

## Advanced Diploma Course Requirements

Note – The Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice’s Education Division adheres to the same graduation requirements as established by the Virginia Department of Education as indicated below:

To graduate with an Advanced Studies Diploma, a student must earn at least 24 or 26 standard units of credit, depending on when he or she entered ninth grade, and at least nine verified units of credit:

- Students who entered ninth grade for the first time during and after 2011-2012 must earn at least 26 standard units of credit.
- Students who entered ninth grade before 2011-2012 must earn at least 24 standard units of credit.

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, to graduate with an Advanced Studies Diploma.

Please note: Your school counselor can tell you which courses are offered by your school to fulfill the requirements for an Advanced Studies Diploma.

<b>Advanced Studies Diploma Course Requirements (8 VAC 20-131-50.C)</b>			
<b>Discipline Area</b>	<b>Standard Credits: effective with first-time ninth graders in 2003- 2004 through 2010-2011</b>	<b>Standard Credits: effective with first- time ninth graders in 2011-2012 and beyond</b>	<b>Verified Credits - effective with ninth graders in 2000- 2001 and beyond</b>
English	4	4	2
Mathematics <a href="#">[Note 1]</a>	4	4	2
Laboratory Science <a href="#">[Note 2]</a>	4	4	2
History & Social Sciences <a href="#">[Note 3]</a>	4	4	2
Foreign Languages <a href="#">[Note 4]</a>	3	3	
Health & Physical Education	2	2	
Fine Arts or Career &	1	1	

Technical Education			
Economics and Personal Finance		1	
<a href="#">Electives</a>	2	3	
Student Selected Test [ <a href="#">Note 5</a> ]			1
Total	24	26	9

NOTE 1

- **For students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2003-2004 through 2010-2011:** 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.
- **For students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2011-2012 and beyond:** Courses completed to satisfy this requirement 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 shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement.

NOTE 2

- **For students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2003-2004 through 2010-2011:** 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.
- **For students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2011-2012 and beyond:** 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 shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement.

NOTE 3

- **For students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2003-2004 through 2010-2011:** 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.
- **For students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2011-2012 and beyond:** 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 shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement.

#### NOTE 4

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

#### NOTE 5

- **For students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2003-2004 through 2010-2011:** 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.
- **For students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2011-2012 and beyond:** A student may utilize additional tests for earning verified credit in computer science, technology, career or technical education, economics or other areas as prescribed by the Board in 8 VAC 20-131-110.

## Electives

- **Fine Arts and Career and Technical Education –** The Standard, Advanced Studies, and Modified Standard Diplomas each contain a requirement for one standard unit of credit in Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education. The Standards of Accreditation do not require that courses used to satisfy the requirement of Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education be approved by the Board. Therefore, local school officials should use their own judgment in determining which courses students take to satisfy this requirement.
- **Foreign Language—**The Advanced Studies Diploma contains a requirement for either three years of one foreign language or two years of two languages. In March 1998, the Board of Education approved the provision of three years of instruction in American Sign Language (ASL) for foreign language credit toward an Advanced Studies Diploma; other foreign

languages will satisfy this requirement as well. Details of this action are available in: [Superintendent's Memo](#), Interpretive, #1, June 12, 1998.