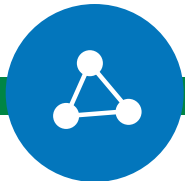


Capstone Portfolio Guide



**DENVER
PUBLIC
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The Competency Based Learning Team

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2021 graduation requirements

Earn a certain number
of credits



and

Show competency in
English and Math



The Colorado legislature created new graduation requirements in 2013 and the DPS board adopted them in 2016. The intent of these new requirements is to ensure that students can enter college and career without the need for remediation.

There are many ways a student can show competency in English and math such as through tests like the SAT, Accuplacer, and Advanced Placement. Another way that students can show competence is through the Capstone Portfolio.

What is the Capstone Portfolio

A Capstone Portfolio is a pathway for students and teachers to monitor progress and show competency towards college and career readiness. It is directly aligned to the goals and expectations outlined by our new graduation policy, which “ensures our students are prepared to enter credit-bearing courses in Colorado postsecondary education institutions, military career training, and the workforce without the need for remediation”. (DPS Board of Education)

The Capstone Portfolio is designed around academic competencies in English and math. Students must meet expectations on these competencies in order to graduate with the Capstone portfolio option. Competencies provide clear targets that empower students to better understand the skills they must master and take ownership of their learning. Competencies are built into rubrics which have performance expectations. Students will either “exceed”, “meet”, “approach”, or “partially meet” expectations on the competencies.

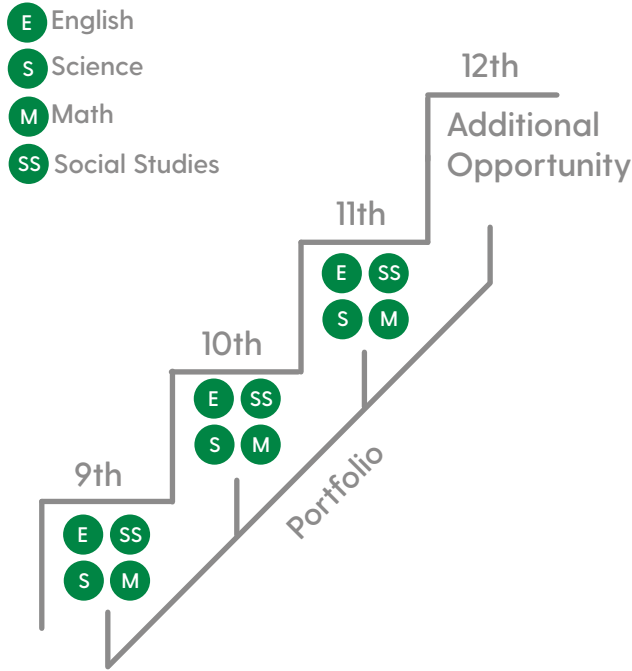


Artifacts



Electronic Portfolio

Students will show competence through artifacts they store in an electronic portfolio. Artifacts for English could be essays, research papers and lab reports. These artifacts can be completed as assignments in their classes. For math, artifacts could also be tasks they complete in class or scores from unit tests that focus on the competencies. Schools will help students track their progress towards competency for the Capstone portfolio pathway.



The above graphic indicates that students can complete artifacts in many courses, even ones that are not mentioned in the graphic, as long as they use either an English or math competency rubric.

Students should store artifacts aligned to the competencies and standards in an electronic portfolio. Students only have to master competencies up to the eleventh grade. This allows for additional time to master competencies if needed in the senior year.

The minimum expectations that must be met for English and math are in charts to the right. The charts show that students must store artifacts from every year of high school but they only have to meet expectations for the competencies listed in blue. Teachers will support students to have adequate opportunities to complete assignments and assessments so that all students may show competence.



The Capstone Difference

The Capstone is one of the few options to show competence that can be unique to each student. Capstone artifacts are developed inside courses where students can receive coaching and have appropriate revision cycles. Students can easily be provided accommodations and modifications which supports equity outcomes for students with disabilities.

English

9th Grade

- 1 Informative Writing Artifact
- 1 Argumentative Writing Artifact

10th Grade

- 1 Informative Writing Artifact
- 1 Argumentative Writing Artifact

11th Grade

- 1 Informative Writing Artifact
- 1 Argumentative Writing Artifact

Math

Integrated Math I

- Artifacts aligned to Competencies
- 1: Solving Equations
- 2: Models
- 3: Functions
- 9: Coordinate Geometry

Integrated Math II

- Artifacts aligned to Competencies
- 1: Solving Equations
- 3: Functions
- 7: Proofs
- 10: Geometric Models

Integrated Math III

- Artifacts aligned to Competencies
- 1: Solving Equations
- 2: Models
- 3: Functions
- 10: Geometric Models

Competencies in blue must meet expectations