

## A Comparison of Virginia Standard/Advanced/Modified Standard Diplomas and Commonwealth Scholars/GCTAA Paths

The purpose of this document is to provide a side-by-side comparison of various Virginia Commonwealth high school diplomas and paths with explanatory notes.

Minimum Requirements	Standard Diploma Standard credits (Verified credits)	Advanced Studies Diploma Standard credits (Verified credits)	Modified Standard Diploma Standard credits (Verified credits)	Commonwealth Scholars Program Requirements	GCTAA Gateway (Remediation)	GCTAA Pathway	GCTAA iSTEM
English	4 (2 verified)	4 (2 verified)	4	4	4 (2 verified)	4 (2 verified)	4 (2 verified)
Mathematics	3 (1 verified) [Note 1a]	4 (2 verified) [Note 1b]	3 [Note 1c]	3 [Note 1d]	4 (2 verified) [Note 1d]	4 (2 verified) [Note 1d]	4 (2 verified) [Note 1d]
Laboratory Science	3 (1 verified) [Notes 2a, 6]	4 (2 verified) [Notes 2b]	2 [Notes 2c]	3 [Note 2d]	4 (2 verified) [Notes 2b]	4 (2 verified) [Notes 2b]	4 (2 verified) [Notes 2b]
History and Social Sciences	3 (1 verified) [Notes 3a, 6]	4 (2 verified) [Note 3b]	2 [Notes 3c]	3.5 [Notes 3d]	4 (2 verified) [Note 3b]	4 (2 verified) [Note 3b]	4 (2 verified) [Note 3b]
Additional Verified Credit [Note 0]	1 [Note 5]	1 [Note 5]	0				
Health & Phys. Ed.	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Foreign Language	0	3/4 [Note 4]	0	2 (in same lang.)	3 [Note 4]	3 [Note 4]	3 [Note 4]
Economics or Personal Finance				<i>Incl. in History/Soc. Sci. requirements</i>	1 Economics or Personal Finance	1 Economics or Personal Finance	1 Economics or Personal Finance
Fine Arts AND Career & Technical Education	1 Fine Arts OR 1 CTE [Note 6]	1 Fine Arts OR 1 CTE [Note 6]	1 Fine Arts OR 1 CTE [Note 6]	1 Fine Arts OR 1 CTE	4 CTE [Notes 10, 11]	4 CTE (all of them DE or college-verified) [Notes 10, 11]	4 CTE (all of them DE or college-verified) [Notes 10, 11]
Other Electives	6 [Note 7a]	2	6 [Note 7c]	5.5			
<b>Total FA/CTE Electives</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
Additional Tests	(1) [Note 8]	(1) [Note 8]	(1) [Note 8]	Not specified	1 [lic. or certif.]	1 [lic. or certif.]	1 [lic. or certif.]
NOVA Admission Requirements					COMPASS Exam SDV 100 Course	COMPASS Exam SDV 100 Course	COMPASS Exam SDV 100 Course
Post-Secondary Credits					1 (SDV credit)	7 (1 SDV + 6 CTE)	13 (1 SDV + 6 CTE + 6 academic)
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>22 (6 verified)</b>	<b>24-25 (9 verified)</b>	<b>20 [Note 9]</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26 (9 verified) + 1</b>	<b>26 (9 verified) + 7</b>	<b>26 (9 verified) + 13</b>

## **NOTES:**

**NOTE 0:** Additional Verified Credit in Mathematics, Lab Science OR History & Social Studies.

**NOTE 1a:** Courses completed to satisfy this requirement for Standard Diplomas must include at least two course selections from among: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra Functions and Data Analysis, Algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of Algebra II.

**NOTE 1c:** Courses must include content from: Algebra, Geometry, Personal Finance or Statistics.

**NOTE 1d:** Courses completed to satisfy this requirement for Advanced Studies or Advanced Technical Diplomas must include at least three course selections from among: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of Algebra II.

**NOTE 2a:** Courses completed to satisfy this requirement for the Standard Diploma must include course selections from at least two different science disciplines: Earth Sciences, Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

**NOTE 2b:** Courses completed to satisfy this requirement must include course selections from at least three different science disciplines: Earth Sciences, Biology, Chemistry or Physics, or completion of the sequence of science courses required for the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

**NOTE 2c:** Courses completed must include content from at least two different science disciplines: Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

**NOTE 2d:** Courses completed to satisfy this requirement must include three different science disciplines: Biology, Chemistry and either Physics or Principles of Technology.

**NOTE 3a:** Courses completed to satisfy this requirement must include U.S. and Virginia History, U.S. and Virginia Government, and one course in either world history or geography or both.

**NOTE 3b:** Courses completed to satisfy this requirement must include U.S. and Virginia History, U.S. and Virginia Government, and two courses in either world history or geography or both.

**NOTE 3c:** Courses completed must include content from U.S. and Virginia History and U.S. and Virginia Government.

**NOTE 3d:** Courses completed must include 3.5 credits from: US&VA History, World History, US&VA Government, World Geography, Economics or Financial Literacy.

**NOTE 4:** Courses completed to satisfy this requirement must include three years of one language or two years of two languages.

**NOTE 5:** One verified credit is student selected.

**NOTE 6:** Students who complete a Career & Technical Education (CTE) program sequence AND pass an examination or occupational competency assessment in a CTE field that confers certification (C), a professional license (L) or an occupational competency credential (Occ.) from a recognized industry or trade/professional association may substitute the C-L-Occ. for: 1) The student selected verified credit; and, 2) EITHER a science, history or social science verified credit when the C-L-Occ. confers more than one verified credit. The examination or occupational competency assessment must be approved by the Board of Education.

**NOTE 7a:** Courses to satisfy this requirement must include at least two sequential electives (as required by the Standards of Quality?).

**NOTE 7c:** Some courses must be in Career & Technical Education, and must include at least two sequential electives.

**NOTE 8:** A student may utilize additional tests for earning verified credit in computer science, technology, career and technical education, economics or other areas as prescribed by the Board in 8 VAC 20-131-110.

**NOTE 9:** Students must pass the 8<sup>th</sup> grade SOL in English and Mathematics, or a specified substitute test.

**NOTE 10:** Courses completed to satisfy this requirement must include a career concentration as approved by the Board. For concentrations that require less than four courses, students must complete additional courses that are related to the chosen career concentration.

**NOTE 11:** If a career concentration includes a specific assessment approved by the board, then the student must take this assessment.