

AzMERIT End-of-Course (EOC) Testing Guidance

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance regarding which courses include AzMERIT End-of-Course (EOC) testing and which students participate in AzMERIT EOC testing.

Overview

The Arizona State Board of Education establishes the minimum course requirements for graduation. Those minimum requirements include the completion of four credits of high school level English and four credits of high school level math. The State Board also establishes the testing requirements for state-wide achievement testing. The state-wide achievement test for English language arts and math is AzMERIT.

The three AzMERIT EOC tests for English language arts are ELA 9, ELA 10, and ELA 11. The three AzMERIT EOC tests for math are Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. AzMERIT EOC tests will be offered in the fall, spring, and summer. Students are expected to test in the same semester (fall, spring, summer) that the one credit course is completed.

Courses That Include AzMERIT EOC Testing

All high school level English courses intended to provide students with their first three years of high school English credit shall include AzMERIT EOC testing. These courses are typically named Freshman English, Sophomore English, and Junior English or something similar, but other courses and other course names including advanced courses (for example, Honors, AP, IB) and non-traditional courses (for example, Shakespeare, Mythology) may be used for these first three years of high school level English. All courses intended to provide students with their first three years of high school English credit, regardless of course name, shall include AzMERIT EOC testing.

The Freshman English course, or its equivalent, shall include the AzMERIT EOC ELA 9 test in the same semester that the one credit course is completed. The Sophomore English course, or its equivalent, shall include the AzMERIT EOC ELA 10 test in the same semester that the one credit course is completed. The Junior English course, or its equivalent, shall include the AzMERIT EOC ELA 11 test in the same semester that the one credit course is completed.

All high school level math courses intended to provide students with their first three years of high school math credit and all math courses aligned to the first three years of the high school

mathematics standards regardless of whether high school credit is actually earned shall include AzMERIT EOC testing. These courses are typically named Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II or something similar, but other courses and course names including advanced courses (for example, Honors) and non-traditional courses (for example, Integrated Math) may be used for these first three years of high school level math. All courses intended to provide students with their first three years of high school math credit and all courses aligned to the first three years of the high school mathematics standards, regardless of course name, shall include AzMERIT EOC testing.

Arizona's Academic Standards – Mathematics identifies the content that shall be covered in Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II courses. The Algebra I course, or its equivalent, shall include the AzMERIT EOC Algebra I test in the same semester that the one credit course is completed. The Geometry course, or its equivalent, shall include the AzMERIT EOC Geometry test in the same semester that the one credit course is completed. The Algebra II course, or its equivalent, shall include the AzMERIT EOC Algebra II test in the same semester that the one credit course is completed. For a multi-year integrated course sequence, each of the EOC tests in Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II shall be administered in the same semester that the content of the corresponding course, as identified in the Standards, has been completed.

Courses That Do Not Include AzMERIT EOC Testing

High school courses aligned to content below the high school level English standards shall not include AzMERIT EOC tests. Such courses should not provide English credit which would count towards high school graduation requirements. High school courses aligned to content below the high school level math standards shall not include AzMERIT EOC tests. Such courses should not provide math credit which would count towards high school graduation requirements.

High school courses intended as the fourth or higher year of high school level English shall not include AzMERIT EOC tests. High school courses intended as the fourth or higher year of high school level math and aligned to standards above those identified as Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II shall not include AzMERIT EOC tests.

Students Who Will Participate in AzMERIT EOC Testing

All students enrolled in courses that include AzMERIT EOC testing shall participate in AzMERIT EOC testing. The student's grade level, the student's current course grade, and whether the student will earn credit for the course are not relevant. So, for example,

- a middle school student enrolled in an Algebra I course that is aligned to high school level standards will participate in AzMERIT EOC Algebra I testing;

- a student enrolled in Sophomore English and currently earning a failing grade will participate in AzMERIT EOC ELA 10 testing;
- a student enrolled in Geometry on an audit basis will participate in AzMERIT EOC Geometry testing;
- a senior student who is retaking Junior English will participate in AzMERIT EOC ELA 11 testing.

Most students in Grades 9-11 will typically take two EOC tests each year – one ELA test and one math test. However, there is no requirement that they take two EOC tests per year. Students will participate in EOC testing based on their course enrollment.

Students Who Will Not Participate in AzMERIT EOC Testing

Students who are not enrolled in any courses that include AzMERIT EOC testing will not participate in AzMERIT EOC testing.

EOC Testing and English Language Learners

English Language Learners participate in EOC ELA testing when they are earning English credit for one hour of their SEI instruction. If none of the SEI instruction is providing English credit, then English Language Learners will not participate in EOC ELA testing.

EOC Testing and Students with Disabilities

Students with significant cognitive disabilities who qualify for participation in Alternate Assessment based on Alternate Achievement Standards (AA-AAS) are not eligible to participate in AzMERIT testing including EOC testing. These students will participate in the state's ELA and Mathematics Alternate Assessment at grade 11 regardless of their course or classroom setting.

All other students with disabilities may not be excused or exempted from AzMERIT testing including EOC testing and will participate in EOC testing based upon their course enrollment.

AzMERIT Testing Registration

All students participating in AzMERIT testing, both computer-based and paper-based, must be registered in the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) before testing. Beginning in School Year 2016-2017, LEAs and schools will be able to designate a course as having a corresponding EOC test using their local Student Information System (SIS). This functionality replaces the Student Teacher Course Connect (STC) integration in previous years. For further information, please contact your SIS vendor.