

Bridge-to-Career

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mdek12.org



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

November 12, 2025



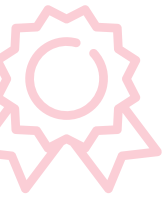
VISION

To create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens



MISSION

To provide leadership through the development of policy and accountability systems so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community



1

ALL Students Proficient and Showing Growth in All Assessed Areas



2

EVERY Student Graduates from High School and is Ready for College and Career



3

EVERY Child Has Access to a High-Quality Early Childhood Program

EVERY School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders

4



EVERY Community Effectively Uses a World-Class Data System to Improve Student Outcomes

5



EVERY School and District is Rated “C” or Higher

6



Purpose



The Bridge-to-Career course supports MDE's mission of preparing all students for success beyond high school. This course offers an alternative graduation pathway for second-semester seniors who have not passed one or more End-of-Course (EOC) assessments and do not meet the criteria for other options. Through focused career exploration and professional portfolio development, the course equips students with the essential skills, credentials, and experiences needed to transition into postsecondary education, training, or the workforce.

Connecting School to the Real World



**Career
Exploration**

**Career
Documents**

Portfolio

Exhibit



Course Goals

- ✓ Identify career interests and strengths
- ✓ Engage in authentic experiences
- ✓ Develop workplace and technical skills
- ✓ Earn at least one certification
- ✓ Build a professional portfolio and exhibit

Unit 1: Career Exploration and Workplace Readiness

Overview

Students conduct structured career exploration aligned with their interests and goals, gain hands-on exposure to workplaces, and earn an industry-recognized certification.



Unit 1 Competencies

Career Exploration	Workplace Readiness
Research career paths and interests	Practice employability skills
Participate in exposure activities	Earn an MDE-approved certification
Explore postsecondary options	Complete 8-12 hours of hands-on experience

Acceptable vs. Unacceptable Career Experiences

Acceptable Experiences

Job shadowing or internship
Apprenticeship / Mentorship
Volunteer or part-time professional role

Unacceptable Experiences

Family business or relative supervisor
Current or previous employment
Informal work (babysitting, yard work)

Unit 2: Career Documents and Interview Preparation

Overview

Students learn to present themselves as competitive candidates through professional resume, cover letter, and interview practice.



Unit 2 Competencies

- ➔ Create and refine a professional resume
- ➔ Write a targeted cover letter
- ➔ Compile professional references
- ➔ Complete accurate job applications
- ➔ Prepare for job interviews

Unit 3: Portfolio Development

Overview

Students compile evidence of learning and professional growth, including academic work, career artifacts, and reflections that demonstrate readiness.



Portfolio Components



Career research
summaries



Resume and
cover letter



Certification
documentation



Career
experience
logs/photos



Reflection and
career plan

Unit 4: Exhibit Creation and Presentation

Overview

Students showcase their learning in a professional exhibit and oral presentation to a panel of educators, counselors, and community partners.



Exhibit Expectations

Select 5+ artifacts showcasing growth	Include reflections and captions
Deliver 8-12 minute presentation	Use multimedia for engagement
Respond to panel questions	Demonstrate professional communication

Instructor Implementation Tips

Guiding Student Success

- Pre-approve all career experiences
- Apply rubrics consistently
- Build community partnerships
- Guide students in reflecting on their experiences and maintaining professional documentation

Assessments & Certifications

Assessment

Rubrics (Appendix B) guide evaluation

Assessments = written work + multimedia presentations + performance tasks

Certifications

Students must earn at least one MDE-approved certification

Examples: OSHA-10, ServSafe, WorkKeys

The Bridge to Success

Bridge-to-Career gives Mississippi seniors an alternative pathway to graduation while helping them build career-ready skills and real-world experiences.





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