



Secondary Education

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UCPS Middle and High School Students and Parents,

The North Carolina State Board of Education is continuing to allow successful students in grades 6-12 to accelerate their learning. Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM) affords accelerated students the opportunity to earn high school course credit by a demonstration of mastery in the course curriculum without requiring the student to complete classroom instruction for 135 hours of seat time. Earning high school credits via CDM may provide more opportunities for students to complete courses through Advanced Placement or Career and College Promise faster/earlier in high school.

Please note that middle school students may only attempt CDM for English I, Math I, II, III, or a 4th level math, World History, Civics and Economics, American History I, American History II, Biology, a Physical Science course, Earth Science, CTE courses, and only Level I and II World Language courses.

Students and parents must complete an application in order to begin the Credit by Demonstrated Mastery process, which will occur in two separate phases.

Phase I: Students will either take the End of Course Exam (English II, Biology, or Math I), North Carolina Final Exam, CTE, or locally developed course final exam for the subject they select. The testing window will occur between February 15th and February 28th. The coordination of the testing will be handled by the student's home school. Students must earn a minimum score of a Level V on an EOC, a 90% on a NCFE, a 90% on a CTE exam, or 90% on a locally developed exam to be eligible to continue to Phase II. Students meeting these criteria will continue into Phase II.

Phase II: Students will create an artifact that reflects deep understanding of the content standards, including the ability to apply the skills and knowledge expected at the end of the course. This may require a presentation, project, interview, portfolio, etc. The CDM committee will then make a recommendation as to whether or not the student earns the credit.

Considerations:

- If the student is successful, the course will be recorded on the transcript as a CP level course with a grade of "Pass". The course will count toward meeting graduation requirements, but no numerical grade or quality points will be granted. The Grade Point Average will not be affected.
- If the student is not successful, neither the course nor the grade will be reflected on the transcript or other school records.

Growing Possibilities.

- For student athletes, the primary consideration with respect to earning CDM is maintaining their eligibility if participating in high school athletics. According to the NCHSAA, students must ensure they are enrolled and are successful in a number of courses that is at least equal to one less than the maximum number of courses available per high school schedule. For example, in Union County Public Schools, a student in a block schedule school must be successful in at least three of four courses. More specific information can be found at <http://www.nchsaa.org/eligibility-presentations-forms-policies>.
- According to the NCAA, since the CDM procedure does not assign a letter grade, the courses would not be used in the initial-eligibility process. Please ask your principal, counselor, or athletic director if you have any questions or concerns about eligibility and the CDM process prior to attempting CDM.
- At the present time, the North Carolina Academic Scholar seal is not awarded when any course required for high school graduation is completed via the CDM process.
- Community colleges in North Carolina recognize students with a diploma as high school graduates regardless of the presence of academic or career-technical credits earned via CDM. This ensures a student's ability to enroll in a community college through graduation. Under current policy, a CTE CDM credit will not earn dual credit (only high school credit will be awarded.)
- The University of North Carolina System has traditionally accepted the State Board of Education's authority to determine how students earn high school credit toward graduation. Students with a diploma from a North Carolina high school will be recognized as high school graduates regardless of the credits earned via the CDM policy. Minimum admission requirements must be satisfied.
- Students may graduate early based upon credits earned through the CDM process.
- Credits earned through CDM may not be accepted by outside organizations, such as the NCHSAA, NCCCS, UNC-GA and NCAA. Each organization will handle CDM within its own parameters.
- In addition, some universities in other states may have additional requirements that will not allow Credit by Demonstrated Mastery.

If you wish to apply for the Credit by Demonstrated Mastery, the application can be found on your school's website (under Quick Links) or see your school counselor immediately for an application. Applications must be received by your guidance counselor prior to January 11, 2017. Participants will be given a time and location for testing prior to February 1, 2017.

Please contact your school counselor if you have any questions concerning Credit by Demonstrated Mastery.

Thank you,



Brad Breedlove
Director of Secondary Education