
Vocational Diploma Program (Varying Exceptionalities)

Program Summary

This graduation track provides an approach for students who will complete high school with a Vocational Diploma. This graduation track was previously known as a Special Diploma or Certificate of Completion and traditionally titled the High School IV program.

The focus of this academically based curriculum is on preparation of students for life and independent living after school while enabling them to function at their highest levels. Courses are designed for students unable to achieve success with a traditional college-bound high school curriculum due to the complexity and rigor of the course material. Individuals within this program will typically continue studies at trade schools, certificate programs, two-year degree programs or move directly into the work force.

Students within this program may mainstream into other classes for specific content based on individual ability. After the end of Semester 1 during 9th grade, it is not possible to fully transition a student to a standard diploma program without extension of time in high school and/or referral to summer school. Approval of such transitions requires teacher and administrative approval. Course placement is dependent on student evaluation.

Graduation Requirements

Our school requires students meet a specific list of requirements in order to graduate high school. This program converted to a credit based format in July 2013. It is the responsibility of each family to have a solid understanding of their academic progress. Courses for summer credit recovery are available under this program track.

<u>Language Arts</u>	<u>4.0 credits</u>
<u>Mathematics</u>	<u>4.0 credits</u>
<u>Social Studies</u>	<u>4.0 credits</u>
<u>Science</u>	<u>3.0 credits</u>
<u>Life Skills</u>	<u>4.0 credits</u>
○ Transfer Students – previous coursework will be used in consideration of this requirement.	
<u>Electives</u>	<u>5.0 credits</u>
○ Fine Arts – 0.50 credit or more required.	
○ Physical Education – 0.50 credit or more required.	
○ Practical Arts – 0.50 credit or more required.	
○ Elective & Life Skill Requirements may be substituted for comprehensive transfer of the Standard Diploma Requirements for: Life Management/Health; Practical Arts; Fine Arts; Electives .	

Graduation Requirement 24 credits

Additional Requirements

- **Effective August 2013:** Complete minimum of 40 hours of community service learning.
- **Effective August 2016:** Complete minimum of 80 hours of community service learning.
- Maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher.
- Meet all instructional time/attendance obligations.
- Meet all financial obligations.

College Planning

Preparation for life after high school must begin as soon as a student enters the program. It is expected that students will be active participants in availing themselves of opportunities to gain knowledge about what the next step will be in their academic or professional lives. All families are strongly encouraged to become familiar and visit often the *Student Resources* page within the Guidance Section of the Paladin Academy Edline Portal (edline.paladink12.com).

As stated within the Parent-Student Handbook, *it is the responsibility of students and their families* to become familiar with the college preparation, planning and entrance process. Delays in the process can lead to a failure to receive accommodations on testing, entrance acceptance and more.

Students within the Vocational Diploma track have countless opportunities to advance and continue their education within a post-secondary environment. Whether through certification or degree programs, resources are available online to aid with career selection, college campus visitation, financial considerations and more. Throughout the year, students will have individual and group meetings to discuss these topics. Presentations will also be made available during the year for families about the process and their role within it.