VAL TECH

The Valencia Academy

A California Distinguished School since 1992
Over 80 years of quality education in Orange County

Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District

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Val Tech: Frequently Asked Questions

PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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What is Val Tech?

Val Tech is a dynamic technology program that allows students to select an educational path that will enable them to meet their long-term academic or career goals. Depending on their choice of classes, students can graduate with a Val Tech Certificate as well as a high-school diploma geared for admission either to any top-level four-year university (i.e., University of California) or to a California State University. Students can also select classes that prepare them for a career in technology immediately upon their graduation from high school.

Val Tech is designed for highly motivated, academically talented students who value an opportunity to begin preparing now for a rewarding career in technology in the field of the arts, communication, business, computer science, computer networking, or engineering.

Designed for students who have a special interest in and aptitude for technology, Val Tech encourages academic excellence as it prepares students for their future career in the highly technological 21st century.

This booklet is designed to answer some of the frequently asked questions about Val Tech. If you have other questions or would like to speak to someone about the program, please contact one of the people listed on page 14.

Why should students enter the Val Tech Program?

- To earn a Tech Diploma
- To acquire high-level technology skills
- To prepare for college and university technology courses
- To prepare for a specialized technology certificate program
- To satisfy their interest in and to further develop their aptitude for technology

What are the Val Tech entrance requirements?

- Submit an application to your middle school counselor
- 3.0 overall GPA and no grades lower than a C-
- Grade of B or better in Math 8 for 1st and 2nd quarters
- For 1st and 2nd quarters, a grade of B or better in GATE or Honors Language Arts OR a grade of A in regular Language Arts.

What are Val Tech's established pathways?

Val Tech has established pathways in the following areas:

- Graphic Design
- Photography
- Production & Managerial Arts
- Business & Finance
- Computer Science
- Cyber Security
- Networking
- Robotics (Mechatronics/Applied Engineering)

Two hundred forty (240) credits are needed to graduate with a Val Tech diploma; a minimum

of 50 credits must be in technology classes from the prescribed pathways. Those 50 credits must include an internship. Students can schedule this 150-hour, ten-credit internship during the summer between their junior and senior years or during their senior year (within or outside the traditional school day). The internship will culminate in a research project, a reflective essay, and an oral presentation. To be eligible for a tech diploma, the Val Tech student must also construct and properly maintain an electronic portfolio all four years of the Val Tech program.

Every Val Tech student must meet all district graduation requirements. As previously mentioned, students pursuing a tech diploma can also fulfill both University of California and California State University entrance requirements. The Class of 2006 was the first group of Valencia students eligible for a Val Tech diploma.

What does the internship involve?

All internships are unpaid, and the Val Tech Coordinator and/or the Director of Valencia Academy must approve each internship. Students can schedule this 150-hour, ten-credit internship during the summer between their junior and senior years or during their senior year. (Please refer to **What are Val Tech's established pathways?** Pg. 3) Students can make arrangements for their internship in the technology area of their own interest and choosing. Val Tech students may also arrange a qualifying internship at VHS or another local school. The internship will culminate in a research project, a reflective essay, and an oral presentation. To be eligible for a tech diploma, the Val Tech student must also construct and properly maintain an electronic portfolio all four years of the Val Tech program. A special seminar conducted during the spring of the junior year (outside of the regular school day) will help prepare students for a successful internship experience.

Additionally, during their senior year, students must periodically meet during lunch or after school with the Val Tech Coordinator in order to prepare for their final presentation. These meeting dates with be announced each semester.

Students learn how to complete an electronic portfolio while enrolled in Computer Technology or in AP Computer Science Principles. See the Val Tech Internship Program (V-TIP) book for specifics.

What other requirements must Val Tech students meet?

Tech students must meet all district graduation requirements. Students pursuing a tech diploma can also fulfill both University of California and California State University entrance requirements.

What must students do to successfully complete the Val Tech Program?

- Complete 240 credits with an overall unweighted GPA of 2.5 or better in academic courses (Students whose cumulative GPA fall below a 2.0 at the end of any semester will be placed on probation for one semester. They must raise their cumulative GPA to at least 2.0, or they will be dropped from the Val Tech Program.) Students who are dropped from the program and do not reside in the Valencia High School attendance area may be required to transfer to their home school.

- Complete 50 credits in technology pathway electives with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better in those courses

- Attend the electronic portfolio and internship seminar during the spring of their junior year (The Val Tech Coordinator and/or the Director of Valencia Academy must approve the planned internship.)

- Complete the150-hour internship which will culminate in a research project, a reflective essay, and an oral presentation

- Attend all mandatory lunchtime or after school meetings during the senior year. These meetings will help prepare students for each of the Val Tech requirements (oral presentation, research project, reflective essay, and electronic portfolio)

- Develop and properly maintain an electronic portfolio

- Meet all district graduation requirements

- Earn acceptable citizenship grades reflecting good behavior. (Receipt of an unsatisfactory grade will result in student being put on probation. Two consecutive unsatisfactory grades may result in a student being dropped from the program. Students who are dropped from the program and do not reside in the Valencia High School attendance area may be required to transfer to their home school.)

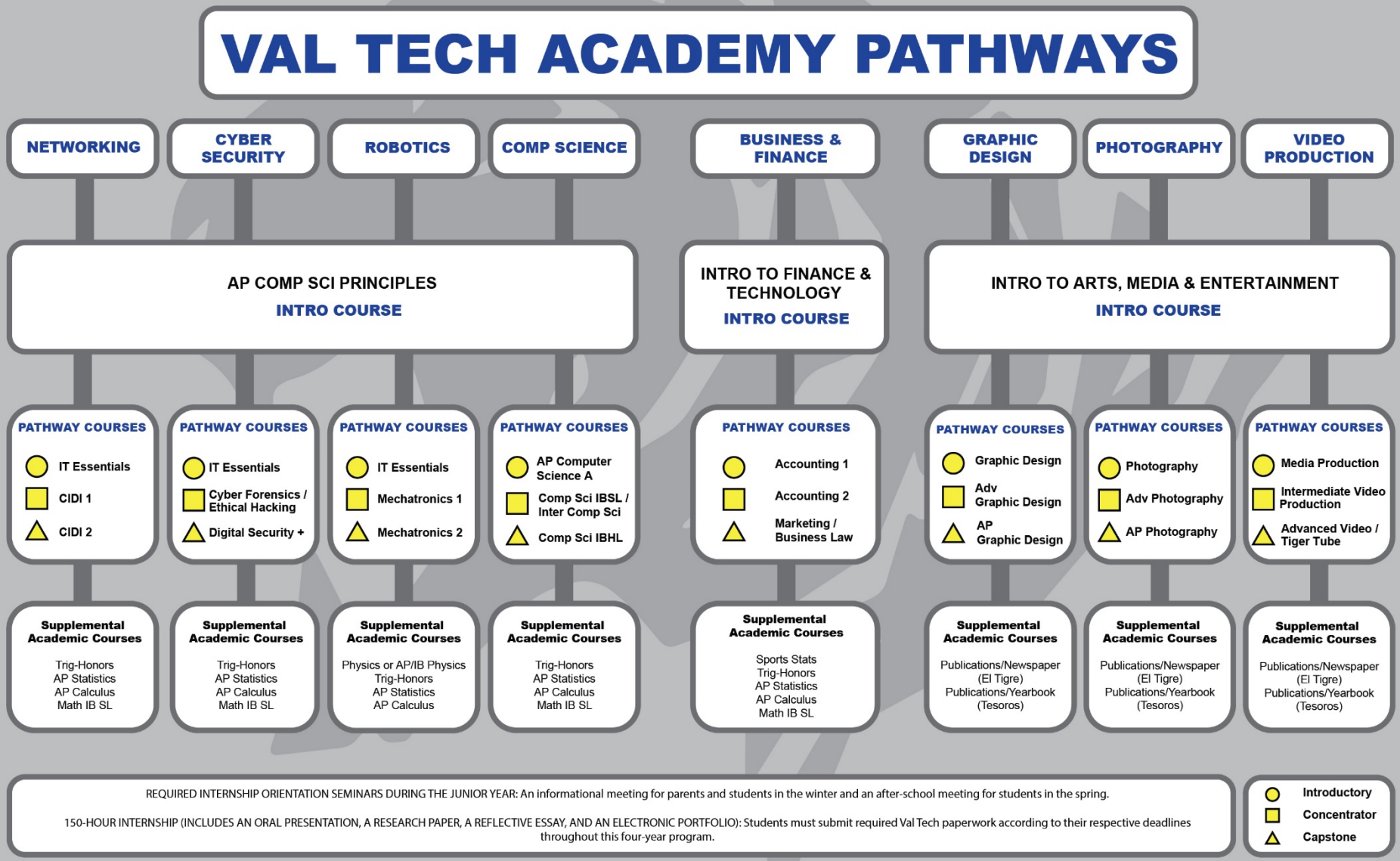
What are the application criteria for Val Tech?

- Complete and submit application. School counselors will provide validation of:
  - ✓ A grade of B or better in Algebra 1 or Math 8 (first and second quarters)
  - ✓ For 1st and 2nd quarters a grade of B in GATE or Honors Language Arts **OR** grade of A in regular Language Arts
- Provide two letters of recommendation from middle-school core teachers

What are the benefits of a Val Tech high-school education?

In summary, the benefit of a Val Tech high-school education is a Tech Diploma which provides the student with the opportunity to acquire high-level technology skills, prepare for high-level college and university courses, prepare for specialized technology certificate programs, and sharpen skills and deepen understanding of technology.

VAL TECH ACADEMY PATHWAYS



REQUIRED INTERNSHIP ORIENTATION SEMINARS DURING THE JUNIOR YEAR: An informational meeting for parents and students in the winter and an after-school meeting for students in the spring.

150-HOUR INTERNSHIP (INCLUDES AN ORAL PRESENTATION, A RESEARCH PAPER, A REFLECTIVE ESSAY, AND AN ELECTRONIC PORTFOLIO): Students must submit required Val Tech paperwork according to their respective deadlines throughout this four-year program.

- Introductory
- Concentrator
- Capstone

PYLUSD GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

9th-Grade	10th-Grade	11th-Grade	12th-Grade
Graduation Requirements: • Language Arts • Math • PE • Science • Foreign Language or Fine Arts • ASCP/ Health	**Graduation Requirements:** • Language Arts • Math • PE • Science • World History • Foreign Language (necessary for 4-year college-bound students)	**Graduation Requirements:** • Language Arts • US History (Another year of Math, Science, Foreign Language are suggested for 4-year college-bound students)	**Graduation Requirements:** • Language Arts • Government • Economics
Val Tech Requirement: Computer Technology 1A/1B	**Val Tech Requirements**: Elective from pathway	**Val Tech Requirements:** • Pre-Internship meeting • Elective(s) from pathway	**Val Tech Requirements:** • 150-hour Internship (V-TIP) • Research project (Completed in LA-4) • Reflective Essay • Presentation (based on internship) • Electronic portfolio • Electives from pathway

VAL TECH REQUIREMENTS BY GRADE LEVEL

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Computer Technology 1A/1B	Elective from prescribed pathway (Some sophomore course requirements will be offered zero period and/or seventh period to facilitate pathway continuity.)	Up to four (4) semesters of Tech classes from prescribed pathways.	Up to four (4) semesters of Tech classes, including a 150-hour, ten-credit internship culminating in an presentation, a research project, reflective essay and an electronic portfolio
Health* (zero period or summer school)			
Academic Studies & Career Planning (ASCP)* zero period, summer school, or Directed Study		Internship meeting—required (Orientation to V-TIP Val Tech Internship Program)	

MEDIA & DESIGN ARTS

Subject Area	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English Language Arts	Language Arts 1	Language Arts 2	Language Arts 3	Language Arts 4
Mathematics	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2/Trigonometry	Pre-Calculus
Science	Earth Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics
History/ Social Science	None	World History	US History	Government & Economics
Val Tech Courses	• Computer Technology • AP Computer Principles	• Graphic Design • Photography	• Introduction to Web Design • AP Photography • Publication/ Newspaper (*El Tigre*)	• Advanced Web Design • Publication/ Yearbook (*Tesoros*)
Val Tech Responsibilities	• Electronic Portfolio	• Electronic Portfolio	• Electronic Portfolio • Pre-Internship	• Electronic Portfolio • Internship • Research Paper • Reflective Essay • Presentation

Please note that this sequence of courses is a suggestion and may not work for every student. Each student will meet with Mrs. Bahner to create a four-year plan that works for him/her specifically.

PRODUCTION & MANAGERIAL ARTS

Subject Area	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English Language Arts	Language Arts 1	Language Arts 2	Language Arts 3	Language Arts 4
Mathematics	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2/Trigonometry	Pre-Calculus
Science	Earth Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics
History/ Social Science	None	World History	US History	Government & Economics
Val Tech Courses	• Computer Technology • AP Computer Principles	• Media Productions *(Film Making)*	• Video Production I *(TigerTube)* • Newspaper *(El Tigre)*	• Video Production II *(TigerTube)* • Publication/ Yearbook *(Tesoros)*
Val Tech Responsibilities	• Electronic Portfolio	• Electronic Portfolio	• Electronic Portfolio • Pre-Internship	• Electronic Portfolio • Internship • Research Paper • Reflective Essay • Presentation

Please note that this sequence of courses is a suggestion and may not work for every student. Each student will meet with Mrs. Bahner to create a four-year plan that works for him/her specifically.

ICT: ROBOTICS

Subject Area	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English Language Arts	Language Arts 1	Language Arts 2	Language Arts 3	Language Arts 4
Mathematics	Geometry *(Honors)*	Algebra 2/Trigonometry *(Honors)*	Pre-Calculus *(Honors)*	• AP Statistics • AP Calculus • Math IB SL
Science	Biology *(Honors)*	Chemistry *(Honors)*	Physics	AP Physics
History/ Social Science	None	World History	US History	Government & Economics
Val Tech Courses	• Computer Technology • AP Computer Principles	• Pre-Engineering Technology	• Robotics	• Competitive Robotics • Advanced Robotics
Val Tech Responsibilities	• Electronic Portfolio	• Electronic Portfolio	• Electronic Portfolio • Pre-Internship	• Electronic Portfolio • Internship • Research Paper • Reflective Essay • Presentation

Please note that this sequence of courses is a suggestion and may not work for every student. Each student will meet with Mrs. Bahner to create a four-year plan that works for him/her specifically.

ICT: NETWORKING

Subject Area	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English Language Arts	Language Arts 1	Language Arts 2	Language Arts 3	Language Arts 4
Mathematics	Geometry *(Honors)*	Algebra 2/Trigonometry *(Honors)*	Pre-Calculus *(Honors)*	• AP Statistics • AP Calculus • Math IB SL
Science	Biology *(Honors)*	Chemistry *(Honors)*	Physics	AP Physics
History/ Social Science	None	World History	US History	Government & Economics
Val Tech Courses	• Computer Technology • AP Computer Principles	• Computer Maintenance *(Needed for CompTIA A+)*	• Converged Internetwork Design and Implementation 1 *(Needed for CCENT)*	• Converged Internetwork Design and Implementation 2 *(Needed for CCENT)*
Val Tech Responsibilities	• Electronic Portfolio	• Electronic Portfolio	• Electronic Portfolio • Pre-Internship	• Electronic Portfolio • Internship • Research Paper • Reflective Essay • Presentation

Please note that this sequence of courses is a suggestion and may not work for every student. Each student will meet with Mrs. Bahner to create a four-year plan that works for him/her specifically.

ICT: COMPUTER SCIENCE

Subject Area	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English Language Arts	Language Arts 1	Language Arts 2	Language Arts 3	Language Arts 4
Mathematics	Geometry *(Honors)*	Algebra 2/Trigonometry *(Honors)*	Pre-Calculus *(Honors)*	• AP Statistics • AP Calculus • Math IB SL
Science	Biology *(Honors)*	Chemistry *(Honors)*	Physics	AP Physics
History/ Social Science	None	World History	US History	Government & Economics
Val Tech Courses	• Computer Technology • AP Computer Principles	• AP Computer Science	• IB Computer Science HL Year 2	• Computer Science *(C++)*
Val Tech Responsibilities	• Electronic Portfolio	• Electronic Portfolio	• Electronic Portfolio • Pre-Internship	• Electronic Portfolio • Internship • Research Paper • Reflective Essay • Presentation

Please note that this sequence of courses is a suggestion and may not work for every student. Each student will meet with Mrs. Bahner to create a four-year plan that works for him/her specifically.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Subject Area	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English Language Arts	Language Arts 1	Language Arts 2	Language Arts 3	Language Arts 4
Mathematics	Geometry *(Honors)*	Algebra 2/Trigonometry *(Honors)*	Pre-Calculus *(Honors)*	• AP Statistics • AP Calculus • Math IB SL
Science	Biology *(Honors)*	Chemistry *(Honors)*	Physics	AP Physics
History/ Social Science	None	World History	US History	Government & Economics
Val Tech Courses	• Computer Technology • AP Computer Principles	• Accounting	• Sports Statistics • Business Economics	• Computerized Accounting
Val Tech Responsibilities	• Electronic Portfolio	• Electronic Portfolio	• Electronic Portfolio • Pre-Internship	• Electronic Portfolio • Internship • Research Paper • Reflective Essay • Presentation

Please note that this sequence of courses is a suggestion and may not work for every student. Each student will meet with Mrs. Bahner to create a four-year plan that works for him/her specifically.

Thanks for taking the time to learn more about the Val Tech Program.

Every effort has been taken to provide accurate and consistent information in this manual. If you have any questions, or for more information, please visit our website at www.vhstigers.org or you may contact us:

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Special thanks to
Mrs. Carol Holst, Val Tech Founder
Mr. Wendell Bainter, Val Tech Director Emeritus