Bridge-to- Career Course
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. ***What endorsement must teachers hold to teach the Bridge- to- Career Course?*** A teacher must hold a valid Mississippi 7-12 license**.** We encourage selection of a licensed teacher who is familiar with the curriculum, has an interest in teaching the class, and is committed to helping students make a positive transition from high school to post-secondary.

2. ***How do schools provide authentic work-based learning experiences for students in the Bridge-to-Career course?*** Schools should encourage collaboration between career coaches, counselors, and work-based learning teachers to ensure hands-on or virtual experiences that allow students to explore various careers of interest.

3. ***How do schools accommodate students with and without IEPs considering the course proportionality rule?*** There is no federal law or rule that sets a maximum number of students with IEPs who can be placed in a general education classroom. Class size should be appropriate to ensure all students' needs are met.

4. ***Can a teacher teach the Bridge-to-Career course in the same section as another course?*** If the Bridge-to-Career course has five (5) or less students, the school may create a sub-section of the larger class (not to exceed the number of students established by MS Accreditation standard 28.4 for both sections).

5. ***Can 5th year seniors from the Class of 2025 enroll in a Fall 2025 Bridge-to-Career Course?*** Yes, seniors from the class of 2025 who meet the eligibility requirements in Appendix A-5 of the MS Public School Accountability Standards, 2025 can enroll in the Bridge-to-Career course in the fall of 2025.

6. ***What qualifies as an acceptable hands-on career experience for this course?*** Acceptable experiences include internships, job shadowing, structured volunteer roles, participation in workforce training programs, and apprenticeships. These must be pre-approved by the instructor and cannot involve family businesses or previously held jobs. Informal work such as babysitting, yard work, or errands is not acceptable.

7. ***What certifications can students earn in the Bridge-to-Career course?***
Students must earn at least one MDE-approved industry-recognized credential. Approved options include certifications from OSHA, CPR (AHA or Red Cross), Google, Microsoft, Adobe, ServSafe, ASE, CompTIA, NCCER, and more. A complete list is in Appendix A of the course standards.

8. ***Can students use career experience hours from another course (e.g., College & Career Readiness or Work-Based Learning)?***
No. The 8–12 hours of hands-on career experience required in this course must be unique and separate from other course experiences and must meet the specific criteria outlined in the curriculum.

9. ***Are students required to complete a portfolio and presentation as part of the course?*** Yes. Students must compile a professional portfolio with key artifacts and deliver an 8–12-minute presentation to a review panel. This exhibit must include reflections, career documentation, and evidence of workplace readiness.

10. ***Is there a minimum or maximum number of students required to offer the course?*** There is no official minimum or maximum class size, but if fewer than five students are enrolled, the course may be scheduled as a sub-section of another class, so long as the total number of students does not exceed the limit in Accreditation Standard 28.4.

11. ***How are students assessed in the Bridge-to-Career course?***
Assessment is rubric-based and includes evaluation of career research, certification completion, hands-on experience documentation, professional documents, reflections, portfolio, and final presentation. Rubrics are provided in Appendix B of the course standards.

12. ***Who can serve as guest speakers or provide career exposure opportunities?***
Guest speakers can include professionals from relevant industries, military branches, and post-secondary institutions. Career exposure activities must be aligned to student interests and include structured reflections for credit