Contextualized Basic Skills Instruction: Developing Career Pathways for Adult Learners
The Pre-College Academic Programming Department’s mission is to increase adult students’ success in pre-college, post-secondary training, and college degree programs.

Professional Development Courses for Adult Educators  
Integrated Career Pathways Programs (NYBEST)  
Career Focused Basic Skills: GED Bridge Programs
Projected US Job Openings 2018

Source: Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce  http://cew.georgetown.edu/
Workforce Preparedness and Basic Skills Needs

Proficiency Realities

Even with identification of a target audience, heavy lifting is required for the target audience to reach the level of high school proficiency needed, not to mention the level needed for postsecondary or workforce success.

- 5th Grade or Below: 38%
- 6–8th Grade: 45%
- 9–10th Grade: 15%
- 11–12th Grade: 2%

80%

Percentage of the target audience with skills below an 8th grade level

Traditional Pathway for Adults with Basic Skills Needs

Issues:
- Length of time for basic skills development
- Retention rates are low
- Few persist and transition into further education or training
New Models of Adult Education and Workforce Preparation

Integrated Basic Skills and Technical Training Programs (NYBEST)

Contextualized Adult Education: GED Bridge to College and Careers Programs
LaGuardia’s NYBEST and Contextualized ABE Programs

I-MOCT
Medical Office Clinical Technician

SAVE EMT
Emergency Medical Technician

I-CST
Central Service Technician

NCLEX Prep for Immigrant Professionals

I-CHW
Community Health Worker

GED Bridge to Health and Business

http://laguardia.edu/pcap/for_educators/
Integrated Occupational Training

- Leads to a viable workforce credential
- Increases literacy by design
- Opens access and opportunity
- Can be a stackable credential
Integrated Career Pathway Model

- Recruitment & Intake
- Vestibule
- Training (Basic Skills And Technical Instructor)
- Employment
Program Features

- Co-teaching model
- Master’s level basic skills instructors
- Content mastery, test prep, practical skills, and basic skills
- Wrap around services
- Career readiness
- Clinicals/Internship
- Employment assistance
- Vestibule
Contextualized Pre-Training Vestibule

- Evaluate persistence & academic readiness
- Introduce training content
- Develop study strategies
- Build Classroom Community
- Establish Classroom Routines
What is contextualized instruction at LaGuardia?

Contextualized instruction is a sector-focused approach to developmental instruction that uses authentic materials from one career area to build basic skills.
GED Bridge to College and Careers Programs

Bridge to Health

Bridge to Business

Bridge to College and Careers

Bridge to Science

MDRC Project Page:  http://www.mdrc.org/project_32_113.html

Pre College Academic Programming:  http://www.laguardia.edu/pcap/
LaGuardia’s Bridge Program Goals

- Increase access to GED and post-secondary preparation for a broader spectrum of literacy proficiency levels
- Improve alignment to students’ aspirations and post-secondary career sector pathways
- Create a more effective springboard to post-secondary education
What are some Bridge Program design components?

- Managed enrollment
- Intensive admissions process
- 7th Grade Reading Level and Above (TABE)
- 14 week cycle with a year-long model
- 110 hours of in-class instruction per semester; 9 class hours per week
- Part time program for students 19 and over
- Career Focused Contextualized Curriculum
What are the objectives of contextualized curriculum?

- Build Transferable Literacy and Numeracy Skills
- Provide a backdrop for exploration of “big ideas”
- Align with Student Goals
- Increase Professional Awareness
- Introduce Key Industry Discourse
- Develop College Knowledge
Bridge Curriculum Content

Bridge to Health
- College and Career Exploration
- Nutrition
- Patient Care
- Epidemics and Infection Control

- Sample Text: First, Do No Harm, Lisa Belkin

Bridge to Business
- College and Career Exploration
- Entrepreneurship
- Professional Ethics
- Basic Economic Principles

- Sample Text: Brewing up a Business, Sam Calagione