

Good for Students, Good for Colleges: Bridge Programs

Investment and Returns Worksheet: Sample Version

This worksheet¹ is a companion to the policy brief, *Good for Students, Good for Colleges: Investing in Bridge Programs as a Strategy for Success* to allow colleges to calculate their projected return on investment for transitioning adult education students into postsecondary programs.

With this worksheet, you will be able to:

- Calculate the cost for operating a bridge program using local expenditure data (e.g., salaries)
- Calculate projected revenue for transitioning those students to postsecondary education
- Compare costs and revenues in order to do a financial cost benefit analysis

INVESTMENTS² In Bridge Students

a) Instructor's wages per hour:

\$30

b) Class hours for a typical bridge program per year:

640

 $16 \text{ weeks per bridge class} \times 20 \text{ hours instruction per week} \times 2 \text{ semesters} = \text{Total hours}$

c) Number of students served in a bridge class per year:

48

 $24 \text{ students per one bridge class} \times 2 \text{ semesters}$

d) Number of students served in a traditional class per year:

60

 $30 \text{ students per traditional adult education class} \times 2 \text{ semesters}$

e) Annual salary for transition specialist and/or other support personnel:

\$50,000

f) Annual cost of benefits for transition specialist and/or other support personnel:

\$20,000

g) Time allocation of transition specialist to bridge programs and other transition models (%):

100%

h) Presumed number of total bridge students per year:

500

i) Number of free credits offered to bridge students:

3

j) Cost of one credit:

\$100

INCREMENTAL COST PER STUDENT OF BRIDGE PROGRAM INSTRUCTION:

\$80

 $(ab/c) - (ab/d)$

COST PER BRIDGE STUDENT FOR SUPPORT PERSONNEL:

\$140

 $\frac{(e+f)g}{h}$

COST PER BRIDGE STUDENT OF FREE CREDITS:

\$300

 (ij)

RETURNS from College Tuition and State Reimbursements:

The calculations below are based on students earning six incremental credits in the first semester of college credit and 30 credit hours to complete.

The average number of college credits necessary to complete post-secondary are:

- 15 credit hours for a Basic Certificate
- 30 credit hours for an Advanced Certificate
- 60 credit hours for Associate Degree

k) Retention rate for bridge students for first semester of college credit (%):

60%

l) College completion rate (%):

15%

m) Average number of credits earned in first semester:

6

n) Average number of credits earned by college completers:

30

o) Average tuition rate per credit hour:

\$100

p) State reimbursement rate³:

\$35.55 Avg.
(ICCB reimbursement)

TUITION REVENUE PER STUDENT:

\$720

 $((k-l)mo) + (nlo)$

ADDITIONAL NON-TUITION BASED STATE REVENUE PER STUDENT:

\$256

 $(m(k-l) + (nl))p$

INVESTMENTS IN BRIDGE STUDENTS:

\$520

RETURNS FROM BRIDGE STUDENTS:

\$976



To read Women Employed's brief, *Good for Students, Good for Colleges: Investing in Bridge Programs as a Strategy for Success*, visit womenemployed.org/InvestingInBridgePrograms

¹This tool is designed to be used by programs running classes based on the Illinois bridge policy definition, or similar transition models outside of Illinois that incorporate these key elements: contextualized curriculum, career development, and support services. Access the Illinois bridge program definition: <http://womenemployed.org/sites/default/files/IllinoisBridgeDefinition.pdf>

²The pre-populated numbers in the sample worksheet are estimates based on Chicagoland costs and revenue. Providers can use the sample worksheet to make the case for investing in bridge programs or use a blank worksheet to calculate local numbers re: students, salaries, and tuition.

³Illinois reimbursement rates vary by program, please see the *Illinois Community College Board Fiscal Year 2015 Operating Budget Appropriation and Supporting Technical Data*, Page 4 Base Operating Grants by Category: http://www.iccb.state.il.us/pdf/fiscal_manuals/FY15TECHAPDX.pdf. The average effective credit hour rate of baccalaureate, business, technical, and health grants is \$35.55.

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INVESTMENTS In Bridge Students

a) Instructor's wages per hour:

b) Class hours for a typical bridge program per year:

 $\frac{\# \text{ weeks per bridge class } X \times \# \text{ hours instruction per week } X}{\# \text{ semesters}} = \text{Total hours}$

c) Number of students served in a bridge class per year:

 $\frac{\# \text{ students per one bridge class } X \times \# \text{ semesters}}$

d) Number of students served in a traditional class per year:

 $\frac{\# \text{ students per traditional adult education class } X \times \# \text{ semesters}}$

e) Annual salary for transition specialist and/or other support personnel:

f) Annual cost of benefits for transition specialist and/or other support personnel:

g) Time allocation of transition specialist to bridge programs and other transition models (%):

h) Presumed number of total bridge students per year:

i) Number of free credits offered to bridge students:

j) Cost of one credit:

INCREMENTAL COST PER STUDENT OF BRIDGE PROGRAM INSTRUCTION:

 $(ab/c) - (ab/d)$

COST PER BRIDGE STUDENT FOR SUPPORT PERSONNEL:

 $\frac{(e+f)g}{h}$

COST PER BRIDGE STUDENT OF FREE CREDITS:

 (ij)

RETURNS from College Tuition and State Reimbursements:

The calculations below are based on students earning six incremental credits in the first semester of college credit and 30 credit hours to complete.

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- 30 credit hours for an Advanced Certificate
- 60 credit hours for Associate Degree

k) Retention rate for bridge students for first semester of college credit (%):

l) College completion rate (%):

m) Average number of credits earned in first semester:

n) Average number of credits earned by college completers:

o) Average tuition rate per credit hour:

p) State reimbursement rate²:

 \$35.55 Avg.
(ICCB reimbursement)

TUITION REVENUE PER STUDENT:

 $((k-l)mo) + (nl)o$

ADDITIONAL NON-TUITION BASED STATE REVENUE PER STUDENT:

 $(m(k-l) + (nl))p$

INVESTMENTS IN BRIDGE STUDENTS:

RETURNS FROM BRIDGE STUDENTS:



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