DIPLOMA PATHWAYS SEALS OF DISTINCTION CLARIFICATIONS
August 2021

Seals are optional- not required.

Students can earn one or more Seals.

Students must meet South Carolina high school diploma requirements to be eligible for any Seal.

Students may meet the GPA requirement:
- at the end of first semester their senior year
  or
- with their final GPA

  Students who meet the GPA requirement at the end of first semester do not have to requalify at the end of their senior year.

Students must earn credit in all required courses listed to qualify for the corresponding Seal.
> Schools are encouraged to offer more honors courses, fine arts courses, etc. to enable students to earn Seals. Schools with limited capacity are encouraged to use VirtualSC, additional online platforms, or other creative avenues approved by the SCDE to expand course offerings.

Schools and/or school districts may determine cut off dates for required qualifying test scores.

Lab sciences courses are biology, chemistry, physics, earth science, and any science for which biology, chemistry, physics and/or earth science is a prerequisite. Courses in general or introductory science for which one of these four units is not a prerequisite will not meet this requirement.

Honors Seal
The 4 additional credits of Advanced Coursework are in addition to the required 2 English, 3 math, 2 lab science, 2 social studies, and 2-3 world language courses at honors or higher level. The 4 additional credits of advanced coursework can be in any subject area if the course is weighted at the honors or higher level.

The 4 additional credits of Advanced Coursework must be completed during the Junior/Senior years.

Example: A student takes English 1 Honors, English 2 Honors, English 3 Honors, English 4 Honors and Dual Enrollment English 101. English 1 Honors and English 2 Honors qualifies as the 2 required English courses at honors level or higher. English 3 Honors and English 4 Honors completes the 4 required English courses. English 101 can qualify for a credit of Advanced Coursework IF it is taken during the Junior or Senior year.

Career Seal
Students can qualify with EITHER an Education and Economic Development Act (EEDA) major OR Career and Technical Education (CTE) Completer

An EEDA major is four aligned courses within a career cluster designated by the district as a part of the EEDA legislation. Courses include state approved and/or local board approved courses based on district curriculum framework.

A CTE Completer has earned all required units in a state recognized CTE program identified by the assigned Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code. State recognized CTE programs with approved course listing for each CIP code can be found in the [2021-2022 SC Student Reporting Procedures Guide](#).

A complete listing of SC Industry Recognized Credentials (IRC) can be found in [2020-21 Career Ready Industry Recognized Credentials](). *Will update to 21-22 document when it becomes available.*

A Career Ready Work-Based Learning (WBL) Placement credit must meet the career ready qualifiers in the South Carolina Accountability System. Resource: [20-21 SC Work-Based Learning Implementation Guidelines](). *Will update to 21-22 document when it becomes available.*

Specialization Seals

STEM

Courses that qualify as a STEM course:
- Graduation credit courses in science and math listed in the Activity Coding Manual.
- Course listed under the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics cluster of CTE in the Activity Coding Manual.
- Course listed in the Activity Coding Manual with Engineering or Technology in the course name.

World Language

The Diploma Pathways Seals of Distinction for World Language differs from the South Carolina Seal of Biliteracy.

The South Carolina Seal of Biliteracy is a proficiency-based award; its qualifications were determined based on the levels of proficiency that are required for each tier of the South Carolina Seal of Biliteracy. There is not any possibility of using accumulated credits to qualify for the SC Seal of Biliteracy, and accepted assessments do not include AP and IB exams for this award.

The Diploma Pathways Seal of Distinction for World Language can be earned with accumulated credits or a minimum of Intermediate Low on a STAMP test. Intermediate Low does not qualify a student to earn a SC Seal of Biliteracy, but students who barely miss the SC Seal of Biliteracy by having a minimum of Intermediate Low could still be awarded a Seal of Distinction.

Arts

The requirement of "Mastery on external exam or performance task" has been waived for the Class of 2022.