

# Endorsement Toolkit

Planning a high school journey that prepares students for success in college and career.

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# Understanding Endorsements

## What is an endorsement?

An endorsement is an indicator that demonstrates readiness for college and/or career by completing coursework and credentials in high school.

## Why should a student earn an endorsement?

Endorsements are pathways that prepare students for success after high school. By selecting and completing an endorsement that is aligned with their goals, students are better equipped for their next step, whatever that may be.

## Can students earn more than one endorsement?

Yes, students can earn more than one endorsement, if they have completed the requirements for each one.

## Who should students talk to about endorsements?

School counselors and Career Development Coordinators can answer questions about courses, registration, and career opportunities. Students may also choose to talk to a teacher or family member about their plans for after high school.

## How do I know which endorsement is right for me?

While students can earn multiple endorsements, each endorsement is designed to prepare students for a variety of options after graduating from high school. Reviewing each of the endorsements will help students determine which one aligns with plans and goals after high school.

## What recognition will students receive for completing an endorsement?

Students who complete endorsements will be recognized for their accomplishments in graduation programs. Students will also receive seals for their diploma that highlight their endorsement.

## How do I calculate unweighted GPA?

Click the link [HERE](#) to copy a Google Sheets template that will help you track your courses and automatically calculate your unweighted GPA. There is a blank template you can fill in, an example of a filled-in template, and an additional template for calculating unweighted GPA for English courses only (for the Global Languages Endorsement).

## Do high school courses taken during middle school count toward endorsements?

Yes, if you took courses such as Math I or Spanish I, they will count toward endorsement requirements. In order to receive credit for world languages, both parts must be completed.

# Selecting An Endorsement:

When selecting an endorsement, it is important for students to consider their goals for after high school. Is the student interested in attending community college or a four-year university? Is the student planning to enter the workforce immediately after high school? Students may also want to consider their academic strengths and interests.

As students consider their endorsement selection, they should discuss their plans and options with their parents or guardians. Students may also want to discuss their decision with their school counselor or a trusted teacher.

## Career Endorsement:

Targets career awareness for students preparing to attend a 2- or 4-year institution, military, apprenticeships, job training or direct to employment.

## College Endorsement:

Targets students preparing to attend community college. Community college is a pathway to an associates, certification or transfer to a 4-year institution.

## College/UNC Endorsement:

Target students who are preparing for a 4-year institution in the University of North Carolina system. This includes the ability to begin at a community college and transfer to North Carolina 4-year institution.

## Global Languages Endorsement:

Targets students who have or want to develop high proficiency in one or more languages other than English as well as English.

## NC Academic Scholars Endorsement:

Targets students who want to take a balanced, rigorous, and advanced course load and plan to attend a 4-year institution.

## CMS Scholars Endorsement:

Targets students seeking the most rigorous endorsement, successfully completing advanced coursework beyond graduation requirements.

# Monitoring Your Progress:

Earning an endorsement will require students to plan ahead and be intentional throughout their high school years. These checklists will help students make informed decisions and take action toward earning endorsements.

## 8th Grade:

- ❑ Register for 9th grade classes with the help of a school counselor. Select courses that may be of interest for potential career paths.
- ❑ Have conversations with counselors and family members about plans for after high school and review endorsement options.

## 9th Grade:

- ❑ Explore career interests through a wide range of courses and extracurricular activities.
- ❑ When registering for 10th grade classes, declare an endorsement and align course selection to that endorsement.

## 10th Grade:

- ❑ Take the PSAT at school for the first time. Remember that SAT scores can fulfill the requirements for some endorsements.
- ❑ Continue to complete courses related to the selected endorsement.
- ❑ Explore career opportunities through surveys and other resources offered through the school and CMS.
- ❑ Utilize the Naviance platforms for career surveys and planning information.

## 11th Grade:

- ❑ Take the PSAT at school for the second time. Remember that SAT scores can fulfill the requirements for some endorsements.
- ❑ Take the ACT at school. Remember that ACT scores can fulfill the requirements for some endorsements.
- ❑ Register for and take the SAT. Remember that SAT scores can fulfill the requirements for some endorsements.
- ❑ Continue to take coursework related to the selected endorsement. Speak to a school counselor if there are concerns about finishing the endorsement.

## 12th Grade:

- ❑ Ensure the student's schedule includes all of the classes needed to finish the endorsement.
- ❑ Retake the ACT or SAT as needed.
- ❑ Complete the WorkKeys assessment, if it has not already been completed and the student is seeking to earn the career endorsement.

Explore

Launch

Complete

# Career Endorsement:

## Requirements:

### 1. Math Courses:

Complete four math courses.

- NC Math 1 or NC Math 1 Honors
- NC Math 2 or NC Math 2 Honors
- NC Math 3 or NC Math 3 Honors
- Any fourth math course: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Career & Technical Education Concentration:

Complete four courses in the same career pathway, including College & Career Promise pathways.

- Course 1: \_\_\_\_\_
- Course 2: \_\_\_\_\_
- Course 3: \_\_\_\_\_
- Course 4: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. An industry-recognized credential:

- Through your pathway earn an industry certification or earn a Career Readiness Certificate when scoring at the "Silver Level" or above on the WorkKeys assessment.

### 4. Benchmark Reading Score:

- Score a 22 on the ACT Reading Subtest OR a 480 on the SAT Reading Subtest.

### 5. Unweighted GPA

- Earn an unweighted GPA of 2.6 or higher.

# College Endorsement:

## Requirements:

### 1. Math Courses:

Complete four math courses:

- NC Math 1 or NC Math 1 Honors
- NC Math 2 or NC Math 2 Honors
- NC Math 3 or NC Math 3 Honors
- A fourth math course: \_\_\_\_\_ \*

### 2. Benchmark Reading Score:

- Score a 22 on the ACT Reading Subtest OR a 480 on the SAT Reading Subtest.

### 3. Unweighted GPA

- Earn an unweighted GPA of 2.6 or higher.

\*Math courses that meet the requirements for the endorsement include: NC Math 4, NC Math 4 Honors, Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science, Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science Honors, Pre-Calculus Honors, AP Statistics, AP Calculus AB, or AP Calculus BC

# College/UNC Endorsement:

## Requirements:

### 1. Math Courses:

- NC Math 1 or NC Math 1 Honors
- NC Math 2 or NC Math 2 Honors
- NC Math 3 or NC Math 3 Honors
- A fourth math course: \_\_\_\_\_\*

### 2. Science Courses:

- One physical science course with a lab: includes physical science, chemistry, or physics courses
- Biology I
- One additional science course: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. US History

- Complete a US History course.

### 4. World Language

Complete two units of a world language.

- Course 1: \_\_\_\_\_
- Course 2: \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Benchmark Reading Score:

- Score a 22 on the ACT Reading Subtest OR a 480 on the SAT Reading Subtest.

### 6. Weighted GPA

- Earn an weighted GPA of 2.5 or higher.

\*Math courses that meet the requirements for the endorsement include: NC Math 4, NC Math 4 Honors, Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science, Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science Honors, Pre-Calculus Honors, AP Statistics, AP Calculus AB, or AP Calculus BC



# Global Languages Endorsement:

## Requirements:

### 1. English Course Unweighted GPA

- ❑ Earn an unweighted GPA of at least 2.5 in English I, II, III, and IV

### 2. Proficiency in one or more languages other than English

- ❑ Demonstrate world language proficiency through one of the following options:
  - ❑ Coursework: completing a four-course sequence\*\* in one world language, with an overall unweighted GPA of at least 2.5.
  - ❑ Take an exam on the [NCDPI approved external assessment list](#) and achieve a minimum language proficiency score of Intermediate Low (IL) or higher
  - ❑ Use the [Credit by Demonstrated Mastery \(CDM\) Policy](#) to establish Intermediate Low (IL) proficiency or higher

### 3. For English Language Learners

- ❑ Earn a score of “Developing” or above on all sections of the WIDA language acquisition assessment.

\*\*Heritage speakers may begin their course sequence higher than level I to work towards this endorsement. Power School will automatically look for any courses equivalent to Honors IV or higher, regardless of the total number of courses completed.

# NC Academic Scholars Endorsement:

## Requirements:

### 1. Math Courses:

- NC Math 1 or NC Math 1 Honors
- NC Math 2 or NC Math 2 Honors
- NC Math 3 or NC Math 3 Honors
- A fourth math course: \_\_\_\_\_\*

### 2. Science Courses:

- An Earth/Environmental Science Course
- Biology I
- Physics or Chemistry

### 3. Electives

Complete four elective courses in the same subject area: CTE, JROTC, arts, world languages, or another content area.

- Course 1: \_\_\_\_\_
- Course 2: \_\_\_\_\_
- Course 3: \_\_\_\_\_
- Course 4: \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Higher Level Course Work

Complete at least three higher level courses during junior and/or senior year. Higher level courses include AP, IB, dual enrollment, advanced CTE, honors, and PLTW courses.

- Course 1: \_\_\_\_\_
- Course 2: \_\_\_\_\_
- Course 3: \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Unweighted GPA

- Earn an unweighted GPA of 3.5 or higher.

\*Math courses that meet the requirements for the endorsement include: NC Math 4, NC Math 4 Honors, Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science, Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science Honors, Pre-Calculus Honors, or AP Statistics

# CMS Scholars Endorsement:

## Requirements:

### 1. English Courses

- English I
- English II
- English III
- English IV

### 2. Science Courses

Complete four science courses. At least one must be advanced (second level, AP/IB, or college course).

- Course 1: \_\_\_\_\_
- Course 2: \_\_\_\_\_
- Course 3: \_\_\_\_\_
- Course 4: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Mathematics Courses

- NC Math 1
- NC Math 2
- NC Math 3
- Fourth Math Course\*:  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Health/Physical Education

- Complete Health and Physical Education.

### 5. Arts Education

Complete at least one arts course.

- Course: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. World Languages

Complete four world language courses. Students may take four levels of one language or two levels of two languages.

- Course 1: \_\_\_\_\_
- Course 2: \_\_\_\_\_
- Course (3)1: \_\_\_\_\_
- Course (4) 2: \_\_\_\_\_

### 7. Social Studies

Complete the following social studies courses:

- World History
- Civics and Economics
- American History I
- One second level or AP/IB/college-level social studies course:  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 8. Electives

At least 8 electives, for a total of 30 credit hours.

### 9. Unweighted GPA

- Earn overall unweighted GPA of at least 3.5. GPA will be calculated at the end of the first semester of senior year.

\*Math courses that meet the requirements for the endorsement include: NC Math 4, NC Math 4 Honors, Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science, Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science Honors, Pre-Calculus Honors, or AP Statistics