[***Introduction to Stackable Credentials***](https://cte.ed.gov/initiatives/stackable-credentials-tool-kit) ***–*** *Study Guide*

| **Read**  | **Reflect** | **Respond** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Introduction**  *Pages 1-7* | How does your current program align to the Pathways to Career Readiness and Advancement graphic on P5? | Identify components that may be missing or barriers that may be preventing students from progressing seamlessly within a pathway (e.g. lack of strong linkages between local secondary and post-secondary programs; lack of clear pathways for noncredit to credit students; lack of linkages between workforce development programs/customized training and credit options, etc.) |
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|  **Employer Engagement** *Pages 8-14*  | Are employers currently involved in the design of your program’s stackable credentials? What engagement strategies or processes are you using to get and keep them involved? What additional employer engagement options are you hoping to develop and/or employ? Specifically, what have you learned from your employer and community partnership engagement activities? If you had to rate the strength of your employer engagement in your specific industry/program area would you rate it as: (1) very weak (2) weak (3) adequate (4) strong, or (5) very strong?  | Access the Employer Engagement [Toolkit](https://www.advancingcredentials.org/toolkit/). Read the **Developing Your Program** Introduction and complete the **Self-check** form. Ask multiple team members to complete and then share to discuss responses and possible next steps.  |
| How does your institution approach employer engagement? What value is generated from your employer engagement activities? | Access the Employer Engagement [Toolkit](https://www.advancingcredentials.org/toolkit/). Readthe **Knowing Your Audience** Introduction. UnderCollege Activities, Activity 2, complete: **Develop an internal checklist** to share with your team.  |
| Consider the questions on P13. How do you convene employers around program curriculum? What processes/methods have worked best in eliciting input from employers? | Access the Employer Engagement [Toolkit](https://www.advancingcredentials.org/toolkit/). Under **Developing Your Program** College Activity 1, complete the **Business Advisory Council Effectiveness** and share the outcome with your team.  |
| **Designing Curriculum for Stackable Credentials** *Part 1: pp. 15-25*   | How does your college clarify the content a program should cover and the credentials important to your local employers? How do your employers validate employment opportunities for each credential milestone on the pathway (e.g., industry certifications, college certificates, degrees)?  | Access the Employer Engagement [Toolkit](https://www.advancingcredentials.org/toolkit/). Under **Developing Your Program -** **Strengthening Industry Commitment,** review the Business Industry Leadership Team Toolkit and identify steps you will take to increase employer engagement. Discuss with your team. |
| Does your college have a process for bridging non-credit to credit educational options? Prior learning assessment? Industry certification crosswalk to credit-bearing courses? Internal noncredit to credit articulation? | Identify/locate your college’s policy or procedures for awarding credit for non-credit courses and/or prior learning experiences. Identify non-credit activities related to your program for which you’d like to pursue awarding credit. Identify action steps to accomplish this goal and share with your team.  |
| Review the career pathway maps in this section. Does your college have a consistent visual for students and stakeholders to view pathways?  | Complete a rough draft of the Career Pathway for your program using the template provided in the workshop.  |
| **Designing Curriculum for Stackable Credentials** *Part 2: pp. 25-32* | Consider the five themes presented and rank in priority order for your program to address. * *Prepare students for entry-level employment*
* *Embed industry-recognized certifications*
* *Incorporate work-based leaning into education pathways*
* *Support baccalaureate transfer*
* *Partner with feeder school districts*
 | Work with your team to discuss and identify available resources to address your college’s areas of greatest need.  |
| **Supporting Completion** *Pages* *33-41* | Consider the 5 strategies presented on P33-40 and rank in priority order for your program to address.  | Work with your team to identify available resources to assist with your college’s areas of greatest need. |
| **Sustaining Stackable Credentials** *Pages 42-45* | Consider the strategies for data collection on P43-44 and rank in priority order for your program to address.  | Work with your team to identify available resources to assist with your college’s areas of greatest need.  |
| **Considerations for the Future/ Concluding Observations**  *Pages 45-47* | Choose one of the 2 tutorials from this section to view and reflect on. * *Breaking Down Silos to Build In-demand Pathways: Strategic Use of Non-credit to Credit Offerings to Meet Industry Need and Accelerate Student Success*
* *Developing a Business Industry Leadership Team to Enhance Employer Engagement*
 | Work with your team to identify available resources to assist with your college’s areas of greatest need. |