



Credit by Demonstrated Mastery

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Credit by Demonstrated Mastery?

This is an option which allows students to demonstrate mastery of a course's content, getting credit and a pass/fail grade for the course by taking an assessment (Phase I) and completing an artifact (Phase II). Transitioning away from seat time, in favor of a structure that creates flexibility, allows students to progress as they demonstrate mastery of academic content, regardless of time, place, or pace of learning. Failed attempts at CDM are not reflected on a student's transcript.

2. Who is eligible to request an opportunity to earn credit by demonstrating mastery?

Any GCS high school student who is able to show a deep understanding of the content without seat-time and classroom learning experience is eligible to apply for CDM for high school credit. Middle school students may apply for high school courses that are taught in middle school.

3. Is a credit earned through the CDM policy intended to be "different" than a credit earned in the traditional manner (completing the course)?

No. Schools and districts shall assess students and evaluate artifacts based upon the same standards that are applied to students earning course credit in the traditional sense. The achievement levels required to earn CDM through a two-phase assessment already reflect a more rigorous expectation of students who want to earn credit in this manner than those of students who complete the course with the traditional seat-time.

4. Is there a limit to the number of courses for which a student may earn credit using the CDM policy?

No. Students may earn credit using CDM for as many courses as they wish and districts may not impose local limitations. However, students may only make **one attempt per course**. Students who are unsuccessful after one attempt must register for and complete the course in the traditional manner to receive credit.

5. May students earn CDM credit for any courses?

No. CDM is not available for the following courses: Career and Technical Education (CTE) work-based learning courses (co-op, internship, apprenticeship), CTE courses that have a clinical setting as a requirement of the course, such as ProStart, Early Childhood Education I/II and Nursing Fundamentals, CTE Advanced Studies courses, English Language Learner (ELL) courses, Healthful Living required courses, and AP/IB Courses.

6. Can students graduate early based upon credits earned through this policy?

Yes. CDM credits work like traditional credits towards graduation. DPI recommends that early graduation decisions be made through deep discussion between families, students, and appropriate educational staff.



7. How does the CDM policy and its implementation impact quality points and a student's grade point average (GPA)?

CDM credits are awarded as a "pass" and will appear as such on the student's transcript. No course grade is received and the course is not included in the GPA calculation.

8. When will the testing for Phase I occur?

The testing windows for GCS students are within the first two weeks of September (Fall Administration) or the first two weeks of February (Spring Administration).

9. Can students enrolled in a course decide to earn CDM partway through the course?

No. The CDM policy is being phased in beginning with students who wish to accelerate without enrolling in a course.

10. Does CDM replace differentiation in meeting the learning needs of students?

No. CDM is not a replacement for differentiated services to meet the learning needs of all students.

11. May a student receive credit through CDM for a course not offered at his/her school?

Yes, but only for those courses offered at other high schools within GCS. CDM is not available for courses which are not available within the district.

12. How does CDM credit impact course prerequisites and sequencing?

When courses are taught in a predetermined sequence, a student may only apply for CDM for the next course in the sequence. For example, a student who has not taken Math I would not be permitted to obtain CDM credit for Math II.

13. If a student chooses to earn credit by demonstrated mastery, will the student have to take the EOC for the course they passed through CDM?

Yes, students attempting to earn a CDM credit for a course with an EOC must take the EOC as the Phase I component of the CDM attempt.

Link to Wiki FAQs <http://cdm.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/CDM+FAQs>