



SC Diploma Pathway Project

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Personalized Pathways

- One State High School Diploma
- Personalized Pathways
 - Diploma Pathways Course Sequence
- Seals of Distinction
- State Employability Credential

Personalized Pathway Example: Math

DIPLOMA	
Content	Course Options Should be Aligned to Students' Post-Secondary Plans
Math	4 Credits Required
	Algebra I* or Foundations of Algebra and Intermediate Algebra*
	Algebra II
	Geometry
	Customized Algebra I and Algebra II*
	Customized Geometry
	Integrated, applied, innovative, or customized courses for students' personalized career paths considered on an individual student basis if the courses align with the SC academic standards in mathematics.
	4th Math is aligned to students' post high school plans.
	<u>Applied Mathematics Examples Only (Max 2 credits):</u>
	Personal Finance
Accounting	
Electricity	

Personalized Pathway Example: English

	DIPLOMA
Content	Course Options Should be Aligned to Students' Post-Secondary Plans
English	4 Credits Required
	English I*, II, III, IV or designated combination of 4 courses
	Customized English I*, II, III, IV: Integrated, applied, innovative, or customized courses for students' personalized career paths considered on an individual student basis if the courses align with the SC academic standards in English.
	Applied English choices aligned to students' post high school plans.
	<u>Applied English Examples Only (Max 1 credit)</u> Public Speaking Business English

South Carolina Graduation Seals Criteria

Students enrolled in South Carolina high schools shall have the opportunity to earn graduation *Seals of Distinction* within each high school diploma pathway that identifies a particular area of focus, beginning with the freshman class of 2018-19. The earning of a graduation seal(s) shall be based upon the following criteria:

- A. Students shall meet all requirements set forth in State Board Policy R43-234: State Graduation Requirements related to earning a high school diploma.
- B. Students may earn one or more *Seals of Distinction* including an Honors Seal, College Seal, Career Seal, Specialization Seal (with focus areas in the following: STEM, World Language, Arts, and Military).
- C. English I, II, III, IV or their course equivalents (Customized English I, II, III, IV), or higher level substitutes (AP, IB, or Dual Credit) must be taken to earn all *Seals of Distinction*.
- D. Students are not required to earn a *Seal of Distinction* in order to receive a diploma.
- E. The implementation of this policy is required for all Local Education Agency high schools.

Honors Seal of Distinction

- A. English I–IV – At least two courses at the honors level or higher.
- B. Mathematics – Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II with at least two at the honors level or higher and a fourth honors or above mathematics course with either Algebra II as a prerequisite.
- C. Science – Three units of a lab science including at least one course in biology and one course in chemistry and a third science with biology and chemistry as a prerequisite. At least two of the science courses must be at the honors level or higher.
- D. Social Studies – Three units of social studies including U.S. History and Government/Economics and a third course of the student’s choice with at least two at the honors level or higher.
- E. World Language – Students entering high school in 2018-2019 and after will be required to earn credits in at least two world language courses in the same language other than English
- F. *Students entering high school in 2019-2020 and beyond will be required to earn credits in at least three world language courses in the same language other than English
- G. Advanced Coursework – At least four higher-level courses during junior and/or senior years which carry quality points at the honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or Dual Enrollment level (*Note: Honors and dual credit CATE courses as well as Project Lead the Way courses are included*).
- H. GPA – A GPA on the *State Uniform Grading Scale* of 3.5 or higher.

College- Ready Seal

- A. English – English I-IV as required by Commission on Higher Education (CHE).
- B. Mathematics – Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II and a fourth mathematics course with either Algebra II or Integrated Mathematics III as a pre-requisite.
- C. Science – Three units of a lab science including at least one course in biology and one course in chemistry and a third lab science with biology or chemistry as a prerequisite. (*Note: South Carolina's physical science course is not counted as a lab science by the Commission on Higher Education*).
- D. Social Studies – Three units of social studies including U.S. History and Government/Economics and a third course of the student's choice.
- E. World Language – At least two world language courses other than English.
- F. Fine Arts – At least one fine arts course.
- G. GPA – GPA of 3.0 (or higher) OR an ACT composite score of 20 (or higher) OR an SAT combined Math + Evidenced-Based Reading/Writing score of 1020 (or higher).

Career Seal of Distinction

- A. English – Four English courses aligned to postsecondary goals.
- B. Mathematics – Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II or customized math sequence and a fourth math course (including applied math courses) aligned to post secondary career goals.
- C. Science – Three units of science with at least one course in biology and two courses (including applied science courses) tied to postsecondary career goals.
- D. Career and Technical Education – Completion of a major (four aligned courses within a career cluster designated by the district as a part of the EEDA) in one of the following national career clusters:
 - Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
 - Architecture & Construction
 - Arts, A/V Technology & Communications
 - Business Management & Administration
 - Education & Training
 - Finance
 - Government & Public Administration
 - Health Science
 - Hospitality & Tourism
 - Human Services
 - Information Technology
 - Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
 - Manufacturing
 - Marketing
 - Science, Technology, Engineering & Math
 - Transportation, Distribution & Logistics
- D. Earn at least one industry-recognized credential, a Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) at the Silver or higher on the state’s career readiness assessment (WIN), or a semester-long WBL placement credit.
- E. GPA on the *State Uniform Grading Scale* of at least 2.5

Specialization Seals of Distinction

This seal supports the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate by allowing students to concentrate in STEM, World Language, the Arts, and the Military. These requirements are in addition to the requirements of the standard diploma as set forth by State Board Policy.

- STEM – Four elective courses beyond the required courses in math, science, and technology with at least two courses at the honors level or higher. The four courses may be in one area of STEM or across the four areas of STEM.
- Military – Four courses in JROTC and a score of 31 or higher on the ASVAB assessment.
- Arts – Four elective courses in single or multiple areas of the Arts with two or more courses at the honors or AP/IB levels. Successful demonstration of mastery on an externally validated performance task (AP exam of 3 or IB exam of 4 may count if the courses are taken before the senior year).

Specialization Seals of Distinction, continued

- World Language – Proficiency in a language other than English by completing a four course concentration in the same language and/or demonstrating proficiency with a score of “Intermediate Low” or higher on the American Council for Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL). AP exams of 3 or higher or IB exam of 4 or higher may demonstrate proficiency if courses are taken before the senior year. Limited English Proficiency students may complete the same criteria above but also demonstrate English proficiency with a Level 5 composite score or higher on the ACCESS language proficiency test.
- GPA – For all of the specialization seals, the student shall earn a GPA on the *State Uniform Grading Scale* of 3.0 or higher.

Who could earn a State Employability Credential?

- Students who are not successful on a diploma pathway substantiated with required documentation and evidence
- A student with a disability whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) team determines that a diploma pathway is not within reach and would not provide a free appropriate public education
- For more information: [SC High School Credential](#)

Equity ↔ Access ↔ Employability