Val Tech Information Handbook

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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 fields of the arts, media, and entertainment; business and finance; or information communication technologies.

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 go to our website to obtain the relevant contact information.

**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 or higher
- 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
How do I earn a Val Tech diploma?
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 a senior presentation. To be eligible for a Val Tech diploma, you must also construct and maintain an electronic portfolio all four years of the Val Tech program. In addition, Val Tech students must meet all district graduation requirements.

What does the internship involve?
All internships are unpaid, and the Val Tech Coordinator and/or the Val Tech Internship Coordinator must approve each internship. Students most commonly schedule this 150-hour, ten-credit internship during the summer between their junior and senior years. 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, PYLUSD, or another educational establishment. Students will also be enrolled in a hybrid internship course during the time of their internship. This course meets weekly, digitally or in-person.

The internship will culminate in a research project, reflective essay, and senior presentation. A special seminar conducted during the spring of the junior year will help prepare students for a successful internship experience. Additionally, during their senior year, students will periodically meet with the Val Tech Coordinator in order to prepare for their senior presentation. These meeting dates with be announced each semester.

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
- Complete the 150-hour internship and corresponding course, which will culminate in a research project, reflective essay, and senior presentation
- Attend all mandatory meetings during the senior year. These meetings will help prepare students for the completion of their Val Tech requirements (senior presentation, research project, reflective essay, and electronic portfolio)
- Develop and properly maintain an electronic portfolio over four years
- Meet all district graduation requirements
- Earn acceptable citizenship grades reflecting good behavior