How do students apply for CDM?

Students may apply for CDM for a course by following these steps:

- Complete a CDM Application in full and return by the determined deadline (available online or from school counselor).
- Agree as part of the application that any student who passes the Phase I assessment, commits to fulfill all Phase II artifact requirements.
- Meet with a school counselor to ensure understanding of the process and implications of further coursework if a student is successful at CDM.
- Applications, timelines and other forms can be found on the CDM website at www.randolph.k12.nc.us

What are the long-term considerations of CDM?

The intent of the CDM process is to provide subject acceleration for students who have already mastered the content standards for a particular course. However, it is important to keep in mind how obtaining credit will impact the student’s course of study for the remainder of high school. Since CDM only awards standard level credit and is not factored into GPA’s, students will want to work with counselors to select additional advanced level courses (AP, Honors or CCP) to fit their needs if CDM credit is awarded.
What is CDM?
Credit by Demonstrated Mastery is the process by which the Randolph County School System shall, based upon a body-of-evidence, award a student credit in a particular high school course without requiring the student to complete classroom instruction for a certain amount of seat time. “Mastery” is defined as a student’s command of course material at a level that demonstrated a deep understanding of the content standards and application of knowledge.

State Board of Education Policy
(GCS-M-001.13 passed in October 2013)

Who is eligible for CDM?
- All students in RCSS high school courses

How is CDM credit indicated on a student’s transcript?
- CDM courses do not earn grades or quality points towards GPA
- CDM is available for standard-level high school courses, but NOT Honors courses

Credit is indicated as “Pass” on a student’s transcript.

How will students demonstrate mastery in the CDM process?
Students must successfully complete both Phase I and Phase II of the CDM process to receive credit for a high school course. A student will only progress to Phase II if they obtain the appropriate minimum score on the Phase I assessment. (This score is specific for each course.) The phases are explained below:

Phase I:
Mastery on a standardized examination
- EOC or CTE assessment where applicable, OR
- A locally-developed Final Exam

Phase II:
Mastery on content-specific artifacts and/or portfolio.
- Reviewed at the LEA level by a team of content experts

Students and parents will be notified of results at the end of each phase. Students may only attempt CDM for a course once.

What does Phase II involve?
Phase II involves students completing a series of artifacts, projects, and/or performance tasks to exhibit mastery of content specific standards. Phase II tasks will differ between courses due to the nature of the course involved. Students will be given a specific time span of a few weeks to complete artifacts and submit. A review panel of content area experts will then meet to determine results. Students and families will be notified if the student met expectations for both Phase I and II, resulting in course credit being awarded. An appeals process will be in place for students who are not awarded credit and wish to challenge the decision.

Is CDM applicable to all courses?
No, the following courses are excluded:
1. CTE work-based courses (internships, apprenticeships, co-ops)
2. CTE courses that have a clinical setting as a requirement
3. CTE Advanced Studies courses
4. English Language Learner (ELL) courses
5. Healthful Living required courses
6. AP and NCVPS courses