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High School Graduation Requirements Guidance

Updated February 20, 2020

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New Mexico Diploma of Excellence

Students in New Mexico must meet both **coursework** and **competency** requirements in order to earn a New Mexico Diploma of Excellence.

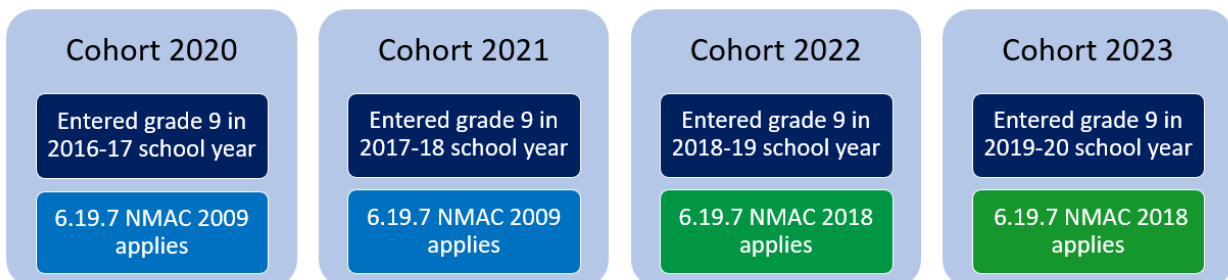


In order to graduate from high school, students in New Mexico are required to meet the graduation requirements defined in Section 22-13-1.1 Graduation Requirements NMSA 1978. Students must complete a minimum of twenty-four credits with at least one of the credits being an advanced placement (AP) or honors course, or a dual-credit course, or a distance learning course.

Pursuant to 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978, students must also demonstrate competency in the five core content areas: mathematics, reading, writing, science, and social studies.

Graduation Cohorts

Graduation requirements are established in section 6.19.7 of the New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC). Graduation requirements are set for each cohort when the students enter grade 9. Because 6.19.7 NMAC was amended in July 2018, requirements for Cohorts 2020 and 2021 are different from those for Cohorts 2022 and 2023:



Content Area	Coursework Requirements	Coursework Options (STARS course code)
Mathematics	4 credits of math in high school, one of which shall be the equivalent to or higher than the level of Algebra II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Science A (0327 or 0346)* • Computer Science Principles (0345 or 0336)* • Algebra I (2031) • Algebra II (2041) • Algebra II/Trig (2044) • Applied Math (2024) • Financial Literacy (2097) • Fractal Mathematics (2039)* • Geometry (2034) • Integrated Pathway: Math I (2080) • Integrated Pathway: Math II (2081) • Integrated Pathway: Math III (2083) • Mathematical Modeling (2078)* • Probability and Statistics (2029) • Scientific Technologies (1783)* • AP and IB courses in Mathematics • Courses at a higher level than Algebra II
Reading and Writing	4 credits of English with major emphasis on grammar, nonfiction writing, and literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELA 1 (1001)/ELA-ELD I (1064)** • ELA 2 (1002)/ELA-ELD II (1065)** • ELA 3 (1003)/ELA-ELD III (1066)** • ELA 4 (1004)/ELA-ELD IV (1067)** • SREB Literacy Ready (1037) • AP and IB courses in English Language Arts
Science	3 credits of science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Science A (0327 or 0346)* • Computer Science Principles (0345 or 0336)* • Fractal Mathematics (2039)* • Mathematical Modeling (2078)* • Scientific Technologies (1783)* • AP and IB courses in science <p>(2 credits must include a laboratory component)</p>
Social Studies	3.5 credits to include U.S. history and geography, world history and geography, government and economics, and 0.5 credit of N.M. history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US History and Geography (2729) • World History and Geography (2706) • 0.5 U.S. Government (2730) • 0.5 Economics (2741) • 0.5 N.M. History (2717) • AP and IB courses in Social Studies
Physical Education	1 unit in physical education	<p>Options vary by school. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marching band • JROTC • Interscholastic sports
Career Cluster, Workplace Readiness, Language	1 unit in a career cluster course, workplace readiness, or a language other than English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options vary by school.
Electives	7.5 elective units that meet department content and performance standards	<p>Options vary by school. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student service learning • Pre-apprenticeship programs • Media literacy • Additional courses in core subjects
Health	1 course (0.5 or 1 credit) in health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health (1401) as an elective unit above (E) or as completed in middle school (MS)

*Students who demonstrate proficiency on the ESSA-required mathematics assessment and meet the Algebra II graduation requirement may use a qualifying computer science course for mathematics graduation credit. Students who demonstrate proficiency in the science assessment may use a qualifying computer science course and earn a science credit.

**ELD courses are intended for English learners (ELs) whose proficiency level is nearing proficiency, as measured by the PED-approved English language proficiency assessment.

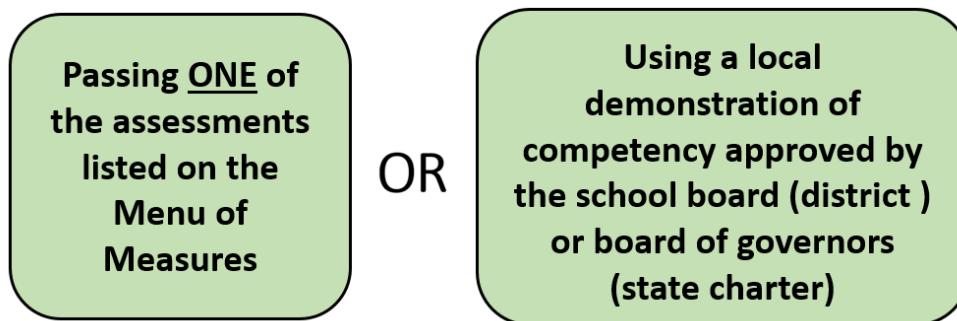
Competency Requirements

Students must demonstrate competency for graduation in all five content areas (math, reading, writing, science, and social studies). Graduation requirements are specific to a student's graduation cohort. See the **Menu of Measures to Demonstrate College and/or Career Readiness** for each cohort (2020 through 2023) on the [Graduation Requirements web page](#) for a complete listing of assessments that may be used to demonstrate competency.

No waivers are required to use any of the options listed on the Menu of Measures. There are no primary or alternate demonstrations of competency.

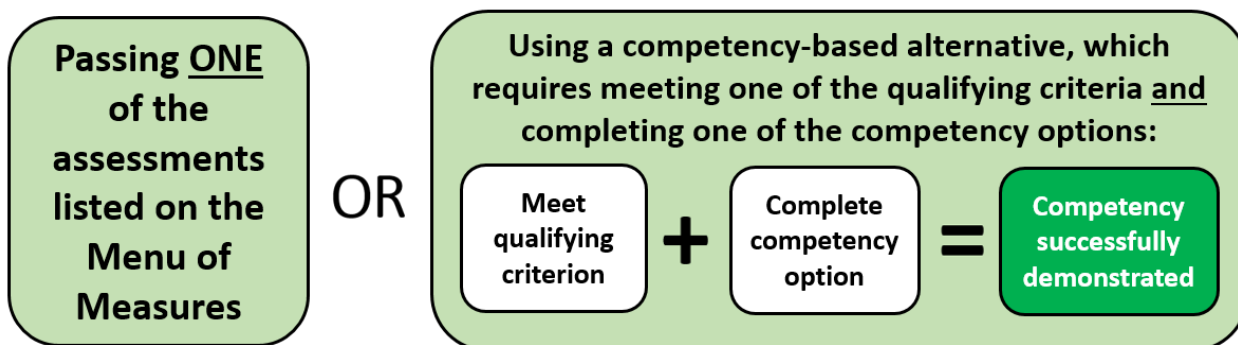
Competency Requirements for Cohorts 2020 and 2021

In each content area, students in Cohorts 2020 and 2021 may demonstrate competency by:



Competency Requirements for Cohorts 2022 and 2023

In each content area, students in Cohorts 2022 and 2023 may demonstrate competency by:



Qualifying Criteria for Cohorts 2022 and 2023:

- Earn a GPA of at least 3.0 in the coursework required for graduation in the content area
- Enroll in and pass no fewer than four courses in senior year in the content area:
 - Math: one must be Algebra II, Geometry, Integrated Math II, or Integrated Math III)
 - Reading: one must be a grade 12 English language arts course
 - Writing: one must be a grade 12 English language arts course
 - Science: one must be a high school science course
 - Social Studies: one must be a course in New Mexico history, U.S. history and geography, world history and geography, U.S. government, or economics
- Earn an offer letter from a branch of the United States military for full-time enlistment
- Earn acceptance into an apprenticeship program
- Complete a paid internship for credit over the course of at least one full semester

Competency Options for Cohorts 2022 and 2023:

- **Industry-Recognized Credential or Certificate**
 - Credentials and certificates offered vary by school
 - A non-degree award for demonstrating competency in specific technical skills
 - Must qualify a student for a specific occupation
 - List of qualifying credentials and certificates on [Graduation Requirements web page](#)
- **Program of Study**
 - Aligned to a career cluster defined in the New Mexico Career Clusters Guide
 - Courses from different programs of study cannot be combined
 - Courses must be taken in sequence to qualify as a competency-based alternative
 - Must complete at least three courses in a defined sequence and earn a 3.0 GPA
 - List of approved programs of study on [Graduation Requirements web page](#)
 - Course requirements for programs on [Graduation Requirements web page](#)
- **Dual Credit Coursework**
 - Transferrable for credit in the content area at partner institution of higher education
 - Course offerings are unique to each school
 - Final GPA in course of 3.0 or higher
 - Remedial courses and coursework that transfer as an elective credit may not be used

Students leveraging a competency-based alternative in more than one core content area may use a qualifying criterion more than once, as long as it is not content specific. For example, a student could use acceptance into an apprenticeship program to qualify for use of a competency-based alternative in both math and reading. However, qualifying criteria that are specific to content may only be used to leverage a competency-based alternative for the same content area.

Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)

The IEPs for students with disabilities shall specify in which assessments each student will participate and what, if any, accommodations are needed to enable the student to participate. For students with severe cognitive disabilities, Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) will serve as the state-approved alternate assessment in math, ELA, and science.

Students with IEPs and no individualized graduation modifications will follow the guidelines established in 6.19.7 NMAC.

There are two assessment options for students whose IEPs have individualized graduation criteria:

Modified Option

Students on the modified option¹ will take the general assessments, with accommodations when applicable.²

Students following the modified option, whose IEPs establish individualized passing scores, should default to their individualized score when determining demonstration of competency

Students using End of Course (EOC) exams to demonstrate graduation competency are allowed an additional attempt at the EOC (up to four attempts per EOC³). The first attempt may be used to establish passing scores that define a passing grade for that student.

For students who use competency-based options to demonstrate competency, modifications may be made by the IEP team to the standards-based portfolio passing score.

Ability Option

Students following the **ability option** will take DLM as the academic achievement assessment rather than PSAT, SAT, or NM-ASR.

IEP teams will set individualized cut scores for demonstrating competency.

¹ Formerly referred to as the career pathway

² A student with a disability who is receiving special education services should be offered all accommodations as provided in the student's IEP. The IEP team must review the allowable accommodations as described in the New Mexico Assessment Accommodations Manual and must be familiar with the allowable accommodations. This must include additional testing opportunities and individualized passing scores. The student's IEP team will establish individualized passing scores.

³ compared to three attempts for students on the standard pathway

Out of State Transfer Students

Students who transfer to a New Mexico high school from an out-of-state high school shall still meet competency requirements to earn a New Mexico Diploma of Excellence. Competency requirements will vary based on the student's grade level at the time of the transfer and when in the school year the transfer occurs.

When student transfers	Must demonstrate competency in	Must participate in state assessments	May demonstrate competency with out of state test
Grade 9 or 10	Math, Reading, Writing, Science, Social Studies	Yes	No
Grade 11 before or during spring testing	Math, Reading, Writing, Science, Social Studies	Yes	Yes
Grade 11 after spring testing	Math, Reading, Writing	No	Yes
Grade 12	Math, Reading, Writing	No	Yes

Waivers

The PED **no longer requires** Alternate Demonstration of Competency (ADC) waivers. There are no primary or alternate demonstrations of competency. Any means of demonstrating competency that is listed on the appropriate cohort Menu of Measures of College and Career Readiness may be used without a waiver.

The PED **no longer requires** waivers to use an out of state assessment score as a means of demonstrating competency. Districts and charters should document their files to show that the student met the competency requirements by means of another state's assessment.

The PED **does** require waivers for any requested change to the prescribed **coursework requirements**. Graduation coursework waivers are obtained from the [PED waivers web page](#) and submitted to Waivers.PED@state.nm.us.

More Information

This document is housed on the [Graduation Requirements web page](#) along with:

- Graduation Requirements Fact Sheet
- Menu of Measures to Demonstrate College and/or Career Readiness for
 - Cohort 2020
 - Cohort 2021
 - Cohort 2022
 - Cohort 2023
- List of Industry Recognized Credentials
- List of Programs of Study by Content Area
- Required Coursework for Programs of Study

For more information, please email Grad.Questions@state.nm.us.