

VIRTUAL LEARNING ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL POLICY  
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

IKF

**Academic Requirements**

Twenty-Two (22) credits are required for high school graduation. To graduate, a student shall have earned a minimum of twenty-two credits, five of which must be VLACS high school credit, as outlined below.

**Minimum Credits Required for VLACS Graduation**

Required Subjects	Students admitted prior to May 25, 2017	Students admitted after May 25, 2017
Arts Education	.5 credit	.5 credit
Information and Communication Technologies	.5 credit	.5 credit
English	4 credits**	4 credits**
Mathematics	3 credits (must include Algebra 1 & .5 credit Geometry or equivalent)**	3 credits (must include Algebra 1 & .5 credit Geometry or equivalent)**
Physical Sciences	1 credit	1 credit
Biological Sciences	1 credit	1 credit
U.S. & N.H. History	1 credit	1 credit
U.S. & N.H. Government/Civics	.5 credit	.5 credit
Economics	.5 credit	.5 credit
World History, Global Studies, or Geography	.5 credit	.5 credit
Health Education	.5 credit	.5 credit
Physical Education	1 credit	1 credit
<del>College Credit or an ELO related to career plan</del> AP / College / Experience	1 credit	1.0 (must include .5 credit of Career Experience)
Electives & Advisory	7 Credits (must include .5 credit of advisory for each year of enrollment)	7 Credits (must include .5 credit of advisory for each year of enrollment)
TOTALS	22	22

\*\*Students shall engage with and apply English and mathematics graduation competencies during every year they are enrolled in high school even if graduation competencies for English and mathematics have been demonstrated. Such engagement may occur through integration of

these graduation competencies in courses focused on content areas other than English or mathematics. Such engagement shall support students to be college and career ready in mathematics and English/language arts.

For students transferring into VLACS' full-time program from another educational program, the Director of Guidance and Student Services will evaluate the students' records to determine previous educational experiences toward meeting state and VLACS graduation requirements in accordance with any applicable laws or policies.

### **Alternative Credit Options**

In some cases, credit may be earned through extended learning opportunities through VLACS' Learning Through Experience program. Awarding of credits to be applied toward high school graduation requirements will be determined in accordance with Policy IHBH.

### **Testing**

Full-time VLACS students shall participate in statewide assessments as required by the Statewide Education Improvement and Assessment Program (RSA 193-C)

### **College, Career, and Citizenship Readiness**

Entering students shall be required to participate in certain mathematics and English related activities in order to assess and/or remediate their skills and knowledge. Juniors or incoming Seniors shall participate in assigned English and Math readiness activities in order to ensure that they are prepared to meet the college and career readiness goals in their college, career, and citizenship plan. The Director of School Counseling and Student Services will determine if certain students may be exempt from these requirements based on prior outstanding academic performance.

### **Student Status Criteria and Pacing Options**

As a full-time student at VLACS, students must maintain the following student status criteria:

#### **Student Status Criteria**

Grade Status	Credits	Other Requirements
Freshman	5 or fewer	
Sophomore	6-10	
Junior	11-15	Credits must include: 2 credits in English, 2 credits in Science, Algebra I (or equivalent), and .5 credit in geometry (or equivalent).
Senior	16 or more	

**VLACS full-time students are expected to follow the following pacing options:**

**Student Pacing Options**

Traditional Pace	A student meets all graduation requirements in approximately four years
Accelerated pace	Earn all credits as described in this policy, but in fewer than four years.

Under certain circumstances (with approval from the Director of School Counseling), a student may take more than four years to complete the minimum credits required for graduation.

Students may not take elective courses in lieu of graduation requirements to extend their eligibility to attend high school beyond four years. Full-time students with disabilities may continue with their high school education until such time as the student has completed the minimum credits required for graduation, or reaches twenty-one (21) years of age. All full-time students must complete all coursework before his/her twenty-first (21) birthday.

All students must comply with Board of Trustees policy JH-Truancy.

**Early Graduation**

If a student meets all graduation requirements before his or her anticipated graduation date, a parent/guardian (or student if eighteen (18) years of age) may request an early graduation from VLACS, or the student may remain and complete the student's education within the time limits referenced in this policy.

The Director of Guidance and Student Services may approve a parent/guardian or student's (if the student is eighteen (18) years of age) request for early graduation upon verification that the student has met all state and VLACS' graduation requirements.

**Law Reference:**

- NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.04, Policy Development; Ed. 306.14, Basic Instructional Standards; and Ed. 306.27, High School Curriculum, Credits, Graduation Requirements, and Co-curricular Program
- NH RSA:193-C, Statewide Education Improvement and Assessment Program

Date Adopted: June 5, 2008

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