

Cumberland Valley Graduation Requirements & Program of Studies - 2019-2020

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Why is selecting a career pathway a good thing for Cumberland Valley students?

Cumberland Valley High School's career pathways are designed to connect our students to the economy through bridges to post-secondary educational opportunities that prepare every high school graduate to aggressively compete in local, state, national, and/or global marketplaces as part of a highly-skilled workforce of critical and creative thinkers who can utilize technology to solve problems and communicate solutions and, in doing so, earn a good living in communities that support their families.

Our academic and experiential pathways are aligned and articulated to one another and to the Pennsylvania Academic Standards, needs of employers, entry requirements for post-secondary trade/technical schools and the military, prerequisites for Harrisburg Area Community College and our PASHE universities, and national standards for admittance into highly competitive colleges, universities, and military academies.

My student is planning on going to college. Why should my student select a career pathway.

Studies have shown that students who enter college with a career end goal and plan in reaching that goal are much more likely to achieve that goal. Career pathways are designed to help students make an informed choice about their post-secondary endeavors. For a video that explains this research and other information on how pathways can and should impact students who go to a traditional four year college/university, [please click here.](#)

Are students required to select a career pathway?

No. However, students are encouraged to select a career pathway because it serves as a valuable planning tool as students move their high school experience.

Historically, CV students selected courses with an eye to college acceptance. While college acceptance is certainly important, it is equally as important for students to plan for what they are going to study once they are accepted to college. A career pathway at Cumberland Valley gives students the opportunity to explore potential career choices while still in high school, ensuring that when they enter post-secondary training it is aligned with their ultimate end goal, an economically viable career.

Are students required to pursue a diploma endorsement?

No. However, students are encouraged to pursue a diploma endorsement because it helps them to plan their post-secondary educational pursuits.

Why should students pursue a diploma endorsement?

The majority of economically viable careers today require some sort of post-secondary training. This does not necessarily mean a traditional bachelor's degree. Many professions require a certificate or associate's degree. The Cumberland Valley Diploma Endorsement is designed to get students thinking about what level of training their chosen career will require and to begin preparing for that post-secondary training while still in high school.

When and how can students pick a career pathway and diploma endorsement?

Students may pick a career pathway and cluster on their [course selection sheet for 2019-2020](#).

Diploma endorsements are for planning purposes during the course scheduling process. Students will be able to formally apply for a diploma endorsement prior to graduation using a Pathways Map. The four year Pathways Map for students will be released soon on Schoology.

What happens if a student decides to change their career pathway part way through high school? Can they still earn a diploma endorsement?

There is no penalty for changing a career pathway during high school. In fact, changing a career pathway could be considered a win. The majority of college students¹ change their major at least once during their post-secondary career. Such changes add to the amount of time that it takes to earn a degree. By find out that a particular career field is not for them while in high school, students are saving themselves time and money.

Students will still be able to earn a diploma endorsement even if they change their career pathway as long as they have earned the minimum credits for the endorsement within any career pathway.

¹ <https://dus.psu.edu/mentor/2013/06/disconnect-choosing-major/>

Can students take elective courses outside of their pathway?

Yes. Students can take courses that fall outside of their chosen pathway if they have space in their schedule and if there are seats available in their desired course.

My student's interests do not fall into any of the pathways in the CV Program of Studies. Are they still able to earn a diploma endorsement?

Students who do not see a pathway for them reflected in the CV Program of Studies can create a Student Designed Pathway ([see page 37 of the CVPOS](#)). As long as students meet the credit requirements for the selected diploma certificates they will be awarded it ([see page 3 of the CVPOS](#)).

What are the core graduation requirements? How do they interact with a student's career pathway?

Students at Cumberland Valley High School are required to earn 23 credits in order to graduate. Those 23 credits must include:

- 4 English credits
- 3 mathematics credits
- 3 science credits
- 3 social studies credits
- 2 additional credits in math, science, or social studies in any combination
- 1.5 credits of Health & Physical Education credits.
- 6.5 elective/integrated arts credits

For a more detailed explanation of the core graduation requirements, please see page 5 of the [CV Program of Studies](#).

Credits earned towards a student's 6.5 elective credits count towards their career pathway requirements and their chosen diploma endorsement.

Should students still take world language courses if they are pursuing a career pathway?

Students interested in attending a post-secondary institution are encouraged to take world language courses.

World Language requirements can vary among post-secondary institutions. Many colleges will recommend at least two consecutive years of a World Language study, while more selective schools will require three to four years. Because not all colleges will recognize Middle School credits, it is important to investigate college requirements early, in order to make the best decision regarding World Language courses. Students should work closely with their parents and school counselors to decide what is best, while continuing to create opportunities in all areas of interest, learning, and achievement.

How do the new graduation requirements, career pathways, and diploma endorsements impact the Class of 2019?

Current seniors will qualify for diploma endorsements if they completed a CV Designated Pathway in Agriculture, Military Science (JROTC), or Pre-Engineering (Project Lead the Way). Additionally, students who complete a pathway at Cumberland-Perry Area Vocational Technical School will qualify for a diploma endorsement.

The new graduation requirements and career pathways have no other impact to the class of 2019.

How do the new graduation requirements, career pathways, and diploma endorsements impact the Class of 2020?

Current juniors may qualify for diploma endorsements based on their existing transcripts. They will be able to apply for their selected diploma certificate prior to graduation by completing an application showing that they have completed a career pathway and have met all of the requirements of the particular diploma endorsement. Juniors are encouraged to select their 2019-2020 courses based on their desired pathway and endorsement.

How do the new graduation requirements, career pathways, and diploma endorsements impact the Class of 2021?

Current sophomores are encouraged to select a career pathway and diploma endorsement to pursue. However, as mentioned elsewhere in this FAQ, sophomores are not required to select either.

Students who select a career pathway and diploma endorsement are encouraged to select their 2019-2020 courses based on them to further the pursuit of these goals.

How do the new graduation requirements, career pathways, and diploma endorsements impact the Class of 2022?

Current 9th grade students are encouraged to select a career pathway and diploma endorsement to pursue. However, as mentioned elsewhere in this FAQ, 9th grade students are not required to select either.

Students who select a career pathway and diploma endorsement are encouraged to select their 2019-2020 courses based on them to further the pursuit of these goals.

How do the new graduation requirements, career pathways, and diploma endorsements impact the Class of 2023?

Current 8th grade students are encouraged to identify a career cluster to pursue in 9th grade. They will be encouraged to identify a career pathway and diploma endorsement during their 9th grade school year.

Students who select a career pathway and diploma endorsement are encouraged to select their 2019-2020 courses based on them to further the pursuit of these goals.

I have a question that isn't answered in this FAQ. How do I get my question answered?

You can submit your question to Cumberland Valley Administration by clicking [here](#). You will receive an email with an answer to your question and your question (if applicable) may be added to the FAQ on the website.

You can also view a recent online town hall in which Mark Blanchard, Executive Director of Cumberland Valley High School, and David Gilbert, Supervisor of College & Career Pathways discussed the philosophy behind pathways at Cumberland Valley and took questions from the online audience. Click [here](#) to watch this presentation.