

Colorado Military Academy – Graduation Requirements (Policy IKF)

Adopted: October 21, 2025

Purpose

Graduation from Colorado Military Academy (CMA) is a culminating event that builds upon foundations laid in elementary and middle school. It is a collaborative effort involving students, parents/guardians, and school staff, with each sharing responsibility to help students meet content standards and graduation expectations. All CMA graduates should be prepared for success in postsecondary education, military service, or the workforce. They must have a firm foundation in the core areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies, as well as a comprehensive background in World Languages, Fine Arts, Physical Education/Health, Career & Technical Education, and leadership training. CMA's graduation criteria meet or exceed the minimum requirements adopted by the Colorado State Board of Education and state law. These requirements align with the Colorado Graduation Guidelines established by the State Board of Education, including required coursework in financial literacy, civics, and in Holocaust and genocide studies. All students must meet or exceed the criteria outlined below to be eligible to receive a CMA diploma.

Graduation Requirements

To earn a high school diploma from Colorado Military Academy, a student must fulfill **all** of the following requirements:

A. Completion of an Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP). Each student must develop and complete an ICAP, as required by Colorado law, to guide college and career readiness planning. The ICAP is a multi-year plan documenting the student's exploration of career and postsecondary options and will be kept on file as part of the student's graduation portfolio.

B. Completion of a minimum of 25 credits in the required content areas. Credits are earned by successfully passing approved courses in grades 9–12. The 25 credits must include:

- **English Language Arts:** 4 credits
- **Mathematics:** 3 credits
- **Science:** 3 credits
- **Social Studies:** 3 credits – including World History and American Government.
Note: The social studies curriculum must include civics/government content and a unit on genocide and Holocaust studies, in accordance with state law.
- **Military Studies/Leadership:** 4 credits – one credit each in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 (leadership, character development, and civic responsibility through

CMA's military program). **All 12th grade students are additionally required to complete a Leadership Capstone project** as part of the senior-year Military Studies course (see Requirement D below).

- **World Language:** 2 credits (e.g. Spanish I and II or equivalent proficiency in another language)
- **Career & Technical Education (CTE):** 1 credit – may be fulfilled by courses such as Law Enforcement, Marketing, or other approved CTE electives. *Note:* As part of this requirement, **all students must complete a Personal Finance course** to ensure financial literacy.
- **Physical Education/Health:** 1 credit (combination of Physical Education and Health education coursework)
- **Fine Arts:** 1 credit (e.g. Band, Visual Arts, or Digital Media Arts)
- **Electives:** 3 credits of additional coursework, which may include any academic or enrichment electives (e.g. additional STEM courses, music, art, world language beyond the requirement, etc.).

C. Demonstration of College and Career Readiness. In accordance with Colorado Graduation Guidelines, each student must demonstrate preparedness for success after high school in both **English** and **Mathematics** by achieving **one** of the state-approved indicators in each subject area. Students will typically satisfy this requirement by meeting or exceeding the minimum score/criteria on an assessment or credential from the Colorado Menu of College and Career-Ready Demonstrations (as adopted by the State Board of Education). Acceptable demonstrations include (but are not limited to): standardized exams (e.g. SAT, ACT, or ACCUPLACER), college-level concurrent enrollment coursework, Advanced Placement or IB exam scores, industry certifications, ASVAB scores for military entry, or a college-entry workforce certificate. CMA will offer multiple rigorous and valued pathways for students to satisfy this requirement in alignment with state policy. **Each student must complete at least one approved measure in the area of Reading/Writing and one in Mathematics.**

Exceptions/Accommodations: The school may provide appropriate accommodations or alternate demonstrations for English language learners, gifted students, and students with disabilities, consistent with state guidelines.

1. **Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP):** A student who has an IEP will meet the readiness demonstration requirement by successfully completing the goals and requirements stated in the IEP, which may include modifications to content standards as appropriate. Completion of an IEP's graduation plan will constitute demonstration of competency for that student, in alignment with federal and state special education regulations.

2. **Students with an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP):** A student identified as gifted who has an ALP will meet the readiness requirement by fulfilling the individualized graduation objectives outlined in the ALP, which may include alternative demonstrations of competency. Completion of the ALP's stated goals for graduation will constitute an acceptable demonstration of readiness for that student.

D. Completion of the CMA Leadership Capstone Project (Grade 12). As a culmination of CMA's leadership and character development program, **all seniors** must

complete a Leadership Capstone project as part of their 12th-grade Military Studies course. The Capstone project is a comprehensive, guided initiative in which the student demonstrates leadership, service, and the practical application of skills learned throughout their high school career. Successful completion and presentation of the Leadership Capstone project is required for graduation. The Capstone will be evaluated according to criteria established by CMA and is intended to showcase the student's readiness for leadership in postsecondary endeavors.

Early Graduation

Colorado Military Academy recognizes that most cadets benefit from a full four-year high school experience that emphasizes leadership development, academic preparation, and character growth. Students are encouraged to complete the full course of study to maximize the opportunities provided through CMA's academic, military, and extracurricular programs. However, in certain cases, a cadet may be prepared to pursue postsecondary education, military service, or career opportunities before completing four years of high school. In such cases, the Secondary Principal may grant permission for early graduation, provided the cadet has met all CMA graduation requirements as outlined in this policy.

CMA acknowledges that in certain cases, students may fulfill all graduation requirements in fewer than four years. A student who wishes to graduate early must develop an Early Graduation Plan in consultation with their counselor and parent/guardian (if the student is a minor). The plan must verify that the student will meet all credit requirements, ICAP completion, and college/career readiness demonstrations by the proposed graduation date. The student must submit a formal request for early graduation to the Secondary Principal for approval. Final approval for early graduation rests with the Secondary Principal. Early graduation requests should typically be made at least one semester in advance of the intended graduation date. A student granted permission to graduate early will receive a CMA diploma upon completion of all requirements and may participate in the next scheduled graduation ceremony. Early graduates remain subject to all CMA policies and are encouraged to continue involvement in school activities up to the time of graduation.

Transfer Credits and External Coursework

CMA may accept transfer credits earned from other accredited educational institutions, including other high schools, online programs, concurrent enrollment in college courses, and home-based education programs, toward its graduation requirements. Transferred courses must be from accredited programs and generally must align with Colorado Academic Standards and CMA's curricular requirements in content and credit hours. The school counseling department and enrollment team will evaluate all transcripts and records of incoming or outside credits to determine equivalency. Credits from concurrent enrollment (college courses taken by high school students) and approved career and technical programs will count toward the relevant subject area requirements or electives, as appropriate, in accordance with state law and cooperative agreements. Credits from home-based education (homeschool) programs will be reviewed for alignment with state standards and may require supporting documentation (such as

curricula, work samples, or assessments) for credit approval. The Secondary Principal or designee must give final approval for any transfer or outside credits to be applied toward a CMA diploma. Students transferring into CMA during high school will be held to the same total credit requirements; the Principal (or designee) will determine how the student's prior credits fulfill CMA's graduation criteria and may waive certain CMA-specific course requirements on a case-by-case basis if the state's minimum standards are met.

Compliance with State Requirements

This policy shall be interpreted and administered in full compliance with Colorado state graduation requirements. CMA's graduation policy incorporates all content-area requirements mandated by state law (such as civics and Holocaust/genocide studies) and meets or exceeds the Colorado Graduation Guidelines for College and Career Readiness. The Board of Directors will review graduation requirements as needed to ensure ongoing alignment with state standards and any updates from the Colorado Department of Education or State Board. In the event state law or rules change, CMA will adjust its requirements accordingly to remain in compliance. All graduates will have satisfied the State of Colorado's requirements for high school graduation, in addition to the specific criteria outlined in this policy.

Legal References: - C.R.S. 22-1-104 – Teaching of history, civics, and incorporation of Holocaust and genocide studies

- C.R.S. 22-7-1005 et seq. – Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (graduation requirements and postsecondary workforce readiness)

- C.R.S. 22-7-1017 – Individual Career and Academic Plans (ICAP)

- C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(kk) – Board of Education duty to establish graduation requirements

- C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(2) – Civic education graduation requirement

- C.R.S. 22-35-101 et seq. – Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act

- 1 CCR 301-81 – Rules governing ICAP and graduation guidelines

- 1 CCR 301-8 (Section 12.00) – Exceptional Children's Educational Act (diploma requirements for students with disabilities)

Cross References: - CMA Policy IHBK – Individual Career and Academic Plan

- CMA Policy IHCD – Concurrent Enrollment

- CMA Policy IKFA – Early Graduation (if separate)