Micro-pathways Defined

A micro-pathway is two or more stackable credentials that can be packaged as a validated market signal connecting learners to employment in high growth careers. Education Design Lab’s criteria: pathway completion should garner salaries at or above median wage and include targeted 21st Century Skills modules to provide liberal arts training as preparation for management roles.

Example Pathway

Micro-pathways are modular, allowing for flexibility and stackability— a choose-your-own pathway for learners.

Credential #2 can be earned independently of Credential #1. Together, both credentials can stack together to allow for a learner to earn Credential #3.

Each credential connects learners to employment in a higher-paying position.

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Logistics Pathway / Working Full-time
Developed with Goodwill San Antonio for Employees in San Antonio, TX

Hourly Median Income in San Antonio, TX
$22.43/hour

Goodwill Retail Worker
$11.05/hour

Collaboration Microcredential Embedded

BGMT 1301: Supervision + Collaboration Microcredential
time to complete: 8 weeks
cost: $297

Opportunity for Pay Raise
The first certificate and 21st century skills microcredential likely make an employee eligible for a pay raise, while earning the next credential and before securing new, higher-skilled jobs.

Logistics Management Level 1 Certificate
time to complete: 18 months
cost: $2,079

Logistics Coordinator
$17.69/hour

Logistics Specialist
$18.03/hour

Medical Technician
$20.07/hour

Healthcare Pathway: Associate Supervisor / Full-time Enrolled
Developed with Virginia Western Community College for Learners in Roanoke, VA

Hourly Median Income 1 in Roanoke, VA
$16.76/hour

Waiter
$10/hour

Certified Medical Assistant
$15.14/hour

Certified Medical Assistant Certification
time to complete: 3.5 months
cost: $2,226

Associate Supervisor
$24.10/hour

Medical Office Specialist
$19.40/hour

Medical Office Specialist Certificate
time to complete: 11.5 months
additional cost: $4,462

Oral Communication Microcredential

A.A.S. Degree with Medical Administrative Management Specialization
time to complete: 1 year + 7.5 months
additional cost: $4,819