

Virginia's revised graduation requirements maintain high expectations for learning in English, math, science and history/social science while reducing the number of Standards of Learning (SOL) tests students must pass to earn a high school diploma. The new standards also implement the "Profile of a Virginia Graduate," which describes the knowledge, skills, attributes and experiences identified by employers, higher education and the state Board of Education as critical for future success.

Profile of a Virginia Graduate

A student meeting the Profile of a Virginia Graduate has achieved the commonwealth's high academic standards and graduates with workplace skills, a sense of community and civic responsibility and a career plan aligned with his or her interests and experiences.

The Five C's

In preparing students to meet the Profile of a Virginia Graduate, schools are required to ensure that students develop the following competencies known as the "Five C's":

- Critical thinking
- Creative thinking
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Citizenship

Career Exploration and Planning

The career-planning component of the Profile of a Virginia Graduate provides an opportunity for students to learn more about the employment options and career paths they first explored in elementary and middle school.

While there is no specific career-related activity that a student must experience (such as an internship or job-shadowing assignment) to earn a diploma, school divisions must provide opportunities for students to learn about workplace expectations and career options in their own communities and elsewhere.

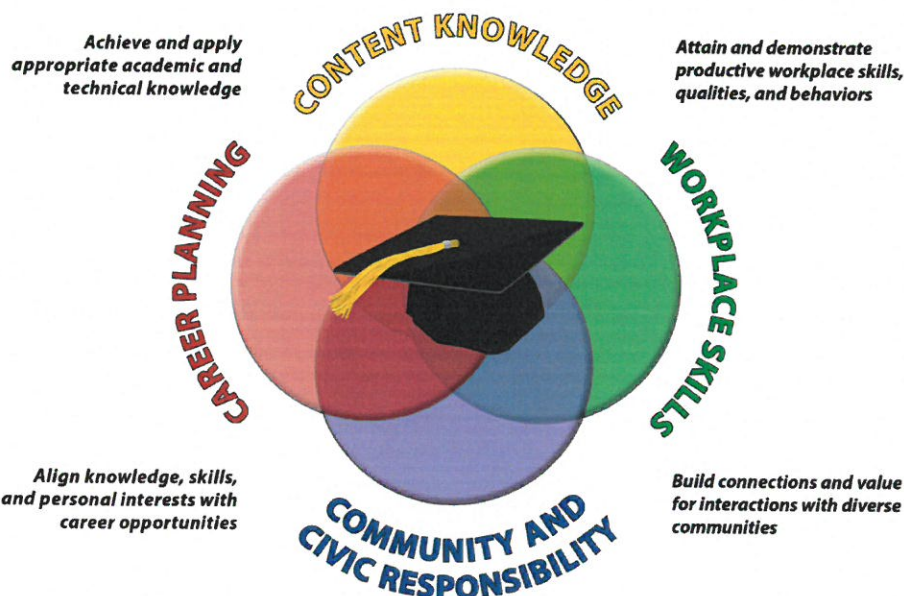
By reducing the number of SOL tests students must pass to earn a diploma, the new standards increase flexibility for schools to expand work-based and service-learning programs that promote college, career and civic readiness.

Standard and Verified Credits

The new graduation requirements are effective with students entering the ninth grade in the fall of 2018 (class of 2022). The number of standard credits for a Standard Diploma and Advanced Studies Diploma remain the same but the number of required verified credits — earned by passing a course in the content area and the associated end-of-course assessment — is reduced to five (one each in English reading, English writing, mathematics, science and history/social science) for both diplomas.

Profile of a Virginia Graduate

In Virginia, the Life Ready Individual Will
During His or Her K-12 Experience:



Standard Diploma (Class of 2022)		
Subject	Standard Units of Credit Required	Verified Credits Required
English	4	2
Mathematics	3	1
Science	3	1
History/Social Science	3	1
Health & Physical Education	2	
World Language, Fine Arts or Career & Technical Education	2	
Economics & Personal Finance	1	
Electives	4	
TOTAL	22	5

Advanced Studies Diploma (Class of 2022)		
Subject	Standard Units of Credit Required	Verified Credits Required
English	4	2
Mathematics	4	1
Science	4	1
History/Social Science	4	1
World Language	3	
Health & Physical Education	2	
Fine Arts or Career & Technical Education	1	
Economics & Personal Finance	1	
Electives	3	
TOTAL	26	5

In history/social science or English writing, a student may verify course mastery through a locally developed performance-based assessment. These assessments require students to apply what they have learned and provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate that they have acquired critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, collaboration and citizenship skills.