

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

Revised August 2022

## 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.

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 <sup>1</sup>	02052	Algebra I See Footnote #3
Pre-IB Algebra I	02052-PreIB	Algebra I See Footnote #3
Geometry <sup>1</sup>	02072	Geometry
Pre-IB Geometry	02072-PreIB	Geometry
Algebra, Functions, and Data Analysis	99001	None
Computer Mathematics <sup>2</sup>	02156	None
<b><u>Courses at or above the level of Algebra II</u></b>		
Algebra II	02056	Algebra II See Footnote #3
Mathematics Capstone <sup>4</sup>	02905	None
Algebra II and Trigonometry	02106	Algebra II See Footnote #3
Pre-IB Algebra II/Trigonometry	02106-PreIB	Algebra II See Footnote #3
Trigonometry (one-semester course)	02103	None
Advanced Placement Computer Science A	10157	None
Probability and Statistics <sup>5</sup> (one-semester or two-semester course)	02201	None
Advanced Placement Statistics	02203	None
Discrete Mathematics <sup>5</sup> (one-semester or two-semester course)	02102	None
Algebra III/Advanced Mathematics	02057	None
Mathematical Analysis/Pre-Calculus	02104	None

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>SCED Code</b>	<b>Associated SOL Assessment(s)</b>
International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematics: Application and Interpretation	02139	None
International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches	02140	None
International Baccalaureate (IB) Computer Science	10159	None
Data Science <sup>5</sup> (one-semester or two-semester course)	02911	None
Elementary Mathematics Functions	02109	None
Advanced Placement Calculus AB	02124	None
Advanced Placement Calculus BC	02125	None
Analytic Geometry	02073	None
Multivariate Calculus	02122	None
Algebra I/Geometry/Algebra II, 3-yr. Sequence Course I	02061-I	See Footnote #3
Algebra I/Geometry/Algebra II, 3-yr. Sequence Course II	02061-II	See Footnote #3
Algebra I/Geometry/Algebra II, 3-yr. Sequence Course III	02061-III	See Footnote #3
Geometry/Algebra II/Mathematical Analysis, 3-yr. Sequence Course I	02900-I	See Footnote #3
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

<sup>1</sup>The 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.

<sup>2</sup>Computer 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.

<sup>3</sup>Students 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.

<sup>4</sup>Prerequisites for the 12<sup>th</sup>-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.

<sup>5</sup>May be a one-semester or two-semester course.

### Courses in Science

Course Title	SCED Code	Associated SOL Assessment(s)
<b>Earth Science Discipline</b>		
Earth Science I <sup>1</sup>	03001	Earth Science See Footnote #3
Earth Science II – Advanced Survey of Earth Science Topics <sup>2</sup>	03008	Earth Science See Footnote #3
Earth Science II – Geology <sup>3</sup>	03002	None
Earth Science II – Oceanography <sup>3</sup>	03005	None
Earth Science II – Astronomy <sup>3</sup>	03004	None
Environmental Science <sup>2</sup>	03003	None
Advanced Placement in Environmental Science <sup>2</sup>	03207	None
International Baccalaureate (IB) Environmental Systems and Societies <sup>2</sup>	03208	None
<b>Biology Discipline</b>		
Biology <sup>1</sup>	03051	Biology <sup>3</sup>
Biology II – Advanced Survey of Biology Topics <sup>2</sup>	03052	Biology <sup>3</sup>
Biology II – Anatomy/Physiology <sup>3</sup>	03053	None
Biology II – Ecology <sup>3</sup>	03063	None
Biology II- Genetics <sup>3</sup>	03059	None
Advanced Placement Biology <sup>2</sup>	03056	Biology <sup>3</sup>
International Baccalaureate (IB) Biology	03057	Biology <sup>3</sup>

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>SCED Code</b>	<b>Associated SOL Assessment(s)</b>
Environmental Science <sup>2</sup>	03003	None
Advanced Placement in Environmental Science <sup>2</sup>	03207	None
International Baccalaureate (IB) Environmental Systems and Societies <sup>2</sup>	03208	None
<b>Chemistry Discipline</b>		
Chemistry I	03101	Chemistry See Footnote #3
Chemistry II <sup>3</sup>	03102	None
Advanced Placement Chemistry <sup>2</sup>	03106	Chemistry See Footnote #3
International Baccalaureate (IB) Chemistry	03107	Chemistry See Footnote #3
<b>Physics Discipline</b>		
Physics I	03151	None
Principles of Technology I in conjunction with Principles of Technology II <sup>4</sup>	03153-I 03153-II	None
Physics II	03152	None
Advanced Placement Physics 1 <sup>5</sup>	03165	None
Advanced Placement Physics 2 <sup>5</sup>	03166	None
Advanced Placement Physics C	03156	None
International Baccalaureate (IB) Physics	03157	None
Integrated Science, 3-yr Sequence, Course I	03201-I	See Footnote #5

Course Title	SCED Code	Associated SOL Assessment(s)
Integrated Science, 3-yr Sequence, Course II	03201-II	See Footnote #5
Integrated Science, 3-yr Sequence, Course III	03201-III	See Footnote #5
<b>Non-categorized Science Course.</b>		
Advanced Placement Computer Science A	10157	None
International Baccalaureate (IB) Computer Science	10159	None

<sup>1</sup>The 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.

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

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

<sup>4</sup>The 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.

<sup>5</sup>School divisions will administer the End-of-Course Biology SOL tests when the student has completed the associated SOL content. The Earth Science and Chemistry 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
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)
Virginia and United States History <sup>1</sup>	04101	Virginia and United States History
American Civilization (Must include the SOL for Virginia and United States History)	04149	Virginia and United States History
Virginia and United States Government <sup>1</sup>	04151	None
Advanced Placement United States History	04104	See Footnote #2
International Baccalaureate United States History	04054-I	See Footnote #2
International Baccalaureate History of Europe	04054-II	See Footnote #2
Advanced Placement World History: Modern	04067	See Footnote #2
Advanced Placement European History	04056	See Footnote #2
Advanced Placement Human Geography	04004	See Footnote #2
International Baccalaureate Geography I	04003-I	See Footnote #2
International Baccalaureate Geography II	04003-II	See Footnote #2
Advanced Placement Government and Politics: United States	04157	None
Advanced Placement Government and Politics: Comparative (Must include the SOL for Virginia and United States Government - State and Local Government)	04158	None

<sup>1</sup>The 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.

<sup>2</sup>School 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 <sup>3</sup>	01010	See Footnote #1, #2
English 10	01002	See Footnote #1, #2
International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program Language A: English, Level V <sup>3</sup>	01010	See Footnote #1, #2
English 11	01003	See Footnote #1, #2
International Baccalaureate (IB) Language A: English 11 <sup>4</sup>	01011	See Footnote #1, #2
International Baccalaureate: (IB) Literature and Performance: English 11 <sup>4</sup>	01012	See Footnote #1, #2
International Baccalaureate (IB): Language A; Literature English: English 11 <sup>4</sup>	01007	See Footnote #1, #2
English 12	01004	None
International Baccalaureate (IB) Language A: English 12 <sup>4</sup>	01007	None
International Baccalaureate: (IB) Literature and Performance: English 12 <sup>4</sup>	01012	None
International Baccalaureate (IB): Language A; Literature English: English 12 <sup>4</sup>	01007	None
Advanced Placement Literature & Composition <sup>5</sup>	01006	See Footnote #1, #2
Advanced Placement Language & Composition <sup>5</sup>	01056	See Footnote #1, #2

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

<sup>2</sup>School 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.

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

<sup>4</sup>IB 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.

<sup>5</sup>Course 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 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 should have an associated SCED code from these areas.

### *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 [Guidelines for Graduation Requirements: Local Alternative Paths to Standard Units of Credit](#) for more on this option.

**B. Credits in American Sign Language (ASL)**-American Sign Language is accepted for world language credit and to meet graduation requirements<sup>1</sup> with the same options as all other world languages<sup>2</sup>.

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)**<sup>3</sup>-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

**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 assessment<sup>4</sup> using the following score to credit ratios.

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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)**<sup>5</sup>-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 credit<sup>6</sup> 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.

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*).

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<sup>1</sup>In 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. Details of this action are available in [Superintendent's Memorandum, Interpretive, No. 1, June 12, 1998](#).

<sup>2</sup>House 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.

<sup>3</sup>Credit 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.

<sup>4</sup>The [Guidelines for Graduation Requirements: Local Alternative Paths to Standard Units of Credit](#) provides additional information on approved assessments in Section II, subsections B and C.

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

<sup>6</sup>English 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 (22210-I), 36 weeks (formerly named Finance)
- Semester options:
  - Finance 22210-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 Eligible for Credit Accommodations as 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.