



CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO

**CCC Adult Education Program**  
***Healthcare Bridge to Careers***  
***Curriculum Frameworks***  
***(4.0 - 12.9)***

### ***PROGRAM INTRODUCTION***

The Healthcare Bridge to Careers program provides a pathway to a career in the healthcare industry. A progression of courses enables learners to make occupational choices and prepares them to enter career and technical training. It is a pathway that offers courses at levels from intermediate through college preparation with multiple entry points and opportunities to enter the workforce.

### ***PROGRAM DESCRIPTION***

The Healthcare Bridge to Careers program includes a progression of courses designed to prepare learners for entry into the healthcare certificate through baccalaureate programs. These courses are developmental and aligned with the College Transition course for students who wish to continue beyond the 12.9 level and pursue a credit program in a healthcare field.

Bridge programs assist students in obtaining the necessary academic, employability, and technical skills through contextualized instruction and career development:

- Contextualized instruction that integrates basic reading, math, and language skills and industry/occupation knowledge.
- Career development that includes career exploration, career planning within a career area, and understanding the world of work (specific elements depend upon the level of the bridge program and on whether participants are already incumbent workers in the specific field).

The training model is interactive and focuses on learning industry relevant terminology and skills as well as addressing reading, writing, speaking, listening and mathematical skills enhancement. The curriculum teaches basic skills in contexts that are relevant to healthcare occupations. This prepares learners to obtain a GED, pass entry examinations, and gives the students an advantage once they gain entry into the healthcare training program of their choice. The program will also provide students with the fundamentals of computer literacy.

Along with adult educators who address contextualized basic skills, professionals with a background in healthcare education will provide industry related instruction. Textbooks and supplemental materials will be industry relevant and level specific. Student learning outcomes are clearly defined and assessed throughout the program, with the goal of advancing to the next appropriate level. These student learning outcomes are presented before each level's framework; they build essential skills developmentally from level-to-level throughout the curriculum.

### **BACKGROUND**

To meet the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce, today's adult learner must be prepared to pursue one of a range of postsecondary educational opportunities. These opportunities might include working toward a certificate in one of the Career Bridge Sectors, an associate's or a bachelor's degree. While the majority of adults who take the General Educational Development (GED) test do so in order to continue their education, few go on to make the transition to postsecondary education, but those that decide to enroll in postsecondary courses, realize that they are not adequately prepared to transition into college-level courses. Adult Education administrators and educators understand that if given the opportunity to continue their education, these same adult learners stand to make substantial economic and personal gains when they successfully complete postsecondary education or training with the possibility of going from low-wage jobs to careers with a livable wage with benefits.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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In addition, the following sources were used in the development of this curriculum project:

- City Colleges of Chicago, Adult Education Program ABE/GED Curriculum
- New England Literacy Resource Center, New England ABE-to-College Transition Project
- North Central Regional Ed. Laboratory: Improving Transition Programs for Postsecondary Ed
- Central States SER - Healthcare Career Prep I & Healthcare Bridge Program Teacher's Manual
- States' Career Cluster Initiative - Health Science
- Bridges to Careers Prep II Manual