

Credit by Demonstrated Mastery – FAQs

General Questions	
Question	Response from Academics and Student Services
Can middle school students (6th-8th grades) get high school credit?	Yes. If they successfully complete Phase 1 and Phase 2 in a course for high school credit, they will get high school credit and their transcript will say "Pass."
Do all colleges accept CDM?	UNC system schools will recognize CDM. Private colleges/universities have not made such a statement, nor have universities in other states.
Are the schools equipped to meet the scheduling needs for students who are successful with CDM? For example, what about a student who successfully completes CDM for Math 2 and needs to take Math 3 in middle school?	Course options vary by school. Prior to applying for this process, students should speak to the school counselor to determine course options. In middle school, NCVPS might be the only option.
Are there a maximum number of courses a student can apply for CDM per year?	Students can apply for up to three total courses per year and only one course per content area per year. For example, a student cannot apply for English I and English II in the same year. The exception would be for World Language credit being earned through NCDPI approved external assessments (see FAQs below).
Will there be rigorous courses available if students are successful in earning CDM?	Course offerings vary by school. Prior to applying for this process, students should speak to the school counselor to determine course options.
Where should we turn in the Student and Family Application?	Turn it in to the Student Services office at your school or to the school's CDM Coordinator .
Is this available only to AG students?	No, it is available to any secondary student.
Are there benefits to seniors applying for this now?	No. Students that will graduate during this school year are not eligible to apply.
For courses taught in a predetermined sequence, is CDM only applicable for the next course in the sequence?	Yes. You must complete the courses (either through seat time or CDM) by using the prescribed sequence (if a sequence exists).
Once we complete the application, should we expect that the counselor will contact us?	Yes. It will be the counselor or a member of the school's CDM team.
Where will we find resources for preparing for the assessments?	Students should only apply for this process if they are already proficient in the course content; students should not need help sessions or outside tutoring. The standards on which the assessments will be based are online: https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/k-12-standards-curriculum-and-instruction/standard-course-study Schools will not provide textbooks or other resources to be used for test-prep purposes.

Can you apply to CDM a course that you are currently taking?	No. You cannot apply for any class that is on the student's schedule during the current school year.
What will happen to student schedules if they pass the CDM process in the spring?	Schools will work to ensure that students are appropriately scheduled based on their CDM results.
Why aren't honors and AP courses available for CDM?	This policy is set by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.
Are there any fees associated with this process?	No.
Will there be a centralized location for taking the assessments?	Assessments will be given at the student's own school.
If a student attempts CDM and is not successful, how does this affect their permanent record?	It will not affect their transcript nor will it show up on their permanent record.
How often will this process occur?	This process will occur once per school year.
Is Phase 1 always an objective, multiple choice test?	Yes. This is mandated by the state.
How will students know what the expectations are for Phase 2?	All students in WCPSS will complete the same Phase 2 task per course. The structure will be provided to the student several weeks in advance of the final due date.

Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (World Languages) – FAQs

General Questions	
Question	Response from Academics and Student Services
What languages are offered in the World Languages CDM?	Spanish, French, German
When is the testing window for World Languages?	February (see the CDM Process Chart)
Is there a limit to how many times a student may apply for the same language CDM?	Yes, there is a limit. Students are not permitted to request CDM in the same course twice.
Can a student attempt CDM in more than one language?	Yes.
How many credits can a student earn through the World Languages CDM in one language?	Depending on the proficiency level earned, a student may earn up to 2 World Language credits.
What is the minimum proficiency level that must be attained in order to receive 2 World Language credits?	Novice High (By proficiency standards, the lowest score on the assessment is considered to be the earned proficiency level.)
Can a middle school student participate in the CDM process for a World Language in Middle School?	The student must be in the 8th grade to participate in the CDM process for a World Language.

Is CDM the only way to be placed in a higher level World Language course?	No. All high schools have the ability to administer a placement test and place the student into a higher level course without the student participating in the CDM process. However, a student in this case would not receive credit for the courses that have been “skipped.”
What does Phase 1 contain?	Phase I will focus on Interpretive Communication (reading and listening).
What will Phase 2 contain?	Phase 2 will focus on Presentational Communication (speaking and writing).
Questions about Gaining Credit for Other Languages	
Question	Response from Academics and Student Services
Are students able to earn CDM credit through WCPSS in languages other than those listed in the High School Program Planning Guide (Spanish, French, & German)?	Spanish, French, & German are the only languages that are presently approved for instruction in all high schools across our district. Students can present proficiency evidence through approved, nationally normed assessments for other languages. See questions / responses below for more detail. If a family wishes to pursue CDM in a language other than the ones listed above, they must seek prior approval from WCPSS by contacting cdmquestions@wcpss.net so that an assessment can be identified / approved.
What score does a student need to achieve on an approved, nationally normed assessment in order to receive 2 World Language credits?	The student must achieve a minimum of Novice High level on the assessment. (By proficiency standards, the lowest score on the assessment is considered to be the earned proficiency level.)
Can a student participate in a language school / academy outside of WCPSS and request credit based on the transcript / completion of that school’s program?	No. Students must submit scores from an approved, nationally normed assessment in order to be considered for the awarding of credit by WCPSS.
Who is responsible for scheduling, registering and paying for assessments for these languages?	The student / parent is responsible.
If a student earns credits in a language other than what their school offers, will they be approved for continued learning via NCVPS?	No. Magnet program languages will only be approved for classroom or NCVPS instruction when the student is enrolled at a magnet school.

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