

BOARD MEMO

Date: October 19, 2023
For ACTION
For INFORMATION

FROM: Carmen Sanders, Executive Director of Instructional Support

THROUGH: Pierrette Finney, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Michelle Rief, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Program of Studies for 2024–2025 for Secondary Schools

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support
Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2023-2024 PRIORITY AREA:

Academic Achievement
The High School Project
Student Supports
CASEL Social Emotional Learning Competencies
Student Connection and Attendance

FY 2024 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Increase Support for Social and Emotional Learning
Communications Support

SUMMARY:

January 2024 marks the start of the academic advisement and enrollment process for secondary students for the 2024–2025 school year. Students and their families are provided with a Program of Studies (POS), including information about diploma types and division practices that support student learning. The Program of Studies also includes a comprehensive list of courses available to meet graduation requirements, provides opportunities to explore a wide range of disciplines, and meets diverse student needs and interests.

Note: Courses that appear in the Program of Studies may not reflect in a school’s master schedule. Course availability is dependent upon staffing and student interest and enrollment.

DETAILS:

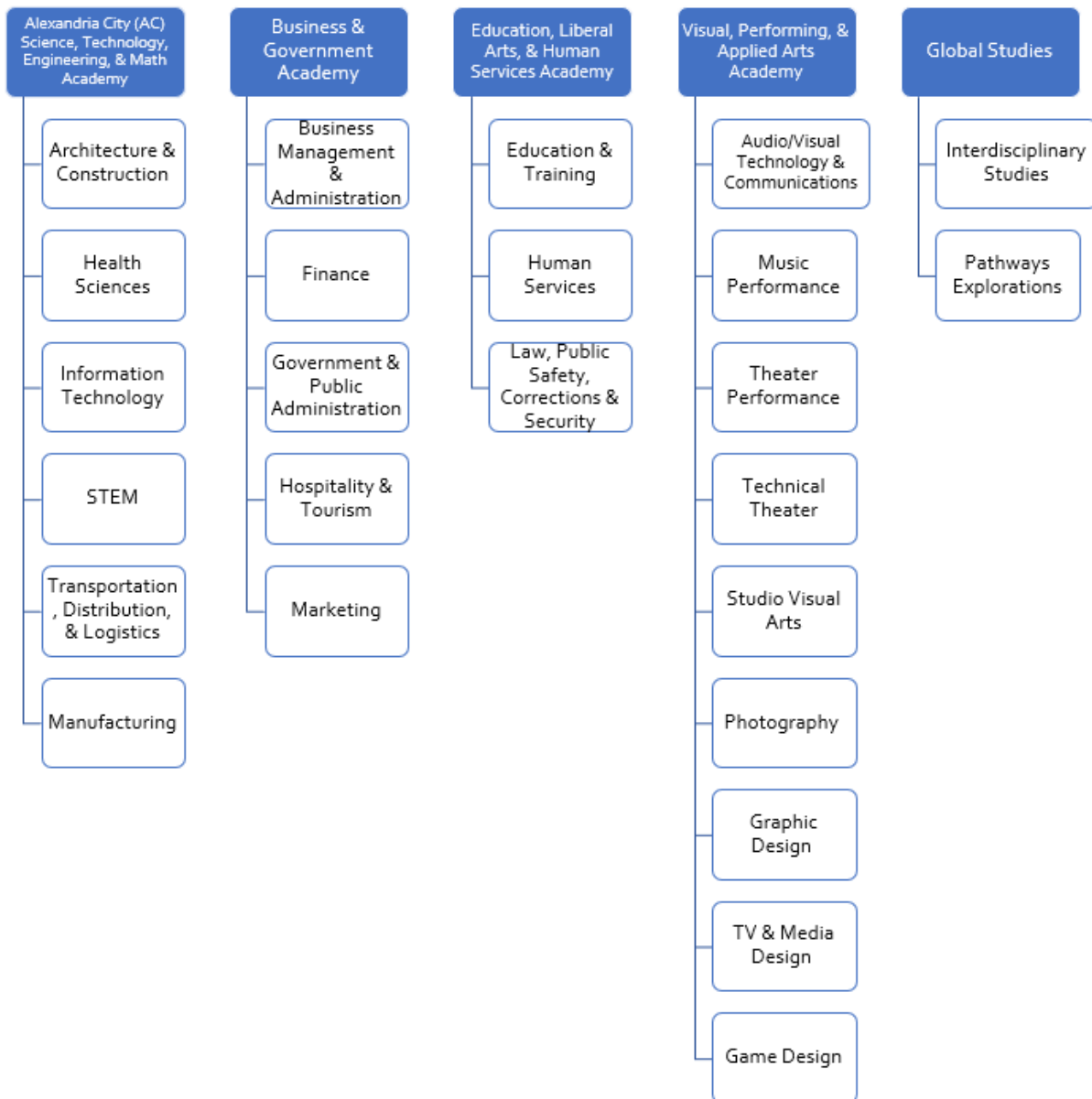
The 2024–2025 Program of Studies outlines the approved Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) course offerings for grades 6–12 in Alexandria City Public Schools. We continue to align our curriculum and instruction to the VDOE curriculum standards. The Program of Studies

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document provides course descriptions for middle and high school, along with course progressions by content and grade level(s) or student population. The course credit information can also be found in the POS. This year, there were 119 courses submitted for either an addition, revision, deletion, or replacement. The option for core content courses, required electives, and optional electives will be organized through the structure of academies and pathways for the high school. The lists of courses for addition, revision, deletion, or replacement for consideration in the 2024-25 Program of Studies are as follows:

High School

2024-25 Academies and Pathways



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High School Course Additions

Career and Technical Education

- Medical Terminology (non-dual enrollment option)
- Automotive Technology II (non-dual enrollment option)
- Automotive Technology III (non-dual enrollment option)
- Dual Enrollment Teachers for Tomorrow I & II
- Teachers for Tomorrow II
- Dual Enrollment Technical Drawing
- Game Design and Development I
- Dual Enrollment Manufacturing Systems I
- Manufacturing Systems I
- Dual Enrollment Construction Technology
- Engineering Studies Seminar
- Firefighting I

Alternative Options Towards Graduation

- Adult High School Diploma Program (online)
- Alternative Pathways to Achievement (APA): English 9-12
- Alternative Pathways to Achievement (APA): Social Studies 9-12
- Alternative Pathways to Achievement (APA): Math 9-12 Progression
- Alternative Pathways to Achievement (APA): Science 9-12
- Alternative Pathways to Achievement (APA): Economics and Personal Finance
- Alternative Pathways to Achievement (APA): English for Academic Purposes
- Alternative Pathways to Achievement (APA): Strategies for Academic Success

Online Learning

- Advanced Placement European History (Virtual Virginia)
- Advanced Placement Comparative Government (Virtual Virginia)
- Personal Psychology I (Online 0.5 credit)
- Personal Psychology II (Online 0.5 credit)
- Sociology I (Online 0.5 credit)
- Sociology II (Online 0.5 credit)
- Sustainability and Renewable Technologies (Online 1.0 credit) (Not for CTE credit)
- Biology II/Ecology (Online 1.0 credit)
- Biology II: Anatomy and Physiology (Online 1.0 credit)

Specialized Instruction

- Resource for Academic Purposes: Reading and Math
- Resource for Academic Purposes: Reading
- Resource for Academic Purposes: Math
- Employment Training II: Junior Internship

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- Employment Training II: Senior Internship

Math

- Advanced Placement Precalculus

Social Studies

- World Geography
- Latin American Studies
- Advanced Placement African American Studies
- English for Academic Purposes (EAP) General History

Fine Arts

- Jazz Band B
- Color Dolce

Physical Education

- Aquatics Fitness and Activities

World Languages

- American Sign Language I (in-person)
- American Sign Language II (in-person)

Student Support

- Advisory

Middle School Additions

Career and Technical Education

- Career Investigations

High School Course Grade Offering Changes

Note: Grade offering changes means that the course will be offered to multiple grade levels.

Wind Ensemble	Expanding grade offering
Advanced Choir	Expanding grade offering
Personal Finance (for Students with Disabilities only)	Grade 12 offering only
Aerospace Technology	Expanding grade offerings
Aerospace Technology II	Expanding grade offering
Technical Drawing and Design I	Changing grade offering

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Commercial Photography I	Expanding grade offering
Commercial Photography II	Expanding grade offering
Criminal Justice I	Expanding grade offering
Criminal Justice II	Expanding grade offering
Introduction to Health and Medical Sciences	Expanding grade offering
Child Development	Expanding grade offering
Teachers for Tomorrow	Expanding grade offering and changing prerequisite
Automotive Technology I	Expanding grade offering

Updates to Course Descriptions and Prerequisites

Army JROTC II	Adding prerequisite
Army JROTC III	Adding prerequisite
Army JROTC IV	Adding prerequisite
Dual Enrollment Advanced Early Childhood Education and Services II	Adding prerequisite
Advanced Engineering Drawing and Design II	Expanding grade offerings, increasing to 1.0 credit, and adding prerequisite
Advanced Music Theory	Updated prerequisite
Computer Applications - Office 2010 (Online)	Credit increase
Earth Science II: Astronomy	Change course level
Biology II: Human Anatomy and Physiology	Updated course description
Honors Virginia and U.S. History	Change of course description
Journalism II	Adding prerequisite

Updates to Course Titles

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Math 8	Pre-Algebra
Fitness I	Personal Fitness
Fitness II	Strength Training
Jazz Ensemble	Jazz Band A
Strings Discovery	String Orchestra I
String Orchestra I	String Orchestra II
String Orchestra II	String Orchestra III
String Orchestra III	String Orchestra IV
Chamber Orchestra	String Orchestra V
Performance Ensemble/Show Choir	Choir Performance Ensemble
Music Laboratory/Guitar	Guitar I
Advanced Placement Music Theory	Music Theory
Music Theory I	Music Theory
Introduction to Theatre: Character Creation and Theatre Appreciation	Introduction to Theatre
Intermediate Theatre: From Page to Stage	Intermediate Theatre
Advanced Theatre: Theatre for Competition and Community Performance	Advanced Theatre

High School Course Replacements

Algebra II and Trigonometry (Online)	Aligning to VDOE Curriculum. Algebra and Trigonometry are not a combined course. Algebra II and other advanced math courses (to include Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment) are offered in the current POS.
Calculus (Online)	Aligning to VDOE Curriculum. Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus A/B and B/C are offered in the current POS.
Introduction to Fashion Careers	Competencies are covered in Fashion I and Fashion II, courses that are offered in the current Program of Studies.

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Resource for Academic Purposes (RAP)	Replaced with courses for students with disabilities that specifically provide reading and math interventions.
Precalculus	Replaced with AP Precalculus to provide students with the chance to earn a college credit.

BACKGROUND:

On a yearly basis, The Department of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership (TLL), Department of Student Services, Equity, and Alternative Programs work with the Department of Technology Services and the Office of Communications, secondary administrators and counseling teams to develop the proposed Program of Studies. The process includes the following:

- A collaborative meeting with the Office of Student Supports, specifically K-12 counseling, as the team prepares to engage staff in the development of the Program of Studies (POS).
- There is an initial POS meeting held with all secondary school administrators and directors of school counseling or lead counselors outlining the process for submission, communication, and timeline for completion.
- Assistant principals and department chairs engage staff members and provide them an opportunity to submit courses for principal review.
 - The team members work with various school departments to solicit recommendations for course revisions, additions, and replacements that incorporate trends in student interest and demand.
- Principals review and approve or deny courses based on current staffing, budget implications, and alignment to ACPS' values, beliefs, and strategic goals.
- Then, the courses are reviewed by division level curriculum specialists, coordinators, and directors for alignment to Virginia Department of Education standards and sequences, and budget implications.
- The Executive Director and Chief Academic Officer examine courses based on recommendations from the second level review.

Once the Program of Studies is approved, it will be published on the ACPS website in multiple languages for students, parents/guardians, and school staff to view in January 2024.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the 2024–2025 Program of Studies for Secondary Schools with consideration for approval.

IMPACT:

The adoption of the Program of Studies for 2024–2025 will affect secondary educational programming and the course options that students will have next year.

REFERENCES:

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November 10, 2022: Program of Studies for 2023–2024 for Secondary Schools

December 1, 2022: Program of Studies for 2023–2024 for Secondary Schools

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 231019_Secondary_Schools_Program_of_Studies_2024–2025_v.1
2. Draft Program of Studies 2024–2025

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