



'Christ is at the center of all we do.'

Archdiocese of Miami  
Virtual Catholic School  
Home of the Crusaders

## 2016-2017 FAQ

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## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



1. What is Archdiocese of Miami Virtual Catholic School? Is it accredited? ADOM-VCS is a Catholic school choice providing middle and high school curriculum to students across the country. All of our courses are fully online. ADOM-VCS is accredited as a system by Advance Education, Inc. (AdvancED), and SACS CASI (Southern Association of College and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement.) Our courses meet all of the Florida Standards.

2. Do you issue diplomas or GED's? Part Time and Home Education students who take courses with ADOM-VCS are not eligible to receive a diploma or GED directly from ADOM-VCS. However, full-time students who follow a traditional, 180-day school calendar do graduate with a diploma. When enrolled as a full-time student in ADOM-VCS, SDOM-VCS is considered your school of record. You take courses with ADOM-VCS, receive grades through ADOM-VCS, and graduate with an ADOM-VCS diploma. Read requirements specific to the full-time program at <http://adomvirtual.com/academics.html>.

Public or private school students who take courses with ADOM-VCS to supplement or enhance their schedule have grades sent to their current school. Transcripts, report cards, and/or diplomas are issued by the public or private school according to your school's policies and procedures.

Homeschool students who take some or all of their courses on a flexible schedule through ADOM-VCS must be registered as a home education student in their district of record. Records are maintained by the school district and your parent/guardian is responsible for your curriculum. Homeschool students who fulfill all of their requirements are still considered a graduate even if they do not receive a traditional diploma. Always check with your local school district or the school in which you are registered to be certain of the specific graduation requirements that govern you. In some districts, there will be schools with requirements that vary from those of other schools.

3. How much do ADOM-VCS courses cost?

- 0.5 credit course: \$300
- 1.0 credit course (same subject): \$575
- Registration Fee: \$50 (non-refundable)
- After 28 days from the start of the semester or if 15% of the course is completed, tuition is not refunded.

4. Do students get actual live teachers?

Every ADOM-VCS course is taught by highly qualified, State Certified Instructors—experts in their subject areas. Teachers and students interact regularly through email, voice mail, telephone conversations, and instant messenger. Teachers include 'Office Hours' in their introductory materials. Students are encouraged to contact the teacher when there is a need of any kind. Teachers speak via telephone and/or other communication tools with students and their parents routinely.

5. Do you provide us with a computer? No. Students wishing to take an ADOM-VCS course must have access to their own computer/tablet via school library, home, friend's house, or local library. [Technology Requirements](#) are listed on the School Profile and the school's website.
6. Do I need to purchase textbooks? All course materials are provided online. Some courses do require students to purchase additional materials.
7. How do I know what courses to take?
  - o Public/Private School Students: Please visit your school counselor for academic advice as to your academic needs.
  - o Homeschooled Students: Students MUST enroll in all of the core courses: Theology, Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Math.
8. Do you offer Honors Courses? Almost all of our courses may be taken for Regular or Honors credit. You will register for regular, then your teacher will specify the modules that are worked on for honors credit.
  - o Public / Private Students: Please make sure your school counselor is aware of your choice prior to notifying your ADOM-VCS instructor (the honors level must be approved by your school).
9. How long do the courses last? Courses are 16-18 weeks per half credit. We do not offer reduced content. Courses are available year-round with open enrollment. All courses provide the entire spectrum of components required by Florida.
10. Can I accelerate and complete faster? Yes you can! Students will be given a Traditional Pace chart which shows students doing an average of 2-3 lessons a week for a rate of about 3-5 hours of study time a week. Students can elect to do extra assignments a week, therefore completing the course in less time.
11. How are assignments completed? Upon entering the course, students have access to ALL assignments, but access to tests or quizzes may not be available until certain assignments have been completed. Students move sequentially through the course but may be allowed to occasionally move ahead or test out of certain areas, pending instructor approval.
12. What is the Grade Book? Every graded assessment is recorded in the student's personal grade book, which is available to ALL parents/guardians who request an observer account—something we highly recommend! ADOM-VCS does not issue Progress Reports; routinely monitoring grades allows you to see student progress over time. All graded assignments and current overall grade average are available for viewing.
13. What is the work load like? Each student is required to submit a specific amount of work each week to maintain the appropriate pace decided on by teacher and student. The number of required weekly submissions depends on the course taken. Failure to maintain pace results in warnings, reduced grades and, if unheeded, withdrawal from the course.
14. How do I know what work is due when? All ADOM-VCS courses have weekly modules, with due dates for assignments. This allows students to know exactly what is expected to be submitted on a weekly basis.
15. Which course can I take that will start right away? ADOM-VCS follows the school calendar of the Archdiocese of Miami schools. The calendar highlights are posted on the school's website. However, there is some flexibility for start/end dates.
16. When do courses begin? ADOM-VCS follows the school calendar of the Archdiocese of Miami schools. As students are assigned to instructors, a welcome call and/or Orientation Webinar must then be completed. Once either activity is complete, you may begin working in the course.

17. Do you offer Advanced Placement (AP) courses? Yes, ADOM-VCS offers Advanced Placement courses for several subject areas. An AP course is a college-level learning experience which requires that students be academically prepared and willing to invest the necessary time and effort. Students are required to take AP Exams in May as part of the FLVS AP course requirements. AP course credit will not be issued to a student's high school transcript until verification of participation in an AP Exam. This occurs at the end of May each year. Students should check with their school district to find the location and date for the Spring exam.

Our AP courses are not designed for Credit Recovery.

18. How many courses am I allowed to take at once? Due to the amount of time each course takes to complete, we recommend:

- o Homeschooled: Not more than 4-5 courses at a time, if ADOM-VCS will be their sole provider.
- o Public / Private School: Not more than 1-2 courses at a time (part-time students); not more than 6-7 courses at a time (full-time students). Each course averages 18 weeks per half credit, at a rate of approximately 4-6 study hours per week.

19. Do students automatically get an official transcript sent to them? Official final grade reports are sent out electronically to the school of record immediately upon completing a course or semester of a course. (*Exception: Advanced Placement credits are issued upon verification of AP exam participation at the end of each exam cycle in May.*) What makes a transcript official is when it's sent sealed and/or directly to the school or entity. They have to be the ones to open it. As soon as our instructors complete the student and issue a final grade, a document is automatically sent to the school of record. Students can print Unofficial Transcripts via their ADOM-VCS account.

20. How can I meet my online course requirement? Per Florida statute 1003.428, all students entering grade 9 in the 2011-2012 school year or thereafter must complete an online course prior to graduation. If you choose to take an online course that is 2 segments (English I, Algebra I, etc.) you must complete both segments to meet the online learning requirement. If the course is a .5 credit course (Law Studies, Outdoor Education, etc.), you will meet the requirement by completing this course. Also, for students entering grade 9 in the 2013-2014 school year and beyond, Drivers Ed will no longer count as an online course to meet this requirement. Students in grades 10, 11 and 12 may still fulfill their online learning requirement by taking Driver's Ed.

21. **Where can I read about Florida's Bright Futures Scholarship?**  
<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/sfad/bf/homepac.htm>

22. Where do I get information about the PSAT?  
PSAT: <http://www.collegeboard.com/>

23. 17) How do I register for the SAT or ACT?  
Apply for SAT: <http://www.collegeboard.com/>  
Apply for ACT: <http://www.act.org>

24. Where do I begin to get Financial Aid for College?  
<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

25. My child is going into the military. What test should he take?  
Take the ASVAB:  
<http://www.asvabprogram.com/>

26. How do I make sure my child is eligible to play college sports? Student-athletes must receive clearance from the NCAA. Parents should obtain the eligibility requirements before ninth grade to assure all academic and documentation requirements of the NCAA are met.