

Terminology

Advanced Placement, IB Diploma, And Cambridge AICE Courses

Certain courses have been designated as AP, IB, and Cambridge Courses (AICE). These courses are externally moderated and exceed the expectations of grade-level objectives for a specific subject. Students taking these courses will have a plus sign (+) beside the course title listed on the student report card and on the student transcript. These courses offer the possibility of weighted credit.

College Board, the governing body for Advanced Placement (AP) courses, determined that schools may no longer use the term "Pre-AP" without adopting the associated College Board course. The Pre-AP courses proposed by College Board are not advanced level courses, do not align with VDOE and PWCS curricula and have associated costs. Therefore, Prince William County will now refer to all our advanced-level courses as "Advanced." Current course weightings and curricula will remain the same.

Career And Technical Education Industry Credentialing

Career and Technical Education industry credentialing can be achieved by successful completion of Career and Technical Education coursework which will enable students to participate in Virginia Board of Education approved assessments for industry credentialing. Students who earn these credentials are eligible to earn verified credits toward graduation requirements. Students pursuing the Standard Diploma who enter the 9th grade prior to the 2018-19 school year will be required to pass a state approved Career and Technical Education Credentialing exam. All students who enter the 9th grade in 2018-19 and beyond pursuing either the Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma will be required to pass a CTE credentialing exam only if he/she has not taken an advanced or honors course for high school credit.

CPR/First Aid And AED Training

Beginning with first-time 9th grade students in the 2016-17 school year, requirements for the Standard and Advanced Diplomas shall include a requirement to be trained in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary, resuscitation, and the use of automated external defibrillators, including hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. PWCS students will be trained in these skills while enrolled in Health PE I.

Dual Enrolled

Students taking courses from a community college, trade school program, college, or university for a credit, while simultaneously enrolled in a Prince William County public high school are said to be dual enrolled. Agreements between the college and PWCS must be in place prior to courses being approved for dual enrolled credit.

Elective

Electives are additional courses beyond the required courses that are needed to meet the total minimum standard units of credit for graduation.

Fine Arts Or Career And Technical Education

- Fine Arts courses include those courses which lead to student's aesthetic education in the areas of visual arts, theatre arts, music, dance, creative writing, journalistic writing, or speech. The course taken to satisfy the fine arts requirement may also serve as one of the two courses required to satisfy the sequential electives requirement.
- Career and Technical Education courses focus on 21st-century career skills presented in a real-world setting. All courses listed under Career and Technical Education, except Economics and Personal Finance; and Office Specialist I, II, and III, and Employ I and II courses listed under Special Education meet this graduation requirement. The course taken to satisfy the CTE requirement may also serve as one of the two courses required to satisfy the sequential elective requirement.

Sequential Electives

According to the Virginia Department of Education's (VDOE) Standards of Quality (SOQ), students who enter the 9th grade for the first time prior to the 2018-19 school year and are pursuing the Standard Diploma or students who enter the 9th grade for the first time during the 2018-19 school year and beyond who are pursuing either the Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma must complete at least two sequential electives. Students who successfully complete any career and technical education sequence that consists of at least two 36-week courses or semester equivalents that equal two 36-week courses will fully meet this requirement. For students pursuing the Standard Diploma the World Language, Fine Arts, or Career and Technical Education course credit may be used to partially satisfy the sequential elective requirement.

For students pursuing the Advanced Studies Diploma who enter the 9th grade during the 2018-19 school year and beyond, the Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education course credit may be used to partially satisfy the sequential elective requirement. For more detailed information on sequential electives, visit the [Virginia Department of Education Graduation webpage](#).

Standards Of Learning (SOL)

The Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools describe the Commonwealth's expectations for student learning and achievement in English, mathematics, science, history and social science, technology, the fine arts, world language, health and physical education, and driver education for grades K-12.

Standards Of Learning Tests (SOL Tests)

SOL tests are End-of-Course (EOC) tests which are required by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to verify attainment of knowledge and skills in specific English, math, science, and social science courses.

Standard Unit Of Credit

A standard unit of credit for graduation is based on a minimum of 140 clock hours of instruction and successful completion of the requirements of the course. A semester course receives one-half credit.

Verified Unit Of Credit

A verified unit of credit for graduation is based on a minimum of 140 clock hours of instruction, successful completion of the requirements of the course, and achievement of a passing score on the End-of-Course (EOC) Standards of Learning (SOL) test or additional test for that course as approved by the Board of Education.

Locally Awarded Verified Unit Of Credit

A locally awarded verified unit of credit is awarded by a local school board in the science or history/social science areas of study. Locally awarded verified units of credit are available to students who are pursuing the Standard Diploma. Specific criteria have been developed for the awarding of these credits. Students may not earn more than three locally awarded verified units of credit, except for those students with an IEP or 504 Plan who are eligible for credit accommodations. For students who enter the 9th grade in 2018-19 and beyond pursuing the Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma, only one locally awarded verified unit of credit may be earned toward the five verified credits required to graduate. Students with an IEP or 504 plan who are eligible for credit accommodations may earn all verified units of credit through the local award process.

Weighted Credit

Weighted credit refers to grade point values assigned to Advanced Placement, IB, and Cambridge courses; certain Career and Technical Education courses; qualifying college courses; and designated prerequisite courses.

Student-Selected Verified Credit

A student-selected Verified Credit can be earned in certain elective courses that include a test approved by the Virginia Board of Education. According to the Standards of Accreditation, a student may utilize additional tests for earning Verified Credit in Computer Science, Technology, or other areas as prescribed by the Board. The Board of Education has provided guidelines for awarding differentiated numbers of Verified Credit for CTE Certification and licensure examinations. Verified credits earned in CTE may be used to satisfy the student selected Verified Credit requirements for the Standard Diploma or the Advanced Studies Diploma. Your school counselor will assist you in determining your Verified Credit status. Beginning with students who enter the 9th grade during the 2018-19 school year and beyond, the student selected verified credit requirement will be eliminated.

Criteria For Awarding Student-Selected Verified Credit

Student-selected Verified Credit will be awarded for certification or licensure examinations that meet all of the following criteria:

- Industry certification or licensure examinations that are approved to satisfy the requirements for the Board of Education's CTE Seal and the Board of Education's Seal of Advanced Mathematics and Technology will satisfy requirements for student-selected Verified Credits.
- The teacher and/or the CTE program must be certified by the issuing organization relative to the industry certification or license.
- A standard credit may not be verified more than once.

Earning Student-Selected Verified Credit

One student-selected Verified Credit will be awarded for passing each certification or licensure examination that meets all the above criteria, and the student earns one standard unit of credit only in the CTE concentration or specialization.

Two student-selected Verified Credits will be awarded for passing each certification or licensure examination that meets all of the above criteria; and:

- The student meets program completion criteria listed in this course catalog; and
- The student earns at least two standard units of credit in the CTE program completion option.