

Virginia Recognized Rigorous Secondary School Programs of Study

The eligibility options for a student graduating from secondary school in Virginia during the 2005 or 2006 calendar years are:

- ***The Virginia Advanced Studies Diploma***
- ***The Commonwealth Scholars requirements.*** This program, part of the national State Scholars Initiative and patterned after the recommendations of the National Commission on Excellence in Education, requires at least:
 - Four years of English;
 - Three years of math (including Algebra I, Algebra II and geometry);
 - Three years of lab science (biology, chemistry, physics);
 - Three-and-one-half years of social studies (selected from U.S. and Virginia history, world history, geography, economics and financial literacy, and U.S. and Virginia government);
 - Two years of health and physical education, and
 - Two years of a language other than English.
- ***A set of courses similar to the State Scholars Initiative.*** This program of study requires passing grades in the following:
 - Four years of English;
 - Three years of math (including Algebra I and a higher level course such as Algebra II, geometry, or data analysis and statistics);
 - Three years of science (including at least two courses from biology, chemistry or physics);
 - Three years of social studies; and
 - One year of a foreign language.
- ***Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and test scores.*** This program requires a minimum of two Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses in high school and a minimum passing score on the exams for those classes. Students must score 3 or higher on AP exams and 4 or higher on IB exams.
- ***Virginia Coursework Requirements.*** This program requires:
 - Four years of English;
 - Three years of mathematics (including Algebra I and a higher level course such as Algebra II, geometry, or data analysis and statistics);
 - Three years of science (including at least two courses from biology, chemistry or physics);
 - Three years of social studies; and
 - An industry certification, state professional license, or successful completion of an occupational competency exam.