b> different science disciplines: Earth Sciences, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.	4	Must earn passing score on <b>two</b> of the following SOLs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earth Science</li> <li>• Biology</li> <li>• Chemistry</li> </ul>
<b>History &amp; Social Sciences</b> Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include: <b>Both</b> U.S./Virginia History and U.S./Virginia Government – <b>plus two</b> courses in either World History or World Geography or both.	4	Must earn passing score on <b>two</b> of the following SOLs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World History to 1500 AD</li> <li>• World History after 1500 AD</li> <li>• World Geography</li> <li>• U.S./Virginia History</li> </ul>
<b>Health &amp; Physical Education</b>	2	
<b>Foreign Language</b> Courses to meet this requirement include: <b>Three</b> years of a single language. <b>OR</b> <b>Two</b> years each of two different languages.	3	
<b>Fine Arts or Career &amp; Technical Education</b>	1	
<b>Economics and Personal Finance</b>	1	
<b>Electives</b>	3	
<b>Student Selected Test</b> A student may utilize additional tests for earning verified credit in: Computer Science, Technology, Career/ Technical Education, Economics, or other areas.		Choose <b>one</b> additional SOL from any discipline area listed above, except English.
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>9</b>

**Note:** Beginning with students entering ninth grade for the first time in 2013-2014, a student must successfully complete one virtual course, which may be non-credit bearing.

## DEFINITIONS AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### Age of Eligibility

The “age of eligibility” means all eligible children with disabilities who have not graduated with a standard or advanced studies high school diploma who, because of such disabilities, are in need of special education and related services, and whose second birthday falls on or before September 30, and who have not reached their 22nd birthday on or before September 30 (2-21, inclusive) in accordance with the Code of Virginia.

### Age of Majority

The “age of majority” means the age when the procedural safeguards and other rights afforded to the parent or parents of a student with a disability transfer to the student. In Virginia the age of majority is 18. Notification of the age of majority must be given at least one year prior to the student’s eighteenth birthday.

### Standard vs. Verified Credits

A standard credit is based on a minimum of 140 clock hours of instruction and successful completion of the requirements of the course.

A verified credit is based on a minimum of 140 clock hours of instruction, successful completion of the requirements of the course, and achievement of a passing score on the end-of-course SOL test or additional test for that course as approved by the Board of Education. The passing score is 400.

### Standard Diploma with Credit Accommodation

Credit accommodations provide alternatives for students with disabilities in earning the standard and verified credits required to graduate with a Standard Diploma.

Credit accommodations are:

- Assessments used to verify credits
- Locally awarded verified credits in core content areas
- Alternate course offerings to meet the standard credit requirements

These shall be determined by the student’s IEP team, including the student when appropriate, at any point after the student’s eighth-grade year.

A student must meet the following criteria to be eligible:

- Have a current IEP with standards-based content goals or a 504 plan.
- Have a disability that precludes him/her from achieving and progressing commensurate with grade level expectations, but is learning grade level content.
- Need significant instructional supports to access grade level SOL content and to show progress.
- Based on multiple objective measures of past performance, the student might not be expected to achieve the required standard and verified units of credit within the standard time frame.

**Note:** Students receiving accommodations must still earn the 22 standard credits and six verified credits required to graduate with a standard diploma.

Credit accommodations are **not** available for the Advanced Studies Diploma.

The Modified Standard Diploma will not be an option for students with disabilities who enter the ninth grade for the first time beginning in 2013-2014. Credit accommodations allow students with disabilities who previously would have pursued a Modified Standard Diploma to earn a Standard Diploma.

### Dual Enrollment

Dual enrollment means a student is concurrently taking courses at both high school and college levels. Dual enrollment courses are geared toward high school juniors and seniors, although some sophomores may be eligible based on grades, recommendations and test scores. Dual enrollment students must demonstrate English and Math readiness, show strong attendance and exhibit mature behavior. Some of the Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) courses may fulfill Virginia high school graduation requirements if the student has prior written approval of the high school principal, or for home schooled students, the approval of the appropriate authority. In some cases, NVCC has existing dual enrollment arrangements with local public schools whereby the college credits earned may be applied toward a high school diploma while also receiving college credit.

Reasons to dual enroll:

- Course is not offered at your school
- You want to get a head start in college
- You want to learn a career skill

### Arlington Career Center Program for Employment Preparedness (PEP)

The Program for Employment Preparedness (PEP) is a multi-tiered program that utilizes a dynamic and targeted approach to meet needed transitional preparation of students with disabilities who have completed the majority of their academic program. Students aged 18-21 gain authentic experiences and learning opportunities relevant to current business trends that provide them with skills that lead to an increased likelihood of sustained employment in today’s market. Along with actual job training skills, relevant technological and social skills are emphasized.

The program is designed for students to receive internship/apprenticeship experiences and may lead to trade certifications, licenses, college credit, networking connections, and/or employment directly upon graduation. Referrals should be made to PEP during the student’s final year of participation in high school classes. Student participation is individualized according to needs, and if appropriate for the student, Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses may simultaneously be taken.

### Adult Service Agency

Some adults may require support from one or more adult service agencies upon leaving the school system. The eligibility requirements and types of support vary greatly between agencies. Typically, students and families are connected to prospective agencies, when appropriate, prior to leaving high school.

*For more information, please visit our website:  
Academic Planning – [www.apsva.us/academicplanning](http://www.apsva.us/academicplanning)  
Transition Services – [www.apsva.us/transitionservices](http://www.apsva.us/transitionservices)*