



NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

Thomas A. Stith III

President

NUMBERED MEMO CC22-016

TO: College and Career Readiness Directors, Vice Presidents of Instruction, Chief Academic Officers

FROM: Gilda Rubio-Festa
Associate Vice President, College and Career Readiness

SUBJECT: Multiple Pathways to High School Equivalency (MPHSE) Diploma Program
Operating Guidelines - December 2021

DATE: March 2, 2022

The Multiple Pathways to High School Equivalency (MPHSE) diploma program is a standardized performance assessment program for the completion of a high school equivalency diploma. The MPHSE establishes a formalized system to provide students with a clear and flexible conduit toward earning a high school equivalency credential. The student is required to demonstrate high school-level competencies in the five selected content areas. Once the student has satisfactorily completed all requirements, a high school equivalency diploma will be awarded through the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges.

The purpose of this numbered memo is to inform College and Career Readiness Directors about the release of the updated Multiple Pathways to High School Equivalency (MPHSE) Diploma Program Operating Guidelines. The updated Multiple Pathways to High School Equivalency (MPHSE) Diploma Program Operating Guidelines will be available via the [College and Career Readiness webpage](#). Information contained in the December 2021 Multiple Pathways to High School Equivalency (MPHSE) Diploma Program Operating Guidelines supersedes previously published operating guidelines. All MPHSE credential guidance will be provided based upon the information contained in the updated Multiple Pathways to High School Equivalency (MPHSE) Diploma Program Operating Guidelines.

If you have questions or require assistance, please submit your inquiries to Claudia Farnandez at farnandezc@nccommunitycolleges.edu.

cc: Dr. Kimberly Gold, Chief of Staff
Claudia Farnandez, HSE State Administrator and College and Career Navigator– College and Career Readiness



COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS



**Multiple Pathways to High School Equivalency (MPHSE)
Diploma Program
Operating Guidelines
December 2021**

Multiple Pathways to High School Equivalency (MPHSE) Diploma Program

MULTIPLE PATHWAYS MODEL

On December 4, 2015, the State Board of Community Colleges approved the Multiple Pathways to High School Equivalency (MPHSE) to be “...an alternative for earning a high school equivalency diploma...” The objective of this initiative was to research and develop an alternative for earning a high school equivalency diploma through a combination or repackaging of currently established academically valid elements to document achievement of specifically determined content areas rather than by using a single testing instrument or path to completion. The end goal is to facilitate persons advancing in careers or to grant entry to postsecondary education. The full State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) Item can be accessed at: https://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/sites/default/files/state-board/program/prog_06_multiple_pathways_to_hs_equivalency_11-17.pdf

The Multiple Pathways to High School Equivalency (MPHSE) diploma program is a standardized performance assessment program for the completion of a high school equivalency diploma. The MPHSE establishes a formalized system to provide students with a clear and flexible conduit toward earning a high school equivalency credential. The student is required to demonstrate high school-level competencies in the five selected content areas. Once the student has satisfactorily completed all requirements, a high school equivalency diploma will be awarded through the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges.

Multiple Pathways Content Areas

Based on a review of the OCTAE aligned NC Adult Education Content Standards, the high school equivalency assessments currently approved for use in North Carolina, and the structure of the National External Diploma Program (NEDP), there were four primary content areas determined for the development of the multiple pathways’ proposal, plus one additional content area in technological proficiency which the committee felt would be critical for graduates. The five required content competency areas are:

- English Language Arts/Literacy
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Technology

Elements to Determine Credit

The following may be used in combination to demonstrate completion of content areas (see Appendix A MPHSE Content and Credit Verification Structure):

- High School Courses
- Adult High School Courses
- High School Equivalency Assessments
- BSP Transition Courses
- NorthStar Certifications

LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

Student Eligibility

The Multiple Pathways option for earning a high school equivalency diploma is available to individuals based on the same eligibility guidelines as with other College and Career Readiness programs for persons seeking to earn a high school credential. Students who are 16 and 17 years old must be officially withdrawn from high school and provide documentation as required by the local community college.

Documentation for Credit

For the establishment of qualifying elements to determine credit under the multiple pathways model, official transcripts and documents must be used based on the guidelines detailed in the Official MPHSE Worksheet. The CCR Chief Administrator will be responsible for completing the MPHSE Documentation Summary and Authorization that will be submitted to the NCCCS HSE office for approval.

Steps for Awarding of Credential

- College determines and documents that a student has met the requirements for a MPHSE by completing and filing the Official MPHSE Worksheet.
- MPHSE Documentation Summary and Authorization form are submitted via email to the NCCCS's HSE office representative.
- NCCCS's HSE office will approve or deny request via email to the CCR Chief Administrator
- If approved, College will load the record into Diploma Sender.
- HSE representative will receive an alert and approve via Diploma Sender.
- Graduation date will be the date that the System Office releases credentials.

MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS REQUIREMENT

The information that the college retains serves as evidence of functions executed and activities performed. Student records are to be authentic, reliable and complete. The Documentation Summary and Authorization will serve as the permanent record and must be maintained in accordance with the North Carolina Records Retention & Disposition Schedule for Colleges (page 24) located at the following link:

[2021 Community Colleges Records Retention & Disposition Schedule \(ncdcr.gov\)](https://www.ncdcr.gov/2021-Community-Colleges-Records-Retention-&-Disposition-Schedule)

Appendix A: MPHSE Content and Credit Verification Structure

CONTENT AREA	PATHWAY	CREDIT VERIFICATION
<p>English Language Arts/Literacy</p> <p>Mapped to the College and Career Readiness Standards/OCTAE</p> <p>http://lincs.ed.gov/publications/pdf/CCRStandardsAdultEd.pdf</p> <p>Reading Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key ideas and details • Craft and structure • Integration of knowledge and ideas • Range of reading and text complexity <p>Writing Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text types and purposes • Production and distribution of writing • Research to build and present knowledge <p>Speaking and Listening Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehension and collaboration • Presentation of knowledge and ideas Language <p>Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conventions of standard English • Knowledge of language • Vocabulary acquisition and use 	<p>High School Credit</p>	<p>Successful completion of high school English I-IV courses or a combination of high school and adult high school courses with a grade of C or better. Transition English BSP-4002 Tier 1 can be substituted for English IV if a student earns a P1.</p>
	<p>Adult High School Credit</p>	<p>Successful completion of adult high school English I-IV courses or a combination of high school and adult high school courses with a grade of C or better. Transition English BSP-4002 Tier 1 can be substituted for English IV if a student earns a P1.</p>
	<p>High School Equivalency Credit</p>	<p>Successful completion of GED, HiSET, or TASC based on the manufacturer’s passing score.</p> <p>*Please note students must complete both the Reading and Writing sections to earn credit for the English Language Arts/Literacy content when using HiSET and TASC assessments.</p>

CONTENT AREA	PATHWAY	CREDIT VERIFICATION
<p>Mathematics Mapped to the College and Career Readiness Standards/OCTAE http://lincs.ed.gov/publications/pdf/CCRStandardsAdultEd.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and quantity • Algebra • Functions • Geometry • Statistics and probability 	<p>High School Credit</p>	<p>Successful completion of 4 high school math courses or a combination of high school and adult high school courses with a C or better:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Math 1 2. Math 2 3. Math 3 4. Fourth mathematics course to be aligned with the student’s post high school plans. Transition Math BSP-4003 Tier I can be used as the 4th math if student earns a P1.
	<p>Adult High School Credit</p> <p>*Additional Adult High School Math credits for the 4th math can be found on page 26 in the AHS Implementation Guide with DPI Accepted credits (21-22 Manual)</p>	<p>Successful completion of 4 math courses in adult high school or a combination of high school and adult high school course work with a C or better:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Math 1 2. Math 2 3. Math 3 4. Fourth mathematics course to be aligned with the student’s post high school plans. Transition Math BSP-4003 Tier I can be used as the 4th math if a student earns a P1.
	<p>High School Equivalency Credit</p>	<p>Successful completion of GED, HiSET, or TASC based on the manufacturer’s passing score</p>

CONTENT AREA	PATHWAY	CREDIT VERIFICATION
<p>Science Mapped to the NC Public Schools – Essential Standards of Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Science Forces and motion Matter: Properties and change Energy: Conservation and transfer <p>Biology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure and functions of living organisms Ecosystem Evolution and genetics Molecular biology <p>Chemistry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matter: Properties and change Energy: Conservation and transfer Interaction of energy and matter <p>Physics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forces and motion Energy: Conservation and transfer Interactions of energy and matter <p>Earth/Environmental Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earth in the universe Earth systems, structures, and processes 	<p>High School Credit</p>	<p>Successful completion of 3 high school science courses or a combination of high school courses and adult high school courses with a C or better:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Science Biology Earth/Environmental Science
	<p>Adult High School Credit</p>	<p>Successful completion of 3 high school science courses or a combination of high school courses and adult high school courses with a C or better:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Science Biology Earth/Environmental Science
	<p>High School Equivalency Credit</p>	<p>Successful completion of GED, HiSET, or TASC based on the manufacturer’s passing score</p>

CONTENT AREA	PATHWAY	CREDIT VERIFICATION
<p>Social Studies Mapped to the NC Public Schools – Essential Standards of Social Studies (New Requirements for incoming freshman in 2021)</p> <p>Standard Courses NC DPI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy • Economics and Personal Finance • American History • World History <p>*Requirements prior to 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government and Economics • World History • American History I • American History II 	<p>High School Credit</p>	<p>Successful completion of the following 4 social studies courses in high school or a combination of high school courses and adult high school courses with a C or better:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Civic Literacy 2. Economics and Personal Finance 3. American History 4. World History
	<p>Adult High School Credit</p>	<p>Successful completion of the following 4 social studies courses in high school or a combination of high school courses and adult high school courses with a C or better:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Civic Literacy 2. Economics and Personal Finance 3. American History 4. World History
	<p>High School Equivalency Credit</p>	<p>Successful completion of GED, HiSET, or TASC based on the manufacturer’s passing score</p>

CONTENT AREA	PATHWAY	CREDIT VERIFICATION
Technology	Adult High School Credit	Successful completion of an adult high school technology course with a C or better
	NorthStar Digital Literacy	Earn a minimum of 85% on each of the following Northstar Assessments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Computing Skills • Internet Basics • Using Email • Microsoft Word • Social Media • Information Literacy
	BSP Transition Courses	Successful completion of Transition Digital Literacy Skills courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSP-4010 Transition Digital Skills or • BSP-4011 Transition Digital Applications

Official MPHSE Worksheet

Name of College

Student's Full Name

Student's Colleague ID

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Document the courses and/or tests that the student has completed to earn high school equivalency credit in each content area. Attach supporting documentation.

English Language Arts/Literacy: this pathway may be met by a combination of 4 approved English courses from high school, adult high school; or minimum passing scores on a high school equivalency assessment.

English Language Arts Literacy			
Pathway 1: High School Courses			
The student must successfully complete 4 credits in a combination of high school and adult high school courses with a C or better grade: English I, English II, English III, and English IV. Transition English BSP-4002 Tier I can be substituted for English IV.			
	Course Name	Grade	Date
English I			
English II			
English III			
English IV			
Pathway 2: Adult High School Courses			
The student must successfully complete 4 credits in a combination of high school and adult high school courses with a C or better grade: English I, English II, English III, and English IV. Transition English BSP-4002 Tier I can be substituted for English IV.			
	Course Name	Grade	Date
English I			
English II			
English III			
English IV			
Pathway 3: High School Equivalency Assessments			
The student must complete the applicable section(s) of a high school equivalency test: GED 2014, HiSET, or TASC with the required score(s).			
Test Name	GED 2014	HiSet	TASC
Score(s)			
Test Date:			

Mathematics: this pathway may be met by a combination of 4 approved mathematics courses from high school, adult high school, or by minimum passing scores on a high school equivalency assessment.

Mathematics			
Pathway 1: High School Courses			
The student must successfully complete 4 credits in a combination of high school or adult high school courses with a C or better grade: Mathematics I, Mathematics II, Mathematics III, and an approved 4 th Mathematics. Transition Math BPS-4003 Tier I may be used as the 4 th math.			
	Course Name	Grade	Date
Mathematics I			
Mathematics II			
Mathematics III			
Approved 4 th Math			
Pathway 2: Adult High School Courses			
The student must successfully complete 4 credits in a combination of high school or adult high school courses with a C or better grade: Mathematics I, Mathematics II, Mathematics III, and an approved 4 th Mathematics. Transition Math BPS-4003 Tier I may be used as the 4 th math.			
	Course Name	Grade	Date
Mathematics I			
Mathematics II			
Mathematics III			
Approved 4 th Math			
Pathway 3: High School Equivalency Assessment			
The student must complete the applicable section(s) of any approved high school equivalency test: GED 2014, HiSET, or TASC with the required score(s).			
Test Name	GED 2014	HiSet Math	TASC
Score(s)			
Test Date			

Science: this pathway may be met by a combination of 3 approved science courses from high school, adult high school; or by minimum passing scores on a high school equivalency assessment.

Science			
Pathway 1: High School Courses			
The student must successfully complete the 3 Science courses with a C or better grade in high school or adult high school, or a combination of both high school and adult high school courses: Biology, Earth/Environmental Science, and a Physical Science (Chemistry, Physics, or Physical Science).			
	Course Name	Grade	Date
Biology			
Earth/Environmental Science			
Chemistry, Physical Science, or Physics			
Pathway 2: Adult High School Courses			
The student must successfully complete the 3 Science courses with a C or better grade in high school or adult high school, or a combination of both high school and adult high school courses. : Biology, Earth/Environmental Science, and a Physical Science (Chemistry, Physics, or Physical Science).			
	Course Name	Grade	Date
Biology			
Earth/Environmental Science			
Physical Science, Chemistry, or Physics			
Pathway 3: High School Equivalency			
The student must complete the applicable section(s) of any approved high school equivalency test: GED 2014, HiSET, or TASC with the required score(s).			
Test name	GED 2014: Science	HiSet: Science	TASC: Science
Score(s):			
Test Date:			

Social Studies: this pathway may be met by a combination of 4 approved social studies courses from high school, adult high school, or by minimum passing scores on a high school equivalency assessment.

Social Studies			
Pathway 1: High School Courses			
The student must successfully complete 4 courses in adult high school with a C or better grade: Civic Literacy, Economics and Personal Finance, American History, World History or a combination of both high school and adult high school courses. Prior to 2021, the requirements were Government and Economics, World History, American History I, and American History II.			
	Course Name	Grade	Date
Civics Literacy			
Economics and Personal Finance			
American History			
World History			
Pathway 2: Adult High School Courses			
The student must successfully complete 4 courses in adult high school with a C or better grade: Civics Literacy, Economics and Personal Finance, American History, World History or a combination of both high school and adult high school courses. Prior to 2021, the requirements were Government and Economics, World History, American History I, and American History II.			
	Course Name	Grade	Date
Civics Literacy			
Economics and Personal Finance			
American History			
World History			
Pathway 3: High School Equivalency Assessment			
The student must complete the applicable section(s) of any approved high school equivalency test: GED 2014, HiSET, or TASC with the required score(s).			
Test Name:	GED 2014: Social Studies	HiSet: Social Studies	TASC: Social Studies
Score(s):			
Test Date:			

Technology: This pathway may be met by adult high school courses, or by earning a passing score on each of the six Northstar Digital Literacy Assessments, or by earning a passing grade on BSP transition course.

Technology			
Pathway 1: Adult High School Courses			
The student must successfully complete an adult high school technology course with a C or better grade			
	Course Name	Grade	Date
Adult High School Course			
Pathway 2: Northstar Assessments			
The student must earn a score of 85 or better on each of the six Northstar Digital Literacy Assessments below:			
Assessment Name	Basic Computer Skills	Internet Basics	Using Email
Score			
Test Date			
Assessment Name	Microsoft Word	Social Media	Information Literacy
Score			
Test Date			
Pathway 3: Transition Digital Literacy Skills			
The student must earn a passing grade on BSP transition course (BSP 4010 Transition Digital Skills or BSP 4011 Transition Digital Applications)			
Course Name	Grade	Date	

Multiple Pathways to High School Equivalency - Documentation Summary and Authorization

College			
Full Name of Student	Colleague ID	Date of Birth	SSN
Mailing Address			
Cell Number	Home Number	Email	

Please indicate the high school equivalency pathway that was awarded in each content area. Indicate course and grades or scores.

Content Area	High School Course		Adult High School Course		HSE Assessment		BSP Transition Course		Northstar Certification		Final Date Awarded
	Course Name	Grade	Course Name	Grade	Test Name	Score	Course Name	Grade	Assessment Name	Score	
English Language Arts/Literacy											
Mathematics											
Science											
Social Studies											
Technology											

I certify that the above-named person has satisfactorily completed all graduation requirements to earn a high school equivalency diploma under the guidelines set forth by the Multiple Pathways to the High School Equivalency Diploma program as authorized by the North Carolina Community Colleges State Board of Community Colleges.

Transcript Evaluator (Print) _____ Sign _____ Date _____

CCR Chief Administrator (Print) _____ Sign _____ Date _____

HSE Office Approval (Print) _____ Sign _____ Date _____