

Glossary Terms

June 2021

Italicized: Adapted from [State of Illinois Career Pathways Dictionary](#)

Acceleration Strategies: Pathway Progression Strategies enabling individuals to attain Promising Credentials in less time and at lower cost than through typical CCC Credential Pathway program timelines, which include Strategic Dual Credit Pathways, Prior Learning, and Competency-Based Education.

Advanced-Skills: An occupation which typically requires for entry a bachelor's degree or higher.

Bridge Program: Bridge Programs are a Pathway Progression Strategy preparing adults with limited academic or limited English skills to enter and succeed in credit-bearing postsecondary education and training leading to career-path employment in in-demand, middle- and advanced-skills occupations. The goal of bridge programs is to sequentially bridge the gap between the initial skills of individuals and what they need to enter and succeed in postsecondary education and career-path employment.

City Colleges Career Bridges: CCC's Bridge Program model, offered in Healthcare, Supply Chain and Transportation Technology, Early Childhood Education, and (in Spring 2021) Information Technology.

CCC Credential Pathways: A sequenced articulation of CCC postsecondary credentials in a particular industry sector (or sector area), typically including a sequence of basic certificates (less than 12 months), advanced certificates (12–18 months), and associate degrees.

Competency-Based Education: An instructional model that enables students to earn credentials by demonstrating mastery through multiple forms of assessment at a personalized pace.

Dual Credit: A college course taken by a high school student for credit at both the college and high school level.

Entry-Level: An occupation typically requiring for entry either: (i) a high school diploma, (ii) short- or moderate- on-the-job training, or (iii) a short-term industry credential.

Gateway Occupation: An In-Demand occupation that, while not a Living Wage occupation, either (i) provides advancement opportunities into career ladder roles that pay a Living Wage, or (ii) provides necessary experience for a subsequent Stackable Credential that leads to and prepares for a High-Priority Occupation.

Guided Transfer System: A support system for individuals pursuing, or who have previously earned, an associate degree to transfer into a related bachelor's degree program with no or minimal credit loss.

High-Priority Occupation: An occupation that is both In-Demand and typically provides a Living Wage at the median for that occupation.

In-Demand: An occupation with positive growth potential based upon labor market information that includes U.S. Department of Labor 10-year growth projections, employer input, and takes into account the likelihood of automation.

Industry Credential: A work-related credential, certification, or license that: (i) verifies, through a valid assessment, an individual’s qualifications or competence in a specific skill set related to a particular industry or occupation; (ii) is issued by an industry-related organization or state licensing body with the relevant authority to issue such credentials; and (iii) is broadly sought or accepted by employers as a recognized, preferred, or required credential for recruitment, screening, hiring, retention, or advancement purposes.

Living Wage: A wage level that, at its median for that role, is at least 85% of the “Living Wage” threshold for 1 Adult and 1 Child in the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin Metro Statistical Area, based on MIT’s Living Wage Calculator.

Middle-Skills: An occupation typically requiring for entry either (i) an advanced industry or postsecondary credential, or (ii) a basic industry or postsecondary credential and on-the-job training in a related occupation, but that does not typically require for entry a bachelor’s degree or higher.

Model Pathways: Pathway models jointly developed by CPS and CCC through the [Chicago Roadmap](#) for a sector or related grouping of sectors which identify and support students to complete a recommended set of strategic career-focused and general education Dual Credit courses with related Work-Based Learning that provide a critical foundation for CCC Credential Pathways and Guided Transfer programs.

Non-credit Articulation: A Pathway Progression Strategy involving an agreement by CCC to award credit toward a CCC Credential Pathway based on learning in a program that does not otherwise award postsecondary course credit, or based on prior work experience. The method for awarding credit may be through Prior Learning, a determination of competency equivalency, or other articulation strategies.

Pathway Progression Strategies: Coherent strategies that incorporate program sequencing, instructional design models, articulation systems, and related participant supports structured to facilitate an individual’s entry into and movement through stackable credentials culminating in a Promising Credential and Living-wage employment. Pathway Progression Strategies include Acceleration Strategies, Bridge Programs, Non-credit Articulation, and Guided Transfer Systems.

Postsecondary Credential: A credential issued by a postsecondary institution, including CCC basic and advanced certificates, associate degrees, and bachelor’s degrees.

Prior Learning: A system for awarding and evaluating eligible credit to students for previous collegiate-level learning outside of a college credit-bearing course.

Promising Credential: An Industry or Postsecondary Credential that leads to and prepares for either a Gateway or High-Priority Occupation.

Early-Skills: An occupation with a typical training at entry of more than a high school diploma and either short- or moderate- on-the-job training, or (b) a basic industry or postsecondary credential.

Stackable Credentials: An Industry or Postsecondary Credential that is part of a sequence of credentials that can be accumulated over time and moves an individual along a career pathway or up a career ladder.

Work-Based Learning: Work-Based Learning provides participants with work-based opportunities to practice and enhance the skills and knowledge gained in their program of study or industry training program, as well as to develop employability skills, and includes an assessment and recognition of acquired knowledge and skills.

Youth Apprenticeship: A subset of Model Pathways [see [Career Pathways Dictionary](#) p. 10 for full definition].

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