Utah Demonstrated Competency Assessment

2011 - 2012



Guidelines

Demonstrated Competency AssessmentGuidelines

Definitions:

Accredited: means evaluated and approved under the standards for accreditation of the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools or the accreditation standards of the board. (Available from the USOE accreditation specialist.)

Accelerated Learner: means a student is able to complete a course in less than the usual time.

Core Curriculum Content Standard: means a broad statement of what students enrolled in public schools are expected to know and be able to do at specific grade levels or following completion of identified courses.

Demonstrated Competence: means subject mastery; a student demonstrates all essential knowledge, skills and dispositions of a specific course, as determined by school district standards and review. School district review shall be based upon a valid assessment.

Early Graduate: means a student who has completed all required courses or demonstrated mastery of required skills and competencies, and with the approval of the student, the student's parent or guardian, and an authorized local school official, can graduate at any time.

High School: means grades 9 - 12.

Highly Mobile: means a student who frequently changes schools.

Home Schooled: means a student who attends a home school, is exempt from school attendance and attends no more than two regularly scheduled classes in a public school per semester.

Non- accredited: means a public/private school lacking approval by the State Board of Education or that has not been recognized by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools.

SEOP: means student education occupation plan.

Verified Credit: means course with established validity.

Authority and Purpose:

This policy is authorized by the State Board of Education rule R277-705-3C (1) and F. (C) School district or school policies shall provide various methods for students to earn credit from non-accredited sources, course work or education providers. Methods, as designated by the school district or school may include: (1) Satisfaction of coursework by demonstrated competency, as evaluated at the school district or school level. (F) A school district or school has the final decision-making authority for the awarding of credit and grades from non-accredited sources consistent with state law, due process and this rule.

The purpose of this rule is to facilitate the development of competency tests in all subjects areas needed for graduation and to establish standardization across the state in tests, and testing practices.

Objectives:

Assessments for most courses may be divided and administered in sections: (1) Multiple Choice, (2) Constructed Response, (3) Essay and Performance (for some courses).

Students must pass the first assessment section in order to proceed through the remainder of the assessment. If a student fails the first assessment section, he/she will be advised to take the course for credit.

- A. The assessments will be available to all high school students.
- B. Students can take assessments at any time in their high school career.
- C. The assessments will provide students an opportunity to earn required and/or elective credit.
- D. The assessments may be used for students to accelerate their education.
- E. The use of the assessments, as a means of earning credit toward graduation, may be discussed during the SEOP process.
- F. The student is responsible for acquiring and retaining the content knowledge and skills required for passing any assessment.
- G. The areas of assessment to be developed during the 06/07 school year are: Geography for Life, General Financial Literacy, United States Government and Citizenship, Computer Technology, Earth Systems, Biology, Algebra I, Fitness for Life, and World Languages.
- H. The content area assessments will reflect a semester of subject content for all semester courses and will be worth .50 credit toward meeting graduation requirements. Content area assessments for full year courses will reflect 1.00 credit toward meeting graduation requirements. (World Language credit will

be issued in increments of 1.00 credit to 2.00 credits.)

- I. Administration of assessments will be coordinated at the district level.
- J. Credit for passing assessments will be awarded at the district level and applied to the student's transcript at the home school location.
- K. A fee of up to \$85.00 will be charged for each assessment. The fee is non-refundable. Fee waivers are subject to local school board ruling and policy. Students are responsible for consulting their local school district regarding fee waiver policy before scheduling an assessment.
- L. A written request for taking an assessment must be submitted by the student to his/her local school counselor.
- M. A minimum of 30 days is required for assessing, scoring, and reporting the results of Demonstrated Competency Assessments.
- N. Assessments may be taken only once per school year.
- O. No citizenship credit will be given for passing an assessment.
- P. Students will receive a "P" for demonstrated competency on the assessment. (No letter grade will be given.)

Note: Credit earned through Demonstrated Competency Assessments will be accepted by all public and charter schools as required by State Law but may not be accepted by some private schools. Students enrolled at private schools should speak with a school administrator before taking a Demonstrated Competency Assessment.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) does not recognize courses completed through credit-by-exam; Demonstrated Competency Assessments <u>cannot be used</u> to meet NCAA eligibility.

Students must receive letter grades in required courses in order to be eligible for Utah Regent Scholarships; credit earned through Demonstrated Competency may not be accepted by the Utah Board of Regents in consideration of these awards.

WORLD LANGUAGES

FEE: \$85.00

- A. The Web-based World Language Assessment the STAMP test (STAndards-based Measurement of Proficiency) will be used as the comprehensive assessment for students desiring credit in world languages.
- B. The STAMP assessment will be administered on a district level or by a Regional Testing Center by appointment only.
- C. Registration process: Application and fee must be submitted at least 15 days prior to taking the test.
- D. Credit will be awarded for this assessment as follows: 1.00 credit for scoring IIs or above on all three section assessments. 2.00 credits for scoring IIIs or above on all three section assessments. (A maximum of 2.00 credits will be issued for passing the world language assessment.)
- E. The assessment sections are reading, writing and speaking.
- F. The following languages are available for assessment: French, Spanish, German, Italian, Japanese, and Chinese.

FITNESS FOR LIFE

FEE: \$85.00

- A. The Fitness for Life Comprehensive Assessment will be used as the assessment for students desiring credit in Physical Education. It is divided into two sections.
- B. The Physical Education Assessment will be administered on a district level or by a Regional Testing Center by appointment only.
- C. Registration process: Application must be made at least 15 days prior to taking the written section of the assessment.
- D. Assessment will cover a written section of the knowledge of skills necessary to self-assess, create, conduct, evaluate, and redesign personal fitness programs, and a performance adaptive on curl-ups, shuttle run, v-sit, pull-ups or flexed arm hang, and endurance run/walk.
- E. Passing the first section of the assessment is required for students to proceed to the second section. If the student does not pass the first section it will be recommended that he/she enroll in the course for credit. Notification of date and time of the performance section of the assessment will be sent to students who have passed the written section.
- F. The performance assessment section is graded on the relationship between a student's age, height and weight using data from the President's physical fitness test results. Passing both parts of this assessment will result in the awarding of .50 credit in Fitness for Life.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

FEE: \$85.00

- A. The Computer Technology assessment will be administered by a Regional Testing Center unless individual districts make other arrangements for test proctoring.
- B. Registration Process: application must be made at least 15 days prior to taking the first section of the assessment.
- C. The Computer Technology assessment is divided into three sections.
- D. Passing the first section of the assessment is required in order to continue to the next section of the assessment. If a student does not pass it will be recommended that he/she enroll in the course for credit.
- E. The first assessment section consists of 70 multiple choice questions covering the core standards and objectives.
- F. The second assessment section consists of a student portfolio that includes the following: business letter, flyer, two page report, spreadsheet with printed formulas and calculations, and PowerPoint presentation. Students must submit both a hard and electronic copy of the portfolio.
- G. The third assessment section consists of the IC3 certification exam.

GEOGRAPHY FOR LIFE

FEE: \$85.00

- A. The Geography for Life assessment will be administered by a Regional Testing Center unless individual districts make other arrangements for test proctoring.
- B. Registration process: application must be made at least 15 days prior to taking the first section.
- C. The Geography for Life assessment consists of two assessment sections.
- D. Passing the first assessment section is required in order to continue to the next section of the assessment. If a student does not pass it will be recommended that he/she enroll in the course for credit.
- E. The first assessment section consists of 90 multiple choice questions covering the core standards and objectives.
- F. The second assessment section consists of 6 constructed response questions; 2 thematic essays; and presentation of performance project.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND CITIZENSHIP

FEE: \$85.00

- A. The United States Government and Citizenship assessment will be administered by a Regional Testing Center unless individual districts make other arrangements for test proctoring.
- B. Registration process: application must be made at least 15 days prior to taking the first section.
- C. The United States Government and Citizenship assessment consists of two assessment sections.
- D. Passing the first assessment section is required in order to continue to next section of the assessment. If a student does not pass it will be recommended that he/she enroll in the course for credit.
- E. The first assessment section consists of 64 multiple choice questions covering the core standards and objectives.
- F. The second assessment section consists of 6 constructed response questions; 2 thematic essays; and presentation of performance project.

EARTH SYSTEMS SCIENCE

FEE: \$85.00

- A. The Earth Systems assessment will be administered by a Regional Testing Center unless individual districts make other arrangements for test proctoring.
- B. Registration process: application must be made at least 15 days prior to taking the first section.
- C. The Earth Systems assessment consists of three assessment sections.
- D. Passing the first assessment section is required in order to continue on to the next section of the assessment. If a student does not pass it will be recommended that he/she enroll in the course for credit.
- E. The first assessment section consists of 75 multiple choice questions covering the core standards, objectives, and Intended Learning Outcomes.
- F. The second assessment section consists of 4 constructed response questions: essay, interpretive, reading and experimental design.
- G. The third assessment section consists of a performance task.

BIOLOGY

FEE: \$85.00

- A. The Biology assessment will be administered by a Regional Testing Center unless individual districts make other arrangements for test proctoring.
- B. Registration process: application must be made at least 15 days prior to taking the first section.
- C. The Biology assessment consists of three assessment sections.
- D. Passing the first assessment section is required in order to continue on to the next section of the assessment. If a student does not pass it will be recommended that he/she enroll in the course for credit.
- E. The first assessment section consists of 70 multiple choice questions covering the core standards, objectives, and Intended Learning Outcomes.
- F. The second assessment section consists of 4 constructed response questions: essay, interpretive, reading and experimental design.
- G. The third assessment section consists of a performance task.

ALGEBRA 1

FEE: \$85.00

- A. The Algebra 1 assessment will be administered by a Regional Testing Center unless individual districts make other arrangements for test proctoring.
- B. Registration process: application must be made at least 15 days prior to taking the first section.
- C. The Algebra 1 assessment consists of two assessment sections.
- D. Passing the first assessment section is required in order to continue on to the next section of the assessment. If a student does not pass it will be recommended that he/she enroll in the course for credit.
- E. The first assessment section consists of 72 multiple choice questions covering the core standards and objectives.
- F. The second assessment section consists of 12 short answers and 5 constructed response questions (2 hours).

GEOMETRY

FEE: \$85.00

- A. The Geometry assessment will be administered by a Regional Testing Center unless individual districts make other arrangements for test proctoring.
- B. Registration process: application must be made at least 15 days prior to taking the first section.
- C. The Geometry assessment consists of two assessment sections.
- D. Passing the first assessment section is required in order to continue on to the next section of the assessment. If a student does not pass it will be recommended that he/she enroll in the course for credit.
- E. The first assessment section consists of 72 multiple choice questions covering the core standards and objectives.
- F. The second assessment section consists of 12 short answers and 5 constructed response questions (2 hours).

GENERAL FINANCIAL LITERACY

FEE: \$85.00

- A. The General Financial Literacy assessment will be administered by a Regional Testing Center unless individual districts make other arrangements for test proctoring.
- B. Registration process: application must be made at least 15 days prior to taking the first section.
- C. The General Financial Literacy assessment consists of two assessment sections.
- D. Passing the first assessment section is required in order to continue on to the next section of the assessment. If a student does not pass it will be recommended that he/she enroll in the course for credit.
- E. The first assessment section consists of 80 multiple choice questions covering the core standards and objectives (2 hours).
- F. The second assessment section consists of 18 short answers, 4 constructed response questions, and presentation of performance task.

PARTICIPATION SKILLS & TECHNIQUES (PST)

FEE: \$85.00

- A. The Participation Skills & Techniques (PST) Comprehensive Assessment will be used as the assessment for students desiring credit in Physical Education. It is divided into two sections.
- B. The Participation Skills & Techniques (PST) assessment will be administered by a Regional Testing Center unless individual districts make other arrangements for test proctoring.
- C. Registration process: Application must be made at least 15 days prior to taking the written section of the assessment.
- D. The written assessment measures competence in up to five different activities that may include, but are not limited to: golf, archery, bowling, weight training, aerobics, walking, jogging, social dance, rope jumping, disc golf, disc football, inline skating, biking, fishing, martial arts, and aquatics. Competency is measured by the ability to apply the basic skills, strategies, and rules based on standardized rubrics.
- E. Passing the first section of the assessment is required for students to proceed to the second section. If the student does not pass the first section it will be recommended that he/she enroll in the course for credit. Notification of date and time of the performance section of the assessment will be sent to students who have passed the written section.
- F. The performance assessment section is graded on the relationship among a student's age, height, and weight based on national standards for physical education.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 9

FEE: \$85.00

- A. The English Language Arts 9 assessment will be administered by a Regional Testing Center unless individual districts make other arrangements for test proctoring.
- B. Registration process: application must be made at least 15 days prior to taking the first section.
- C. The English Language Arts assessment consists of three assessment sections.
- D. Passing the first assessment section is required in order to continue to the next section of the assessment. If a student does not pass it will be recommended that he/she enroll in the course for credit.
- E. The first assessment section consists of 55 multiple choice questions and document analysis covering the core standards and objectives.
- F. The second assessment section consists of a persuasive writing project to be completed outside the testing center.
- G. The third assessment consists of an inquiry project that includes a report and oral presentation.