

Village Green Virtual Charter School

Dual Enrollment Policy



Passed by the Board of Trustees, June, 2015

Draft 2.0

For Implementation in the 2016/2017 School Year

As required by law, VGV is establishing a dual enrollment policy which enables students to take courses for credit at Rhode Island public institutions of higher education which will be part of their high school experience and transcript. Due to our Edgenuity curriculum and flex-model scheduling, VGV is in a unique position to offer a college experience within the context of its school day without injuring the student's core program of study.

In an ideal situation, students will be able to complete all of their RI State graduation requirements within three or three and a half years and thus be able to enjoy a college experience which is meaningful in that substantial amounts of their school day or school week can be accommodated off campus.

However, it is important to clarify that the Edgenuity curriculum found at VGV is part of the charter agreement which the school has with the state and that completion of that curriculum with proficiency is the primary goal of the school. College credit while in high school is value added to the VGV experience. In no way will the school support time off task on Edgenuity, or endanger the earning of high school graduation requirements, in sake of a college experience if student academic performance is not at the level which it should be. VGV requirements towards graduation include coursework as well as Capstone and a Writing Portfolio presentation. Additionally, none of the college courses offered through a dual enrollment policy are in lieu of courses required to graduate from VGV. In every instance, courses offered at the college level are for acceleration in college, cost savings and experiential purposes only.

VGV is in a position to offer every student a terrific opportunity to gain meaningful college experiences while staying on track for graduation from high school. Edgenuity allows every student to accelerate their completion of courses towards graduation and our program, if approached diligently, can result in graduation eligibility within three years. This leaves the fourth year of high school open for a much fuller dual enrollment experience. That is the positive side of being a virtual school with a flex model and an adaptive curriculum like Edgenuity. On the flip side, our contract with the state requires us to follow the Edgenuity curriculum with fidelity and thus makes concurrent enrollment not feasible. However, because the VGV Edgenuity program can be completed in less than four years students can have the best of both worlds; a full high school experience and a full college experience without either one making logistics or scheduling an issue.

Concurrent courses are not offered at VGV due to our chartered adherence to Edgenuity; however, General Studies courses through CCRI are available through their High School Enrichment Program model.

On the following pages VGV describes our dual enrollment system, containing course options from the RI state system, as well as our own no cost dual enrollment options through Edgenuity and Sophia Learning, LLC.

Required elements contained in the VGV local dual enrollment policy

- Academic information including communication about available courses, educational outcomes, grading policy, awarding of high school credit and college transcript process.
- High School Instructor approval and identification of designated staff coordinators.
- Course costs, availability of funding and the specific funding support for low-income students.
- Student eligibility criteria including local criteria, process to enroll and appeals process.
- Student supports including communication to students and families regarding the benefits and risks, accommodations for students with disabilities, and transportation.
- Reporting and ensuring there is a process to track student enrollment in and completion of both dual and concurrent course opportunities.

Section I Basic Information about courses, grading, educational outcomes, credit and transcripts

There are two tiers of courses available to students at VGV of which both have transferability to other colleges and universities. The Tier I courses are offered by Sophia Learning, LLC and have limited transfer options. These courses are free of charge (no extra state tuition, books or transportation is required) and give students valuable experience in taking distance learning courses as a college student. Some bricks and mortar colleges and universities may take Sophia Learning, LLC courses as transfer credit.

The second tier of courses are General Education requirements taken at the Community College of RI. These courses are completely transferable to other state colleges and Universities and fall under the same eligibility requirements imposed by colleges as traditional courses for dual enrollment in RI.

Tier I college course offerings at VGV:

Sophia Learning, LLC is offered as a companion product to Edgenuity. The courses offered are:

- Accounting
- College Algebra
- Conflict Resolution
- Human Biology
- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics
- Project Management
- Introduction to Psychology
- Introduction to Sociology
- Introduction to Statistics
- Visual Communications

Courses offered by Sophia Learning, LLC are accredited through both the Distance Education Accreditation Commission (www.DEAC.org) and the American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service (www.acenet.edu).

Sophia Learning, LLC courses articulate for full credit with the following on-line colleges and universities:

- American Sentinel University www.americansentinel.edu
- Capella University www.capella.edu
- Rasmussen College www.rasmussen.edu
- Thomas Edison State College www.tesc.edu
- United States Sports Academy www.ussa.edu
- Walden University www.walden.edu
- Western Governors University www.wgu.edu
- Wilmington University www.wilmu.edu

Tier II college course offerings at VGV:

Tier II courses are the more traditional dual enrollment options for VGV students interested in an on-campus experience. VGV believes that dual enrollment offers a student the ability to gain two fundamental advantages while in high school. First, the student becomes exposed to the demands of college life and learns the expectations and systems found in higher education. Second, valuable time is saved towards the completion of a college degree when

many of the general education requirements have been met prior to full matriculation as a college student. Saving both time and money towards a college degree are dual goals of dual enrollment.

Since college courses within the state's college and university system are fully transferable, VGV supports accessing courses through CCRI as the mission of that college is to support students in their first years of college in order increase chances of success at the Bachelor's Degree level. Community Colleges are generally more welcoming of a non-traditional student and have campuses located throughout RI which works well with the VGV state-wide enrollment policy with regard to transportation and the ability to access a greater selection of courses, sectional availability and scheduling times. Up to six credits per semester are allowed per CCRI regulation.

Tier II courses offered to VGV students at CCRI are:

English 1010	Composition I	3 credits
History	1010 to 2330	3 credits
Humanities	Arts, English and languages	6 credits
Literature	Any literature course	3 credits
Math	2500, 2910, or 2990	3 credits
Science	ASTR 1010, 1020	
	BIOL 1001, 1002, 1005, 1010, 1020	
	CHEM 1000, 1010, 1030, 1100	
	GEOL 1010, 1020	
	OCEN 1010, 1030 (must do both)	
	PHSY 1000, 1030, 1040	8 to 10 credits
Social Science	Econ, Geography, Poli-Sci	
	Sociology and Psychology	6 credits

Educational outcomes: This ambitious series of course offerings allows a VGV student to make significant strides towards the successful completion of most, if not all, of the first year of college. Within each academic domain there are many, many courses to choose from and students should consult their college transition coordinator as well as the CCRI course catalogs and other resources in order to choose wisely. Having a successful dual enrollment experience not only prepares a student for the future rigors of college but advantages the student in the college application process as a more attractive candidate for full time matriculation.

Grading Policy: VGV gives full faith and credit toward any and all final grades earned through the school's dual enrollment program.

Awarding of high school credit: Because VGV's curriculum can be completed in three years there are no college courses offered which supplant a required Edgenuity course. The integrity of the school's chartered Edgenuity curriculum can be supported in concert with robust dual enrollment opportunities.

Campuses: VGV encourages students to take courses at whichever CCRI they desire. Students from urban areas may want a suburban college experience while students from suburban areas may want the convenience and proximity to VGV which CCRI's urban campuses offer.

The choice of campus is totally up to the student and may be subject to course offerings specific to each CCRI location. CCRI has campuses in Lincoln, Providence Liston, Providence Downtown, Warwick, Newport and Westerly.

Transcript process: All college grades will be listed on the student's VGV high school transcript. Official college transcripts can be obtained through the CCRI registrar's office and school copies sent to VGV will be held on file as well. Dual enrollment credits will not count towards the overall GPA for special designations (Valedictorian, Salutatorian and other awards or designations) as not all students will take dual enrollment options and the dual enrollment courses are not required to graduate from VGV.

Section II Approval and designated staff coordinator

Approval for dual enrollment courses will be made by the Director of Operations and the Director of Academic Planning and Logistics. The College Transition Coordinator will be the faculty member responsible for managing the dual enrollment process, record keeping, communication and interfacing with higher education.

Section III Costs and availability of funding to support low-income students

This dual enrollment policy is a requirement of state law and as such funding earmarked for fiscal year 2016 has been included in the governor's budget for tuition support of students defined as low-income (free and reduced lunch eligibility). The provisions found within this policy are contingent upon that funding. Our program's curriculum partner offers dual enrollment at on-line colleges and universities as part of the current state and local tuition which supports each student. These are our Tier I courses and as such any extra dual enrollment program is added value beyond the school's scope of obligation.

Non-free and reduced lunch families bear the cost for dual enrollment courses at the college's reduced rate.

For free and reduced lunch students the \$20.00 CCRI application fee will be waived.

Because concurrent dual enrollment courses are not offered at VGV, and no dual enrollment course is required to graduate, textbook costs are not covered by the school.

VGV students receive transportation support via RIPTA bus to support their dual enrollment efforts.

VGV has budgeted a \$5,000 reserve fund for textbook support for students in financial need and on an as needed basis.

Section IV Student eligibility criteria to enroll, process to enroll and appeal process

In order to be considered for dual enrollment students must exhibit in the semester prior to enrollment:

- Have a GPA of 3.2 in all courses
- Be on pace or ahead of pace in all core academic subjects
- Have earned 11 or more credits
- Have a 90% or better attendance and on-time percentage
- Have no discipline, behavior or conduct issues

The VGV process to enroll in dual enrollment is the standard process for the High School Enrichment program at CCRI. This well established program offers up to six credits per semester and has standardized forms for application and information.

Outreach is a major part of the College Transition Coordinator's job and that individual is responsible for tracking students and notifying those students eligible for dual enrollment. In-house enrollment materials will include an updated Living Transcript from Dr. Butler which advises students of eligibility and an application for VGV dual enrollment which requires parent sign off and consent.

Decisions regarding dual enrollment eligibility can be appealed by parents to the school's improvement team (SIT). This body has the ability to waive policy and create exemptions on a basis of need. Parents may petition the SIT by writing to the superintendent and requesting a hearing on the matter. The decisions of the SIT may be appealed to the school's Board of Trustees for further deliberation. In both cases of appellate level the matter of petition will be moved directly to the next meeting's agenda.

CCRI has certain ACCUPLACER requirements for enrollment and those test score levels are set by the college and not VGV. CCRI may impose, or restrict, other rules or course section availability and these are conditions outside of VGV's control.

Section V Student Supports

VGV will communicate the dual enrollment opportunities to students and families through publication of this policy as part of the handbook series, the use of letters and media created by RIDE and CCRI, family college information nights and our own brochure.

Dual enrollment has many benefits such as students becoming familiar with college facilities, rituals, terms and vocabulary, course and class structures and mastering a new style of teaching and learning. In addition to the soft skills which are learned through dual enrollment it is a great jump start on college credits in order to shorten the road to a degree. Dual enrollment can also be a benefit and cost savings in accessing low cost or free credits.

There are risks in attempting dual enrollment. They include:

- Low or poor grades and performance will be part of the student's permanent record from both CCRI and VGV
- Low or poor grades and performance may negatively affect student aid opportunities in the future
- Incomplete grades will be carried on both school's transcripts
- Not all special populations provisions found in high school will be followed in college
- Performance in VGV coursework may be affected by time spent in dual enrollment
- Students will have to comply with both sets of school handbook requirements
- Dropping courses after the college's add/drop period may cause a loss of tuition

Transportation to and from Dual Enrollment opportunities will be funded by VGV as is daily transportation to and from school.

Section VI Process to ensure tracking of student progress

The College Transition Coordinator is a full time faculty member and dual enrollment process oversight is one of their primary duties. Tracking progress throughout the semester in both individual and cohort level face-to-face meetings will occur no less than monthly.

The results of college coursework will be found on the VGV official school transcript. However, because colleges do not report mid-semester progress the college course grade may or may not be on a VGV report card.

Grade reporting and transcript generation is the responsibility of the college. However, VGV will forward to parents copies of all official college correspondence and grade reports. School copies of all official college correspondence and grade reports will be kept on record in the student's PR file.