

Every Student, Every Degree, Every Certificate Sample Community College Guided Pathway Using the CLDE Framework






Community college students frequently choose programs that are closely related to careers, including associate degree programs and shorter certificate programs that meet workforce needs. This pathway provides flexible guidelines for threading civic and democracy learning into both two-year associate degrees (typically 60 credit hours) and certificate programs (typically 24–30 credit hours).

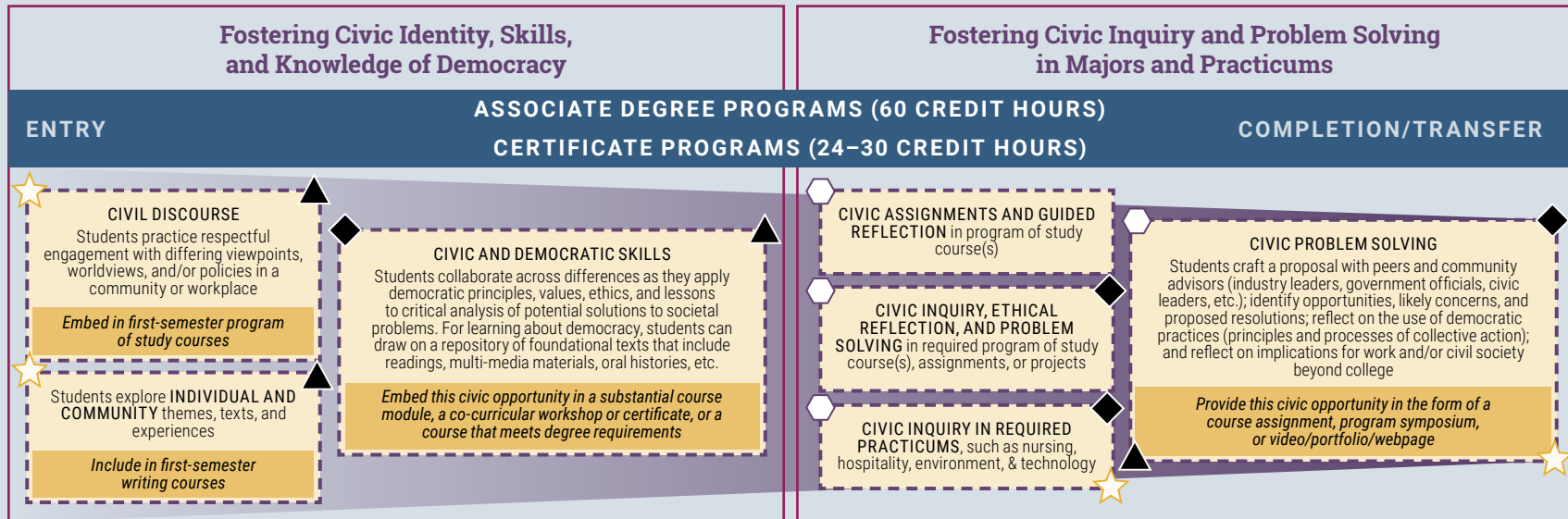
Across this sample curriculum, faculty ask students to complete assignments, projects, and practicums in which they (a) wrestle with significant societal problems; (b) collect and organize different viewpoints about problems and proposed solutions; (c) work with others across differences to apply democratic values in critical analysis and problem solving; and (d) reflect on ways their civic and democratic learning can be used in their careers and society.

High-Value Skills Needed in Both Careers and Democracy

- Communications skills
- Critical inquiry and evidence-based reasoning
- Digital, data, and media literacy
- Ethical reasoning and actions
- Problem solving with diverse partners
- Productive engagement with diverse views and experiences
- Purpose and agency grounded in a strong sense of identity

KEY

-  Exploring questions related to public good
-  Engaging diverse views & perspectives
-  Civic problem solving in program of study
-  Guided reflection
-  High-impact practices (HIPs)



Pathway Design Notes

1. This pathway includes multiple HIPs, beginning in the first semester, to increase the likelihood of completion while also fostering civic identity and skills.
2. For certificate programs, civic and democracy assignments and guided reflection should be included in selected program-of-study courses.
3. For both associate degrees and certificates, faculty should thread civic inquiry and guided reflection into practicums or other field-based learning requirements.