



CDM Student Information Session

2025- 2026



WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM



A background image showing a classroom setting with several students. In the foreground, a young woman with dark hair is looking at a laptop screen. To her right, another young woman with long brown hair is gesturing with her hands while talking. Other students are visible in the background, some looking at their phones or laptops. A semi-transparent blue box with white text is overlaid in the center of the image.

SECTION 1: What is CDM?



Definition

- “offers North Carolina students the opportunity to personalize and accelerate their learning by earning course credit through a demonstration of mastery of course material” (from NCDPI Guide)

Background

- NC Board of Education required all local school districts to create a process (Policy GCS-M-001.8)

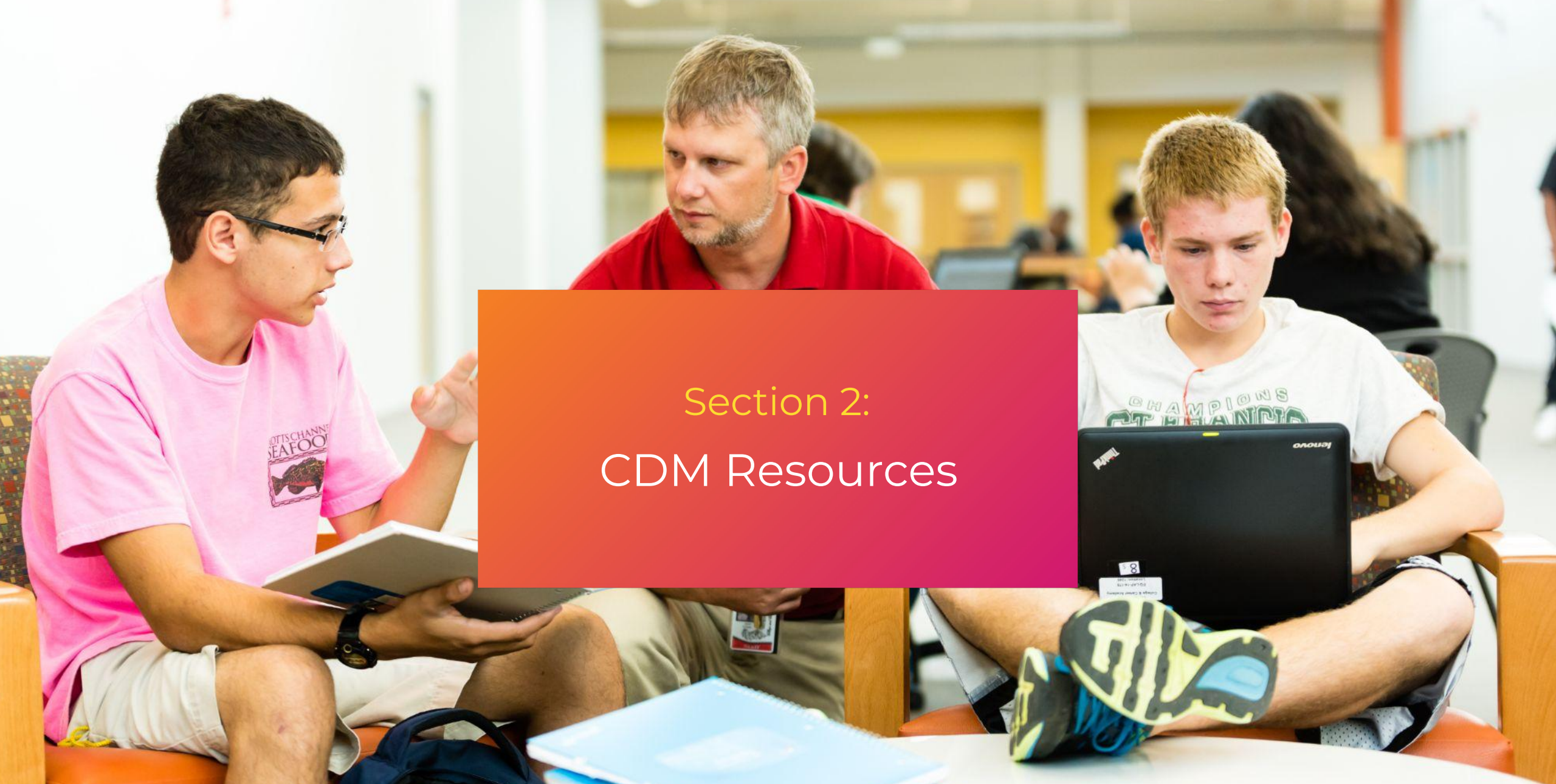
- Similar to Single Subject Acceleration (SSA)
 - Both provide acceleration through the student showing mastery without direct instruction
 - Qualification for both requires successful completion of an objective (multiple choice assessment)

Credit by Demonstrated Mastery

- Different from (SSA)
 - SSA applies to elementary and middle school course content. CDM applies only to courses that have high school credit.
 - Scores required to move forward are much higher in CDM than SSA.
 - Students can earn a credit toward graduation with CDM.
 - CDM applies to more than just ELA and Math courses.
 - CDM is a two-phase process that requires a skills application assessment.

Two-Phase Process

- Phase I - Examination of Foundational Skills: Minimum Scores
 - EOC: Level V
 - CTE Post-Assessment: 90%
 - Locally Developed Exam: 90%
 - World Language Proficiency Assessment: Novice High (for two WL credits)
- Phase II - Product or Application of Skills Assessment
 - Most require an additional assessment session
 - Reviewed by school-based/central office panel



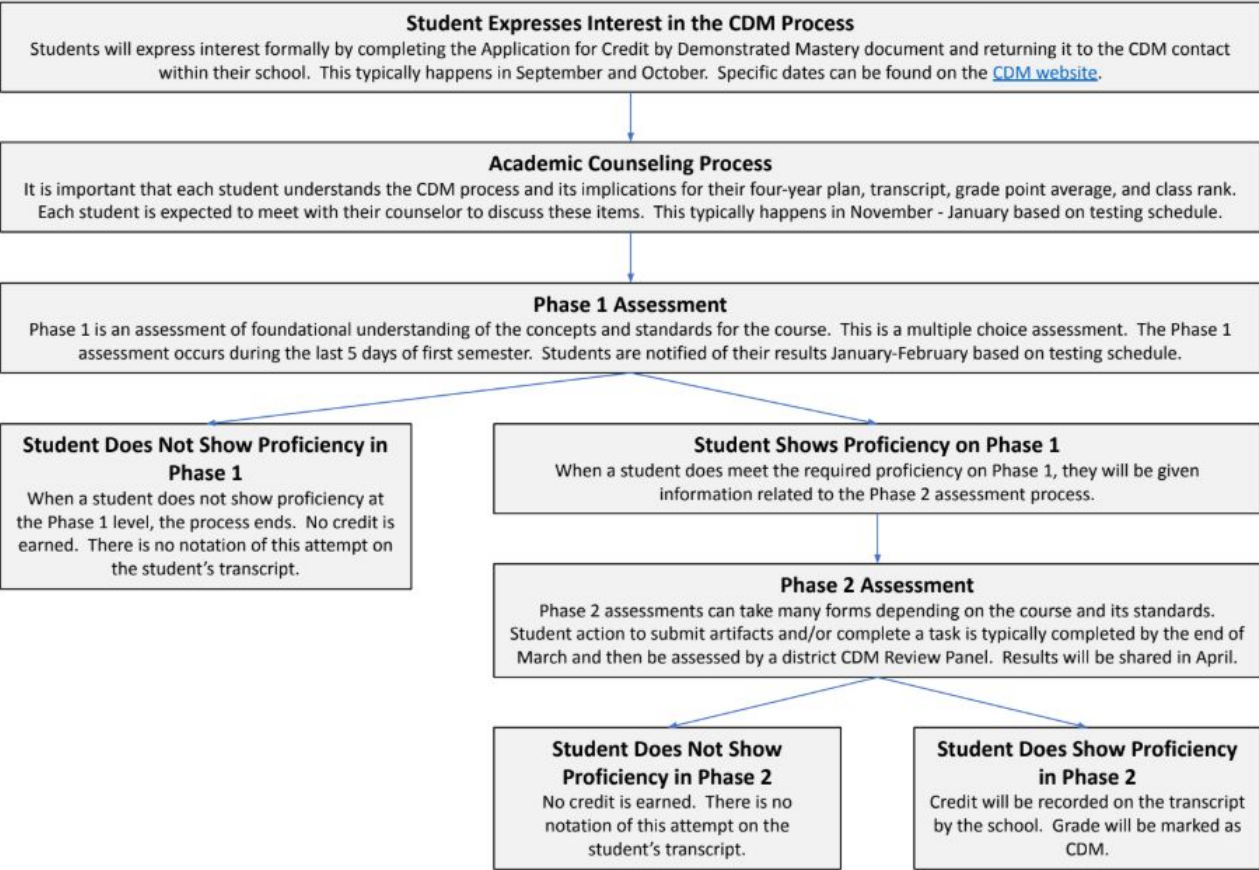
Section 2: CDM Resources



CDM Resources - WCPSS.net

Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM)

Process Flowchart



Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM) Available Courses for 2025-2026

The chart below provides a list of courses available for the CDM process. Courses that are not available for CDM. Included in the chart is the type of assessment required for Phase 1.

Content Area	Course Name	Type of Assessment required for Phase 1
English	English I	Locally-developed Exam
	English II	EOC
Math	NC Math 1	EOC
	NC Math 2	Locally-developed Exam
	NC Math 3	EOC
Science	Biology	EOC
World Languages	Spanish, French, German	Proficiency Exam

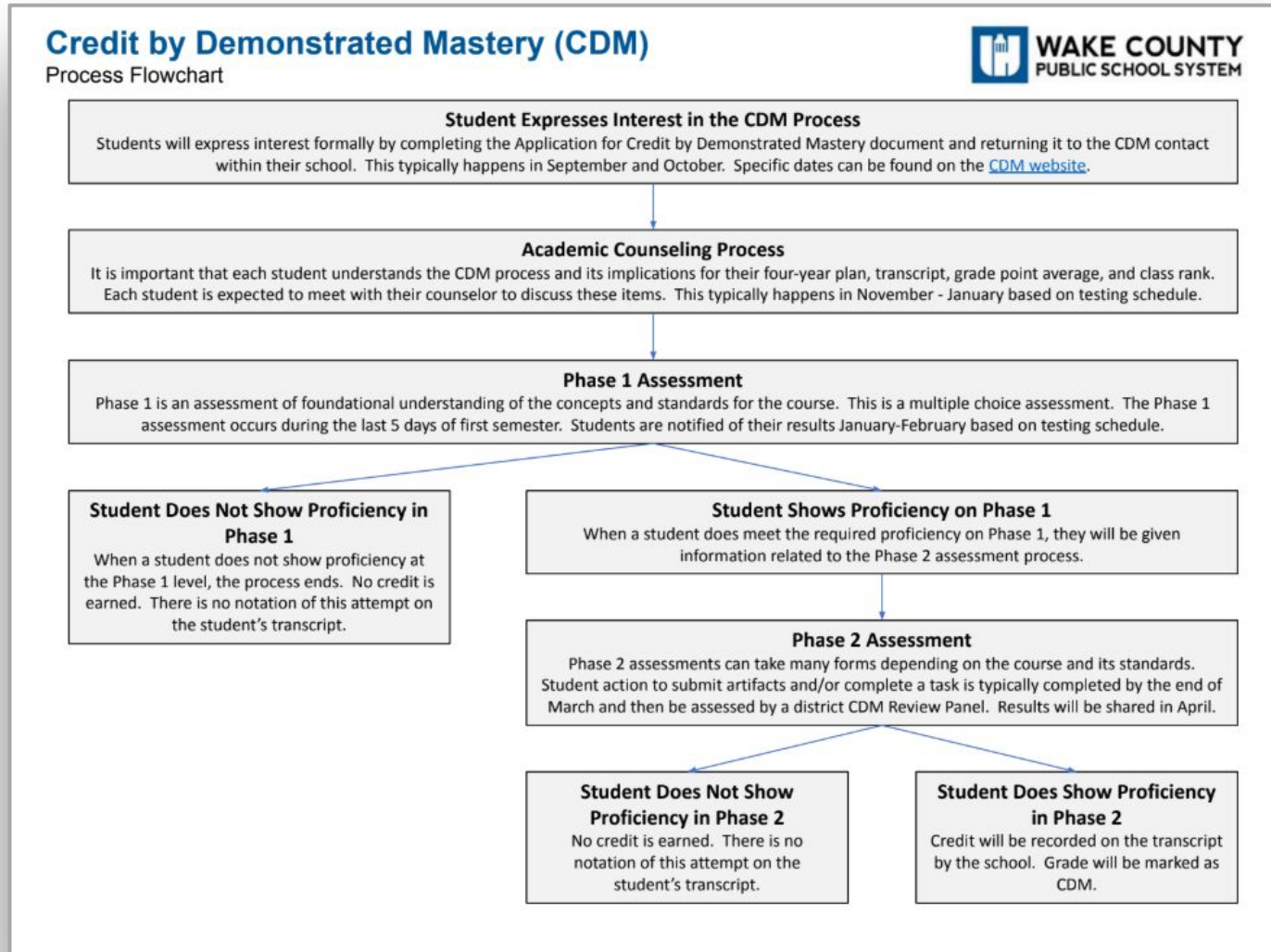
Career and Technical Education Courses
Requires completion of CTE State Assessment
Note: Students may only apply for CDM for CTE courses.

- BB40 Business Management I
- BF21 Financial Planning I
- GS11 Project Management I

Credit by Demonstrated Mastery – FAQs

- Frequently Asked Questions**
- Response from Academics and Student Services**
- Q: If a student successfully completes Phase 1 and Phase 2 in a course, will they get high school credit?
A: Yes, if the student successfully completes Phase 1 and Phase 2 in a course, they will get high school credit. The transcript will say "Pass."
- Q: Will all schools recognize CDM? Private schools/universities have not made such a statement, nor have public schools.
A: Recognition of CDM varies by school. Prior to applying for this process, students should speak to the school counselor to learn more about the school's options. In middle school, NCVPS might be an option.
- Q: How many courses can a student apply for?
A: A student can apply for up to three total courses per year and one course per content area per year. For example, a student could not 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 [link](#)).
- Q: How many courses can a student apply for?
A: The number of courses varies by school. Prior to applying for this process, students should speak to the school counselor to learn more about the school's options.
- Q: Who should I contact for more information?
A: Contact the Student Services office at your school or to the District CDM Coordinator.
- Q: Can a student apply for CDM if they are already a high school senior?
A: Yes, a student can apply for CDM if they are already a high school senior. However, they must not have completed the course during this school year or be a graduate of the school.
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A: Yes, a student can apply for CDM if they are already a high school senior. However, they must not have completed the course during this school year or be a graduate of the school.

CDM Resources - WCPSS.net - Process Flowchart



CDM Resources - WCPSS.net - Application

- Links available on the Student and Family Application
 - List of eligible courses
 - NCDPI Standards
 - Appeals process
 - CDM Coordinators
- Applications are submitted to the school/school based CDM coordinator



WAKE COUNTY
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Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM)
Application and Agreement 2025-2026

STUDENT INFORMATION		
Name:		Birthdate:
School:	Grade Level:	Student ID:
Parent/Guardian Name:	Email:	Phone:

CREDIT BY DEMONSTRATED MASTERY APPLICATION	
Instead of traditional course enrollment and seat-time, I am requesting the opportunity to earn Credit for Demonstrated Mastery (CDM) for the following course(s): Note: Students are limited to a maximum of three course requests. Please consult the list of eligible courses prior to filling out this form. _____ (course name)	

STUDENT/FAMILY AGREEMENT	
Please review the following regarding the CDM process: • I understand this assessment will include a two-phase process. • Phase 1 will include an examination to establish my mastery of the foundational skills and content that this course requires. ○ I must earn a minimum score on Phase 1 to move forward to Phase 2. The minimum score for each type of assessment is as follows: ▪ 90% for a locally-developed exam ▪ 90% for a CTE Post-Assessment ▪ Novice High for World Language Assessments ▪ Level V on an EOC ○ I have one attempt at the exam. ○ Prior to the exam, I may review the content standards for the course or subject. Standards can be found at this link: http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/ ○ If I earn the appropriate score, I will move onto Phase 2. If not, I will not have the opportunity to earn CDM for this course. Results of Phase 1 cannot be appealed.	

CDM Resources - WCPSS.net - Available Courses and Assessments



Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM) Available Courses for 2025-2026

The chart below provides a list of courses available for the CDM process. Other courses are not available for CDM. Included in the chart is the type of assessment and minimum score required for Phase 1.

Content Area	Course Name	Type of Assessment required for Phase 1	Minimum Score Required for Phase 1
English	English I	Locally-developed Exam	90%
	English II	EOC	Level V Scale Score ≥ 565
Math	NC Math 1	EOC	Level V Scale Score ≥ 563
	NC Math 2	Locally-developed Exam	90%
	NC Math 3	EOC	Level V Scale Score ≥ 563
Science	Biology	EOC	Level V Scale Score ≥ 261
World Languages	Spanish, French, German	Proficiency Exam	Novice High

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Requires completion of CTE State Assessments with minimum score of 90%
Note: Students may only apply for courses that are offered at their school.

BB40 Business Management I
BF21 Financial Planning I
GS11 Project Management I

FI21 Interior Design Fundamentals
FN41 Food and Nutrition I
HU40 Health Science I

- Must be next course in sequence
- Phase I Assessments -
 - EOC - English II, Math 1, Math 3, Biology
 - Level V (minimum score)
 - Locally developed - English I, Math 2
 - 90% (minimum score)



CDM Resources - WCPSS.net - Available Courses and Assessments

World Languages	Spanish, French, German	Proficiency Exam	Novice High
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- Must be in the 8th grade or higher
- Utilizes Avant STAMP 4S proficiency assessment (measures what a student can do with a language outside of a classroom setting)
- Not specific to any level (not a placement test)
- Novice High - minimum to receive a maximum of 2 World Language credits

CDM Resources - WCPSS.net - Available Courses and Assessments

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Requires completion of CTE State Assessments with minimum score of 90%

Note: Students may only apply for courses that are offered at their school.

BB40 Business Management I BF21 Financial Planning I GS11 Project Management I	FI21 Interior Design Fundamentals FN41 Food and Nutrition I HU40 Health Science I
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- Must be in the 8th grade or higher
- CTE Post-Assessment - minimum score of 90%
- Pathway must be offered at the student's high school

CDM Resources - WCPSS.net - FAQs



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.

8/2021



Panther Creek High School CDM Timeline

December 10, 2025	CDM Request Applications due
January 16-23 (testing coordinator will communicate actual date)	Phase I Assessments
February 13-26 (IMC will communicate actual date)	CTE Phase I Testing window
February 2, 2026	Phase I Results Letters Available
February 9-March 13	Phase II Assessments
March 25, 2026	Phase II Results Letters Available

CDM Resources - Other World Languages



WAKE COUNTY
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World Language CDM



World Language Credit by Demonstrated Mastery Process

[Credit by Demonstrated Mastery](#) (CDM) is the process by which a student may earn credit for a high school course by demonstrating a deep understanding of the content; without course enrollment or seat time. CDM offers students the opportunity to personalize and accelerate their learning, thus allowing for optimal student growth while providing an opportunity to have effective seat time to learn new content.

WCPSS Languages Offered in the High School Program Planning Guide
WCPSS offers Credit by Demonstrated Mastery in the languages offered in the [High School Program Planning Guide](#) (French, German, and Spanish). Additional information can be found on the [WCPSS CDM Webpage](#).

Languages Not Offered in the High School Program Planning Guide
For languages not offered in the High School Program Planning guide, CDM is available for languages included on the [NCDPI Approved External Exams](#) list. Prior approval of the assessment is required by emailing CDMquestions@wcpss.net. Many languages have prior approval through the [WCPSS/Avant Storefront](#).
Please note the following key details:

- Students are only permitted to test for CDM when they are presently at the middle school (8th grade) or high school grade level at their WCPSS school
- Students/families are responsible for registering, arranging the testing session, and funding any costs associated with the assessment
- Students may earn up to 2 World Language credits
- Depending on the language and language level, continued study in the language may not be available
- Score reports should be submitted to CDMquestions@wcpss.net for processing or notify CDMquestions@wcpss.net if an Avant assessment was completed
- Grades will be recorded as "CDM" (Credit by Demonstrated Mastery)
- Grades and credits will not be included in the calculation of GPA nor class rank

Email questions to CDMquestions@wcpss.net

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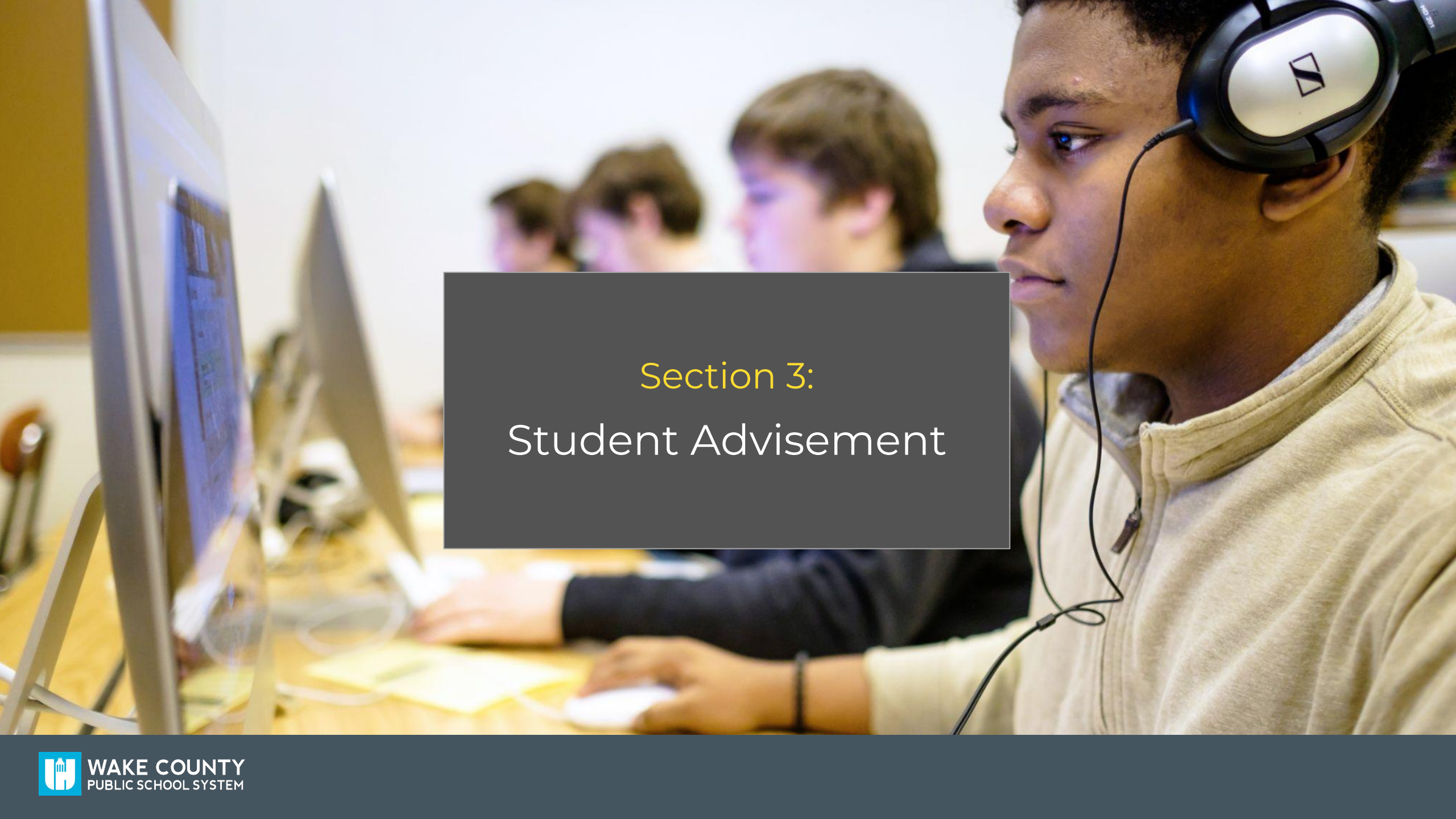
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August 2023



WAKE COUNTY
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A young man with dark hair is shown in profile, wearing large black and silver headphones. He is looking intently at a computer monitor. His hands are on a computer mouse. In the background, other students are blurred, also working at computers. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text "Section 3: Student Advisement".

Section 3: Student Advisement



CDM - Eligible Courses

- Students must stay within the standard sequence of coursework in requesting CDM
- Students may pursue no more than three courses per year (and no more than one course in a sequence)
 - Example: A student currently enrolled in English I may request to CDM English II, but not English III because it is not the next course in the sequence.
- Per state policy, courses in the following subjects are ineligible for CDM
 - AP, IB, Healthful Living, some CTE courses, and other locally developed electives
- Study materials are not provided for CDM assessments

CDM - Reasons to Pursue CDM

- Personal interest/deep understanding
- Ability to access higher levels of rigor
- Desire to experience new content, material, skills, beyond the scope of the traditional course
- Eligibility for early graduation

CDM - Considerations

- May impact athletic eligibility
- Does not impact GPA/Class Rank
- Accelerated course may not be developmentally/emotionally appropriate
- May max-out of high school courses (especially in Math)
- Must still show increasing levels of rigor
 - ex. student earned CDM in English I; HS does not offer many English electives
- May impact course options at certain schools
 - School may not have next-course options beyond NCVPS
 - School may only pair course with another (Honors English I/Honors World History)

Considerations for accelerating in ELA

- Upper Level English Courses:
 - Include lengthy complex texts that may take more stamina to read
 - Include content that may be socially challenging
 - Use paired texts from authors with widely differing lenses and perspectives
 - Teach students to evaluate arguments from lenses and perspectives that may confront their own worldviews

Thinking ahead to college applications

- Universities want to see:
 - 4 years of English Language Arts study
 - Increasing rigor in ELA over 4 years
- High School Course Plans:
 - College Board offers only 2 AP English courses
 - NC counts AP as a substitution for English III and English IV graduation requirement

Key Consideration

If students take AP English courses early, what will they take to demonstrate increasing rigor in ELA for grades 11-12?

CDM - Considerations - Math Example

CDM in NC Math 1, 2, or 3

- Colleges/universities want to see math in all 4 years of high school and they want to see students challenging themselves by taking a combination of honors and AP courses
- There are a finite number of math courses that can be taken in high school
- With rapid acceleration, students may run out of available math courses
- Students should have a plan that includes math each year through their senior year

CDM in Biology

- Allows students to access AP Biology and other AP Science courses earlier
- Caution
 - Students may miss valuable laboratory experiences and science process skills that might help them be more successful at the AP level



WAKE COUNTY
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Section 4

Contact for Support



Contact

Mrs. Shernita Telfair
stelfair@wcpss.net
or

WCPSS
CDMquestions@wcpss.net

