

## SECTION I:

# Planning for a Career and Education After High School

## What does the future hold for me?

One of the most important questions asked by graduating seniors is "What am I going to do now that I'm leaving high school?" There are so many opportunities and unknowns. It is both frightening and exciting.

Many of the careers which will be necessary in the future have not yet been invented! Due to changing technology and increased global competition, all workers must be prepared to adapt and must be committed to life-long learning. Entry level jobs requiring only a high school diploma are disappearing. The minimum educational level required for most jobs by the time you graduate will be two years beyond high school. These may include two years of college toward a four-year baccalaureate degree, a two-year associate degree, apprenticeship training or specialty training.

In order to survive in the global, competitive job market, students must have a long-range educational and career plan. An increasing number of jobs will require a technical degree rather than a baccalaureate degree. These jobs will require a solid academic foundation in math, science and communications. Employers also will stress the importance of reasoning, teamwork, and interpersonal communications skills.

## How can I prepare?

All high school graduates can expect to work, earn a living, and build a career. To do this successfully requires planning and selecting a career goal that is right for you. You need to set personal goals that will give focus to your high school years. These goals should be outlined in a career and educational plan developed with the assistance of a school counselor and your parents. Your career and educational plan provides a strategy for accomplishing goals. Consider the following as you develop your plan and select courses:

- Your abilities, interests, likes and dislikes;
- Curriculum in the career area of your choice, including dual enrollment courses and work-related options;
- Cost, transportation and your extracurricular activities, especially for off-campus and dual enrollment classes.

## What are the career areas?

Exciting and diverse careers are open to qualified applicants. The possibilities are limitless. Your school counselor and career counselor will help you to learn more about these opportunities and about your own interests using career inventories and computerized programs such as DISCOVER and Virginia View. Most careers fall into one of the following 16 Career Clusters:

- **Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources**  
The production, processing, marketing, distribution, financing, and development of agricultural commodities and resources including food, fiber, wood products, natural resources, horticulture, and other plant and animal products/resources.
- **Architecture & Construction**  
Careers in designing, planning, managing, building and maintaining the built environment.
- **Arts, A/V Technology & Communications**  
Designing, producing, exhibiting, performing, writing, and publishing multimedia content including visual and performing arts and design, journalism, and entertainment services.
- **Business Management & Administration**  
Business Management and Administration careers encompass planning, organizing, directing and evaluating business functions essential to efficient and productive business operations. Business Management and Administration career opportunities are available in every sector of the economy.
- **Education & Training**  
Planning, managing and providing education and training services, and related learning support services.
- **Finance**  
Planning, services for financial and investment planning, banking, insurance, and business financial management.
- **Government & Public Administration**  
Executing governmental functions to include governance; national security; foreign service; planning; revenue and taxation; regulation; and management and administration at the local, state, and federal levels.
- **Health Science**  
Planning, managing, and providing therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development.

- **Hospitality & Tourism**  
Hospitality & Tourism encompasses the management, marketing and operations of restaurants and other food services, lodging, attractions, recreation events and travel related services.
- **Human Services**  
Preparing individuals for employment in career pathways that relate to families and human needs.
- **Information Technology**  
Building linkages in IT occupations framework: for entry level, technical, and professional careers related to the design, development, support and management of hardware, software, multimedia, and systems integration services.
- **Public Safety, Corrections & Security**  
Planning, managing, and providing legal, public safety, protective services and homeland security, including professional and technical support services.
- **Manufacturing**  
Planning, managing and performing the processing of materials into intermediate or final products and related professional and technical support activities such as production planning and control, maintenance and manufacturing/process engineering.
- **Marketing, Sales & Service**  
Planning, managing, and performing marketing activities to reach organizational objectives.
- **Science Technology, Engineering & Mathematics**  
Planning, managing, and providing scientific research and professional and technical services (e.g., physical science, social science, engineering) including laboratory and testing services, and research and development services.

- **Transportation, Distribution & Logistics**  
Planning, management, and movement of people, materials, and goods by road, pipeline, air, rail and water and related professional and technical support services such as transportation infrastructure planning and management, logistics services, mobile equipment and facility maintenance.

Courses are available in Hanover high schools in each of these categories. For specific information about these areas, see your school counselor. You may be referred to a specific teacher, parent, or business representative for more information.

***What options do I have in middle and high school?***

- Diploma options are described beginning on page 5.
- Middle and high school course descriptions begin on page 21, Section II. Off-campus opportunities available through apprenticeships and Governor’s School also are included within this section headed Course Descriptions.
- Descriptions of dual enrollment classes and other programs available from J. Sargeant Reynolds (JSRCC), Randolph-Macon College (R-MC), and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) are described in Section IV: Career Education, College Programs, and Dual Enrollment. Course numbers for J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College are designated JSRCC; Randolph-Macon College courses are designated R-MC; and Virginia Commonwealth University courses are designated VCU.