

Frequently Asked Questions about Maryland's College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013

1 What is the College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013?

The CCR and CCA 2013 (Senate Bill 740) established requirements designed to increase college and career readiness and degree completion of students in Maryland. The Act includes provisions for several initiatives that affect secondary education in Maryland:

- a. Assessments of College and Career Readiness (CCR) in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics
- b. Transition courses for students not demonstrating CCR
- c. Enrollment in a mathematics course each year of high school
- d. Tuition reduction for students dually enrolled in high school and an institute of higher education

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has charged each Maryland school district with developing a plan for the above-mentioned initiatives to ensure that students are college and career ready.

2 What does it mean to be College and Career Ready?

Maryland law defines College and Career Readiness as being ready to take a credit-bearing course in college. This may enable students to start college without taking developmental courses in Maryland community colleges.

3 What are the CCR assessment requirements?

By the end of 11th grade, each student must take an English assessment and a math assessment to determine the student's readiness for college and careers. Students may demonstrate CCR in those subjects by earning an established score on state-approved assessments:

English CCR Scores and Assessments	Mathematics CCR Scores and Assessments
4 or 5 on PARCC* English 10 (pending further research by the MSDE) 4 or 5 on PARCC English 11	4 or 5 on PARCC* Geometry for 11th graders only, combined with 12th grade enrollment in Algebra II
21 or higher on ACT composite/average of English and Reading	4 or 5 on PARCC Algebra II
500 or above on SAT Reading (Old SAT-prior to 2016)	21 or higher on ACT Mathematics
500 or above on SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section (New SAT-2016 and later)	500 or higher on SAT Mathematics
79 or above on Accuplacer Reading and 90 or above on accuPlacer Sentence Skills (both required)	45 or higher on Accuplacer Intermediate College Algebra
3, 4 or 5 on Advanced Placement (AP) English Language and Composition or Literature and Composition	3, 4 or 5 on Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus AB or BC or AP Statistics
Dual Enrollment in an approved English course	Dual Enrollment in an approved math course
MSDE-Approved Career and Technology Education licensing exams or programs culminating in technical skill attainment college credit	MSDE-Approved Career and Technology Education licensing exams or programs culminating in technical skill attainment college credit
*PARCC stands for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers	

Additional details regarding CCR assessment options are online: www.fcps.org/ccr

4 Must all students take the PARCC English 11 and Algebra II assessments?

At this time, no. Students achieve CCR status by earning a qualifying score on PARCC or other approved CCR assessments. Eleventh grade students who have not provided documentation of their achievement of CCR status prior to the school system's PARCC testing dates and who are scheduled to take another approved CCR assessment by the end of 11th grade may elect to be excused from PARCC English 11 and/or PARCC Algebra II testing. FCPS recommends that students and parents/guardians consult with school counselors to determine the best assessment option(s) for each student.

5**What happens if a student is not CCR by the end of 11th grade?**

SB740 requires that all students who do not demonstrate CCR by the end of 11th grade must be enrolled in a transition course or experience during their senior year. Transition experiences are aligned with the Maryland CCR Standards and must provide an re-assessment opportunity that allows students to demonstrate their English and mathematics readiness for college and careers. FCPS students will enroll in English and/or mathematics transition courses that address CCR content standards and move students forward in their established program of study. School counselors can assist families with questions.

English	Mathematics
Scheduled 12th grade English course, as well as, English modules	Next course in student's program of study

6**Can a student earn CCR status through Career and Technology Education (CTE) programs in place of earning a qualifying score on an approved assessment?**

Yes. The MSDE has convened a workgroup to identify approved options. School staff will have more detailed information in the fall.

7**Must all students enroll in a mathematics course each year that they are in high school?**

Yes. FCPS and SB740 require that all students be enrolled in a mathematics course each year of high school. [There is an exception for fifth-year seniors.] FCPS mathematics course options are listed in the FCPS Career Planning Tool and the High School Course Guide, available at fcps.org.

8**Will FCPS note a student's CCR status on the student's transcript?**

No, not at this time. The MSDE collects CCR information from each school district via a confidential file called the High School Status Completers file, annually submitted to the MSDE each summer with information about progress students have made achieving graduation requirements, student dropout and other accountability data.

9**Are CCR assessment requirements the same as graduation requirement?**

No. CCR assessments are in addition to required graduation assessments for Algebra I, American Government, Biology, and English 10. Even though students can currently use PARCC English 10 to meet CCR requirements, the CCR score requirements are not graduation requirements. For additional information about FCPS graduation requirements, see fcps.org or speak to a school counselor.

10**Can a student graduate with a Maryland diploma if the student has not demonstrated mastery of CCR content?**

At this time, yes. Students may graduate without achieving CCR status.

11**Where can students and parents obtain additional information about CCR assessments and designations?**

School administrators and school counselors can support students and parents/guardians with answers to questions regarding these assessments.

12**What is "dual enrollment," and who can answer questions about it?**

Maryland law defines a dually enrolled student as a "student who is dually enrolled in: (1) a secondary school in the State; and (2) an institution of higher education in the State." FCPS has established a partnership with Frederick Community College (FCC) to provide students with opportunities to be dually enrolled in FCPS for high school and FCC for college coursework. School counselors can provide additional information and details on requirements for dual enrollment. For example, students who receive a final course grade of an A or B in Algebra II or higher are eligible for dual enrollment in a math course.

