

Stackable Credentials: Strategies

Strategy 1-Modularize Existing Applied Associate Degree and Technical Diploma Programs

- Create modules and shorter term certificate programs out of existing associate degrees.
- Create short-term “embedded” credit-bearing credentials.
- Allow for the awarding of partial or fractional credit.

Benefits of this strategy:

Strategy 2-Embed Existing Industry and Professional Certifications in Career and Technical Programs

- Highly useful in certificate heavy industries that face rapid changes
 - Automotive
 - Health Care
 - Manufacturing
 - Information Technology

Benefits of this strategy:

Strategy 3-Streamline and Scale Processes for Awarding Credit for Learning Represented by Non-Academic Credentials

- Greater use of pre-assessment for placement credit
 - Can be created internally or use external exams.

Benefits of this strategy:

Strategy 4-Create “Lattice Credentials” That Allow Students to Move Both Up a Career Ladder Within an Occupational Field or Across Multiple Pathways.

- Certificates that can be used to launch careers in multiple pathways in related career fields.

Benefits of this strategy:

Strategy 5-Create Dual-Enrollment Options that Enable Students to Work Concurrently Toward a High School Diploma or its Equivalency, Marketable Postsecondary Credentials and Industry Certifications

- A “boarding pass” for post-secondary education
- Articulation agreements with:
 - K-12
 - Adult Ed
 - Post-Secondary
- Curriculum Alignment

Benefits of this strategy:

Time to Create Your Own!

Begin with the end in mind. Consider the strategy you liked best, what resources are at your disposal and what is already in place. What would your ideal stackable credential sequence look like for your program? You can use the graphic organizer below to create it.



Make note of each credential and whether or not it can be achieved in high school or post-secondary.

Consider what your first step will be to begin this process? This is different for everyone.
