



Ability to Benefit: Eligible Career Pathway Programs

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Facilitator Introductions

- Nicole Daughtry
 - Policy Associate, I-BEST, Ability to Benefit (ATB), Integrated English and Literacy Civics Education (IELCE)
- Jennifer Dellinger
 - Policy Associate, Workforce Education /Student Services, Student Support Programs
- Bill Belden
 - Policy Associate, Workforce Education
- Hanan Al-Zubaidy
 - Associate Director of Corrections Education

Ability to Benefit Defined

Ability to Benefit (ATB) allows a student without a high school diploma or equivalency to receive Title IV student financial aid to pay for postsecondary education and training if they are enrolled in an eligible career pathway program.

Ability to Benefit Criteria

- Students must be 16 years or older
- Student must be co-enrolled in an eligible college program of study **and** a high school completion program at any of our 34 community and technical colleges.

Ability to Benefit Qualification

Three ways in Washington state to qualify for ATB

- Achieve a cut score on an approved test (ACCUPLACER)
- Earn six college credits
- Co-enroll in I-BEST and High School + (the state approved process)

Ability to Benefit in WA State

- Washington state's process allows students co-enrolled in I-BEST and our competency-based High School Plus (HS+) program to meet the core ATB student eligibility requirement and bypass the testing/credit options.
- This new option saves time and money for people looking to more quickly gain the skills and credentials needed for living wage careers.



Ability to Benefit Equity & Access

- ATB aligns with BEdA goals and priorities, which aim to provide equitable access to financial resources that support students with achieving their goals.
- ATB Students are in many cases I-BEST students and bring enhance FTE to the program.
- ATB Allows students to access the full range of Financial Aid funding to stay on the path toward completion.

ATB in Corrections Education

Hanan Al-Zubaidy

Associate Director of Corrections Education

ATB in Workforce Education

Bill Belden, Policy Associate Workforce Education

College Initiatives:

- Professional-Technical Program Approval (PAR)
- Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA)
- Professional-Technical Program Advisory Committees

ATB Alignment:

- Eligible Career Pathway
- Industry Alignment & Engagement
- In Demand Occupations
- Advising and Career Supports
- Learning Outcomes

ATB in Student Services & Student Support Programs

Jennifer Dellinger, Policy Associate Student
Services & Student Support Programs

Benefits Navigators

- Single point of contact
- Resource Navigation & Support

*WorkFirst (Must be Receiving TANF and
Referred to College)*

- Tuition, Fees & Books
- Support Services
- Academic & Financial Planning

*Basic Food Employment & Training (Must be
Receiving Federal SNAP)*

- Tuition, Fees & Books
- Support Services
- Academic & Financial Planning

*Supporting Students Experiencing
Homelessness (Must be housing insecure or
foster youth)*

- Case Management Support
- Housing Support/Assistance

*Student Emergency Assistance Grants
(SEAG)*

- Housing, Food, Books, Transportation,
Child care, Health care, Utilities

Eligible Career Pathway Programs (ECPP)

Career pathways refer to a combination of rigorous and high-quality education, training, and support services that are aligned with the skill needs of industries in State or regional economies, preparing individuals to be successful in secondary or postsecondary education programs and the labor market.

(Dear Colleague Letter GEN-15-09)

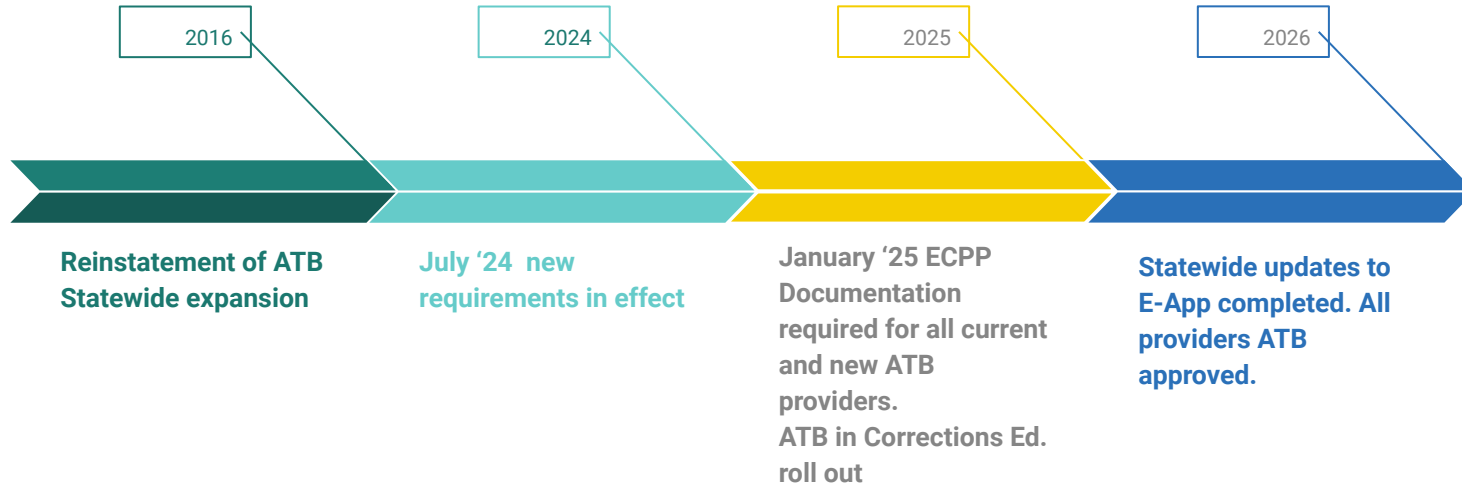
Updates to Eligible Career Pathway Programs

Institutions that offered one or more ATB CPPs prior to July 1, 2024, must apply to the Department to have one of its CPPs certified as eligible for *Title IV* purposes by the earlier of:

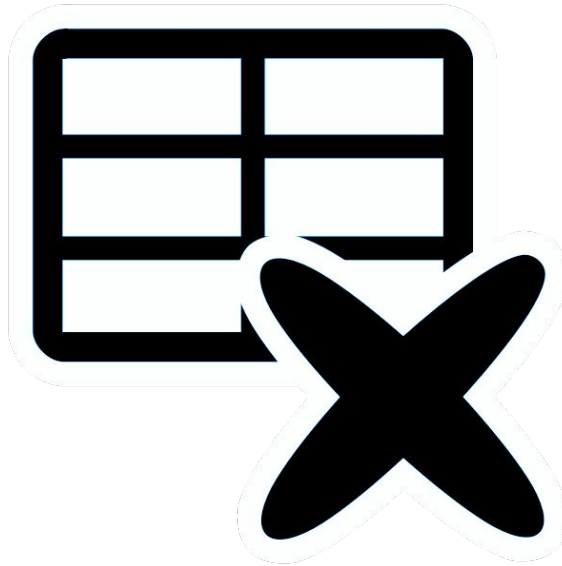
- The submission of any update the institution makes to the Electronic Eligibility Application (E-App) on or after January 1, 2025; or
- The submission of the institution's recertification application on or after January 1, 2025.

At that time, institutions will need to upload documentation using the E-App to demonstrate that one of its CPPs meets the eligibility requirements. The institution will also be expected to provide a list of all other ATB CPPs and certify that they meet the regulatory requirements (34 CFR 668.157(b)(2)).

ECPP Timeline



ECPP Documentation Matrix



E-App Preparation

Slide presentation by
Alicia Mallahan
Executive Director of
Financial Aid
Edmonds College

E-App Ability to Benefit

Alicia Mallahan



Questions?

Nicole Daughtry

Policy Associate, I-BEST | ATB | IELCE

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