

Graduation Policy

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PURPOSE:

The policy regarding minimum high school graduation requirements increases academic rigor and prepares students for post-secondary education and the world of work. The graduation requirements meet or exceed (Virginia Advanced Studies Diploma or Virginia Standard Diploma) and MOE requirements for Secondary School Certificate Equivalence, and also or entry into colleges and universities in UAE and around the world.

MINIMUM HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:

A minimum of 22 credits is required for a DPS Diploma. A student who earns 22 credits in required courses will earn a high school diploma (Virginia Standard Diploma) and a student who earns 26 credits in required courses will earn a high school diploma (Virginia Advanced Studies Program). Credit is given for course taken in Grades 9 – 12 only. The 22 – 26 credits must be distributed among subject are as follows:

1. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

American Curriculum (Advanced Studies Diploma)	American Curriculum (Standard Diploma)	English Curriculum
A. English Language Arts (4.0 credits) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. English 9 2. English 10 3. English 11 4. English 12 	A. English Language Arts (4.0 credits) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. English 9 2. English 10 3. English 11 4. English 12 	A. English Language Arts <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. English 9 – IGCSE – Cambridge International Examination Qualification 2. English 10 ESL (English as a Second Language) or EFL (English as a First Language)
B. Mathematics (4.0 credits) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Algebra II 2. Geometry 3. Trigonometry 4. Mathematical Analysis 5. Calculus 	B. Mathematics (3.0 credits) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Algebra II 2. Geometry 3. Trigonometry 4. Mathematical Analysis 	B. Mathematics <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grade 9 & 10 (IGCSE – Cambridge International Qualification extended Curriculum) 2. Grade 11 (AS Level Cambridge International Examination Qualification) 3. Grade 12 (A2 or A Level Cambridge International Examination Qualification)
C. Laboratory Science (4.0 credits)	C. Laboratory Science (3 credits)	C. Science <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grades 9 & 10 Biology, Chemistry, & physics,

1. Physical Science 2. Biology 3. Chemistry 4. Physics	1. Physical Science 2. Biology 3. Chemistry 4. Physics	choice of two or more subjects. (IGCSE – Cambridge International Examination Qualification)
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Students at Al Dhafra are prepared in Middle East School (grade 6, 7, and 8) to tackle the American and British Curricula. Students have the option to enter either system in collaboration with the school and parents. Therefore, parents and students should be aware of their options and select according to three main criteria:

1. Student's future endeavors (university of choice – country requirements).
2. Student's home country (educational requirements).
3. Student's learning behavior and interest.

The UAE Ministry requirements for the Certificate Equivalency for both American and British Curricula.

American Curriculum	British Curriculum
School Diploma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With a minimum of 22 credits • Meeting a credit requirements in each subject 	Original IGCSE Certificate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With a minimum of five subjects • With a mini mum success grade E
Student Transcript <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades 10, 11, 12 	Original CGE Certificate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One subject AL or two subjects AS as minimum success grade D
Original Certificates/ Progress Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades 10, 11, 12 containing scores in Arabic and Islamic Studies with a minimum 60% 	Original Grades 10, 11, 12 Certificates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arabic minimum score 60% • Islamic Studies minimum 60%
SAT 1 Math Certificate with minimum score of 400 TOEFL minimum score <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 61 - online test • 173 - computerized test • 500 – written test (Or IELTS minimum score of 5.5)	

According to the first criteria students studying the American curriculum should choose some subjects according to their targeted major and university. The school offers the students a variety of subjects which help them with their choices like:

Grade 10HS	Grade 11HS	Grade 12HS	IGCSE	AS, AL
Compulsory Subjects	Compulsory Subjects	Compulsory Subjects	Compulsory Subjects	Compulsory Subjects
Islamic	Islamic	Islamic	Islamic	Islamic
Arabic Language	Arabic Language	Arabic Language	Arabic Language	Arabic Language
English	English	English	English	English

Language	Language	Language	Language	Language
Economics	IT	IT	Maths	Optional Subjects
IT	Maths	Maths	Physics	Maths
Maths	Physics	Physics	Chemistry	Physics
Physics	PE	PE	Biology	Chemistry
Chemistry	Optional Subjects	Optional Subjects	Optional Subjects	Biology
Biology	Chemistry	Chemistry	IT	Mechanics
PE	Biology	Biology	Business	
	Sociology	Sociology		
	Business	Business		

Students should choose the subjects according to the three criteria mentioned above. Take note that, students (and parents) are responsible for getting to know and meeting the requirements of the university or universities of their choice. We do our best to guide and inform students and parents but each university has its requirements.

Most universities require the following subjects for each major:

University Major	High School Subjects
Banking and Finance	Math, Business, Entrepreneurship, Economics
Biotechnology	Biology, Chemistry, Math (Physics helps)
Business	Business, Economics, Entrepreneurship, (Sociology helps)
Engineering – Chemical	Math and Chemistry (Physics and Biology help)
Engineering – Civil	Math and Chemistry (Chemistry and Biology help)
Engineering – Electrical	Math, Chemistry and Physics (Biology helps)
Engineering – Financial	Math, Business, Entrepreneurship, Psychology and Economics
Entrepreneurship	Math, Business, Economics, Entrepreneurship
Engineering – Mechanical	Math and Physics (Chemistry and Biology help)
Medicine	Math, Biology, Chemistry and Physics
Marketing	Math, Business, Economics, Entrepreneurship
Nutrition	Biology, Chemistry, (Math and Physics help)
Pharmacy	Math, Biology, Chemistry Physics and Economics