



The GED Bridge Projects

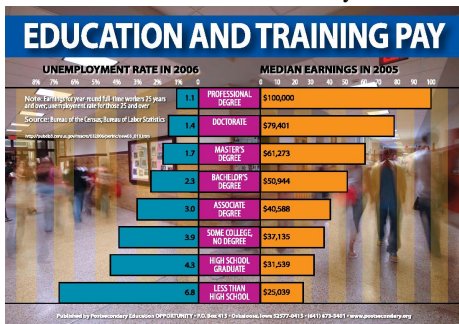
LaGuardia Community College
City University of New York
<http://ace.laguardia.edu/gedbridge/>



Why a GED Bridge To Post-Secondary Education Initiative?

- 28% of NYC residents 25 years of age and older are without a high school diploma or GED compared to 16.5% nationally.
- Nationally, only 27% of GED recipients have post-secondary experience compared to 70% of adults with high school diplomas.
- GED students are not making the transition to post-secondary education despite the fact that more than half of test-takers indicate a desire to do so (Reeder, 2007).
- Increasing number of employers require HS diploma or GED (and beyond) for entry-level and paraprofessional jobs.
- Research shows that workers need more than a high school diploma to earn a livable wage.

The Connection between Educational Level, Income and Job Security



GED Bridge Programs serve adult students who have a career focus and need to earn their GED. Students receive contextualized instruction, career pathways counseling, and transition to post-secondary educational services.

LaGuardia Community College Bridge Programs

Career Focus	Funding Source	Piloted	Number of Students Served
GED Bridge to Health Careers	NYC Mayor's Office of Adult Education	January 2007	110
GED Bridge to Business Careers	MetLife Foundation and LaGuardia Community College	January 2008	73
Bridge to College Program (Liberal Arts)	City University of New York & NYC Mayor's Office of Adult Education	January 2008	75

Key Features of the GED Bridge Programs

- Contextualized instruction in a career sector of interest to students (e.g., Allied Health & Business)
- Career pathways activities integrated into GED program and coursework (internships, sector-focused career panels, faculty guest lectures, Virtual Interest Groups)
- Case management services (social services referrals, intensive attendance and performance monitoring & interventions)
- Post-secondary transition services (College Student for a Day, vocational training workshops, college discovery activities, college/ACT prep, First Year Academy)

Contextualized Instruction

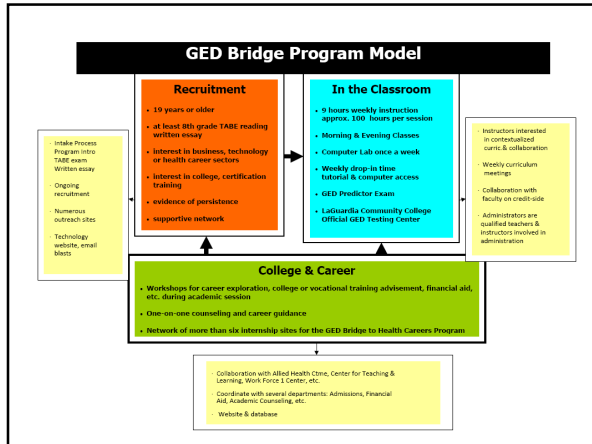
- Curriculum developed to simultaneously prepare students for college, careers, and the GED
- Theme based curriculum that crosses 5 GED subject areas and links to the students' vocational interests
- Course content is developed in consultation with faculty and sector professionals
- Rigorous work-load and expectations (including homework, three formal writing assignments per session such as descriptive, persuasive, and research writing, reading academic materials, textbooks, whole books, and advanced computer literacy)

In The Classroom: GED Bridge to Health Career Profile Writing Project

General Unit Overview	GED	College	Career
-Students choose a person in the health field to interview. -Students create their own interview questions. -Students conduct an interview and take notes. -Students transcribe the interview and hand in the transcript. -Students take the transcript and create the a draft of a profile piece -After a drafting and editing process students hand in a final profile piece.	-Writing with specific examples -Reading for specific information -Writing using the 5 paragraph essay format: introduction, body, and conclusion -Discovering and comprehending the relationship between questions and answers -Writing in a timed environment	-Writing and reading critically -Writing with an awareness of the reader -Writing with specific examples and quotes to illustrate a point -Writing as a process which includes several drafts -Practicing note taking: quotes/summary	-Activating professional social skills: scheduling/conducting an interview -Investigating and researching different health field careers -Networking with other health field professionals.

Approach to Teaching and Learning

- Developmental Lessons
- Student Based Inquiry/Discovery
- Differentiation
- Collaborative/Group/Pair Work
- Assessment includes portfolio, standardized testing & instructor evaluation
- Student Reflection/Meta-Cognition
(E-portfolio and final portfolio)
<http://www.eportfolio.lagcc.cuny.edu/>



GED Bridge Goals and Outcomes

Program Goals	Outcomes To Date
Increase retention to 70% or more	60% Retention Rate
Increase GED pass rate to 70% or more	70% GED Pass Rate
Increase rate of transition to post-secondary education from 35% to 60%	70% GED Recipients have transitioned into college, certification programs or upgraded their employment
Improve pass rate on college placement exams	
Improve persistence in freshman year	

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