

Valor High School Course Offerings

Valor Collegiate Academics exists to empower our diverse community to live inspired, purposeful lives. Our theory is that we will make good on our mission through a commitment to the following four anchors:

1. Top 1% Academics
2. Powered by Compass
3. Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive Community
4. Built to Last

By prioritizing these four key areas, we believe we are best set up to meet our mission. Our anchors guide our decision making throughout the organization around where to focus and how to best use resources.

In order to meet our vision and mission at the high school, we focus on four core areas in our Graduate Profile:

1. We develop strong intellectual prowess in our scholars.
2. We equip them with a reliable inner-Compass.
3. We give them experiences that help them to thrive in diverse communities.
4. We help them learn how to be excellent wayfinders.

One way that students will reach the aims of this graduate profile is through a robust academic experience. We believe that the course offerings listed below allow students choice to go deep into academic areas in which they are interested, while also ensuring that we stay true to our four anchors as a network. There is also a balance of what is required from the state in terms of graduation requirements. Those requirements are listed directly below, and Valor's high school course offerings, with brief explanations of certain courses and requirements given as footnotes.

Tennessee Graduation Requirements

Total Required Credits: 22

- Math: 4 credits, including Algebra I, II, Geometry and a fourth higher level math course (Students must be enrolled in a mathematics course each school year.)
- English: 4 credits
- Science: 3 credits, including Biology, Chemistry or Physics, and a third lab course
- Social Studies: 3 credits, including U.S. History and Geography, World History and Geography, U.S. Government and Civics, and Economics
- Physical Education and Wellness: 1.5 credits
- Personal Finance: 0.5 credits (Three years of JROTC may be substituted for one-half unit of Personal Finance if the JROTC instructor attends the Personal Finance training.)
- Foreign Language: 2 credits (May be waived by the local school district for students, under certain circumstances, to expand and enhance the elective focus)
- Fine Arts: 1 credit (may be waived by the local school district for students, under certain circumstances, to expand and enhance the elective focus)
- Elective Focus: 3 credits consisting of Math and Science, Fine Arts, Humanities, Advanced Placement (AP).

Valor's Tennessee Graduation Requirements Course Offerings ¹				
	9th	10th	11th	12th
ELA 4 Consecutive Years ²	English I	English II	English III or AP Literature and Composition	English IV or AP Language and Composition
Science 3 Years Required ³	Physics	Biology	AP Biology, Chemistry, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, Environmental Science, AP Environmental Science	
Math 4 Consecutive Years ⁴	Algebra 1 ⁵	Geometry	Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus and/or AP Statistics
	Algebra 1 ⁶	Geometry and Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus or AP Calculus A/B	AP Calculus A/B, AP Calculus B/C, and/or AP Statistics
	Geometry ⁷	Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus or AP Calculus A/B	AP Calculus A/B, AP Calculus B/C, and/or AP Statistics
Social Studies 3 Years Required ⁸	AP Human Geography or Mythology/Creative Writing ⁹	World History or AP Human Geography ¹⁰	US History or AP US History	US Government and Economics or AP US Government

¹ Bolded Courses indicate TNReady Test

² AP Literature & Composition and AP Language & Composition replace ELA III and ELA IV requirements, respectively.

³ Biology, Chemistry or Physics, plus a third lab course

⁴ Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, and a higher-level math class (two if Algebra 1 taken in 8th grade)

⁵ Math track if not taking Algebra 1 in 8th grade

⁶ Math track if not taking Algebra 1 in 8th grade, but desires to double up on math in 10th grade

⁷ Math track if taking Algebra 1 in 8th grade

⁸ World History, US History, Government and Economics are all required. AP US History and AP US Government replace US History and US Government/Economics requirements, respectively.

⁹ Scoring college-ready on composition section of ACT Aspire allows choice, all others must take Mythology/CW

¹⁰ If AP Human taken in 9th grade year, no social studies course in 10th. AP Seminar taken instead.

Foreign Language 2 Years¹¹	Spanish 1 or Spanish 1 Native Speakers	Spanish 2 or Spanish 2 Native Speakers	<i>Elective Options:</i> <i>Spanish 3</i> <i>AP Spanish Language</i>	
Other 4 Credits Required¹²	PE Wellness Visual Art 1			
			ACT Review/Personal Finance	

Must Also Take 3 Courses in one of the Elective Focus Categories Below to Satisfy TN Graduation Requirements

AP Elective Focus	<p style="text-align: center;">Can be satisfied by taking any three AP Courses during high school. In addition, students on an AP Elective Focus track will be required to take the following two classes in 10th and 11th grade respectively:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AP Seminar AP Research</p>			
HUM Elective Focus	Mythology/Creative Writing	Contemporary Issues/Speech	African-American History/Sociology	
Fine Arts Elective Focus	Visual Art 1	Visual Art 2	Visual Art 3	Visual Art 4 or AP Studio Art

¹¹ Minimum requirement is two years and must be consecutive. Students may elect to take Spanish 3, Spanish 4, AP Spanish Language

¹² PE, Wellness, and Visual Art 1 must be taken during high school; ACT Review/Personal Finance must be taken in the junior year.

Honors Courses and Descriptions

According to the Tennessee State Board of Education: Teachers of honors courses will model instructional approaches that facilitate maximum interchange of ideas among students: independent study, self-directed research and learning, and appropriate use of technology. All honors courses must include multiple assessments exemplifying coursework (such as short answer, constructed-response prompts, performance-based tasks, open-ended questions, essays, original or creative interpretations, authentic products, portfolios, and analytical writing). Additionally, an honors course shall include a minimum of five (5) of the following components:

- Extended reading assignments that connect with the specified curriculum.
- Research-based writing assignments that address and extend the course curriculum.
- Projects that apply course curriculum to relevant or real-world situations. These may include oral presentations, powerpoint, or other modes of sharing findings. Connection of the project to the community is encouraged.
- Open-ended investigations in which the student selects the questions and designs the research
- Writing assignments that demonstrate a variety of modes, purposes, and styles.
- Examples of mode include narrative, descriptive, persuasive, expository, and expressive.
- Examples of purpose include to inform, entertain, and persuade.
- Examples of style include formal, informal, literary, analytical, and technical.
- Integration of appropriate technology into the course of study.
- Deeper exploration of the culture, values, and history of the discipline.
- Extensive opportunities for problem solving experiences through imagination, critical analysis, and application.
- Job shadowing experiences with presentations which connect class study to the world of work.

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Valor's Honors Offerings	English I Physics Geometry	English II Biology Algebra 2	No honors offerings. All courses offered as either standard or AP	
English I, English II, Physics, and Biology	All students will take these core course content blocks together. However, students may opt into an honors component of these courses. Students opting in honors will satisfy the honors component of their course during four, four-week sessions held during a 35-minute enrichment skinny block with a core content teacher. During these sessions, students will get enrichment time with a core content teacher and only the other students opting into the honors component of their course. They will engage in a combination of the state recommended honors components listed above.			
Geometry & Algebra 2	Only students who take Algebra 1 in the 8th grade year will be offered honors Geometry and Algebra 2 in 9th and 10th grade and will be automatically enrolled into these courses. These students will satisfy the honors components of these courses through their regular class time and will not take an additional enrichment block with their core content teacher. Students not taking Algebra 1 in 8th grade may apply to take honors Geometry in their 10th grade year and honors Algebra 2 in their 11th grade year.			