



BUNCOMBE COUNTY SCHOOLS

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THEIR TOMORROW

CREDIT BY DEMONSTRATED MASTERY

WHAT IS CREDIT BY DEMONSTRATED MASTERY?

Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM) is the process where Buncombe County Schools shall, based on a body-of-evidence, award credit in a particular course without requiring the student to complete classroom instruction. This process is designed to provide our students, who have an exceptional mastery of a course content prior to even taking a course and who wish to earn credit and move on toward more advanced level courses, to do so.

WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF “MASTERY”?

The State Board of Education (*Buncombe County Schools*) defines “mastery” as a student’s command of course material at a level that demonstrates a deep understanding of the content standards and the ability to apply his or her knowledge of the materials.

WHAT IS THE RATIONALE FOR CDM?

The State Board of Education has stated, “A great public education system is one that is ambitious and prepares all students for postsecondary education, careers, citizenship, and lifelong learning. It sets high standards and fosters the critical thinking and other skills needed in today’s global economy. By providing the CDM process, uniquely qualified students who possess mastery knowledge of content are able to personalize their learning and use their education time in courses that provide new challenges and content.”

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN CDM?

- The CDM process is open to all Buncombe County Schools students in grades 9 – 12 for high school courses offered by Buncombe County Schools.
- The CDM process is also available to students in grades 7 – 8 for appropriate high school courses offered by Buncombe County Schools.
- CDM is open to all students on an individual basis.
- It is **not** intended to replace the general accelerated pathway provided for advanced students.
- It is **not** intended to allow a student to show evidence of a course previously taken.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO FOR CDM?

Successfully Complete a Multi-phase Assessment

- Phase I – Complete a written exam. Upon successful completion of Phase I, a student may continue on to Phase II.
- Phase II – Student completes the artifact development process and any other criteria Buncombe County Schools may require to demonstrate deep understanding and application of course content.

WHAT DOES PHASE I LOOK LIKE?

- For EOC courses students must achieve the scale scores indicated below in Math I, Biology and English II to qualify for Phase II of the Assessment.

Math I \geq 563

Math 3 \geq 563

Biology \geq 261

English II \geq 565

- For CTE courses students must achieve a scale score of 90% proficiency on CTE Assessments to qualify for Phase II of the Assessment.
- For NCFE courses, students must achieve a 90% proficiency or higher to qualify for Phase II of the assessment.
- For other courses local or standardized assessment will be used. The 90% proficiency level will apply.

WHAT DOES PHASE II LOOK LIKE?

Student completes the *artifact development* process and any other criteria Buncombe County Schools require to demonstrate deep understanding and application of course content.

WHAT IS ARTIFACT DEVELOPMENT?

- All students will be expected to develop artifact(s) that demonstrate their deep understanding of the content standards and their ability to apply skills and knowledge.
- Specific expectations for the type of artifact(s) required will be determined by Buncombe County Schools. Artifacts might include such activities as papers, interviews, performances, portfolios, demonstrations, or other requirements designed to assess a student's application of knowledge.

WHAT COURSES ARE *EXCLUDED* FROM CDM?

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) work-based learning courses (co-op, Work-Based Learning, 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 or any course without state technical standards
- English Language Learner (ELL) courses
- Study Support Courses
- Healthful Living required courses: 9th Grade Health/PE and CPR
- AP/IB Courses
- Any course *not* taught in Buncombe County Schools

EXAMINATION TIMELINES

2 Examination Windows Per Year*

Phase I examinations will occur during the state designated testing window

- ❑ Fall: 2nd half of February
- ❑ Spring: 2nd half of September

2 Application Deadlines

- ❑ For Fall Testing: Applications must be submitted to the school counselor by the end of the previous school year.
- ❑ For Spring Testing: Applications must be submitted to the school counselor or before Winter Break.

WHAT ARE THE EXAMINATION PROCEDURES?

- Modifications and/or accommodations based on IEP/504 should be addressed in the examination plan.
- All examinations will be administered in a designated location at the Buncombe County Schools Administrative Offices.
- Buncombe County Schools will determine and schedule Phase II assessments.
- Courses must be requested in the sequence being offered at the school level. Only one course of a sequence can be requested per session.

HOW IS CREDIT AWARDED?

- Students who demonstrate mastery shall receive credit for the course toward graduation requirements.
- Credit will be indicated on the transcript but a numeric or letter grade will not be assigned; only a Pass/Fail grade will be added to the credit history.
- CDM will not carry honors, AP, or college credit weight.
- CDM is not used for GPA calculations.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM *NOT* SUCCESSFUL WITH CDM?

- If a student is not successful on Phase I or Phase II, he/she does ***not*** receive credit for the course.
- If a student does not meet the Phase I Assessment standard, they do not qualify for Phase II and do not earn CDM credit.
- A student can only attempt the CDM one time per course.
- Students will ***not*** be penalized for an unsuccessful CDM attempt. Such attempts will not be recorded on the student's grades or transcript.

WHAT ARE THE STEPS FOR CDM?

Step 1: Discussion and advisement sessions are held with the student's counselor to inform the CDM decision. The final decision to apply for CDM rests with the student/family.

Step 2: Student/family completes the CDM Application and returns it to their counselor.

Step 3: Phase I testing is scheduled. The student/parent are notified of testing date, time, and location.

Step 4: Student completes Phase I Examination.

STEPS FOR CDM CONTINUED

Step 5: The Phase I Examination is scored

- If student does not meet minimum criteria, they do not move to Phase II nor earn credit.
- If student does meet minimum criteria, they continue on to Phase II Assessment.

Step 6: Student/Family notified of Phase 2 Artifact(s) requirements and assessment arrangements.

Step 7: Student prepares Phase II Artifact(s) as required.

Step 8: District Team evaluates Phase II Artifact(s).

Step 9: Student is notified of Phase II results and if credit is earned.

Step 10: The school counselor meets with student/parent to discuss future course enrollment and make any necessary adjustments to schedule.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Student and parents participate in a counseling session to review all short term and long term considerations.
- Student and parent contact all external organizations that may be impacted by this decision for clarification.

CONTACT INFORMATION

School Counselor or Curriculum Assistant Principal at each High School

C. Reynolds High School, 828-298-2500

C.A. Erwin High School, 828-232-4251

C. D. Owen High School, 828-686-3852

Community High School, 828-686-7734

Early College, 828-232-4123

Enka High School, 828-670-5000

Nesbitt Discovery Academy, 828-271-4521

North Buncombe High School, 828-645-4221

T. C. Roberson High School, 828-654-1765

Curriculum and Instruction

Director of Middle &
High School Education

BCS Administrative Offices

828-255-5883