



Academic I-BEST Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training

Application Guidelines

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State Board for Community and Technical Colleges
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1B – I-BEST Academic Guidelines

Purpose of Application

Academic I-BEST programs provide educational access and support for adult basic education (ABE)/English Language Acquisition (ELA), and Developmental Education students to progress further and faster along an academic or vocational transfer pathway to a four-year college or university. Programs will provide a pathway for students with the goal of earning a transfer or AA vocational degree to successfully bridge the gap between ABE, Developmental Education and college-level classes. The program will provide a holistic, outcomes-based, contextualized learning experience that allows students to progress through upper-level ABE, ESL, and all levels of Developmental Education swiftly and efficiently completing college level. The program's focus is to improve student achievement in English and quantitative skills allowing them to move further and faster. Approved academic programs will be eligible for enhanced FTES, but are not eligible for Opportunity Grant funding.

Eligible Applicants

- Program proposals will be accepted from any of Washington's community or technical colleges.
- Each I-BEST pathway must have a separate application.

Application Process

Applications must be submitted through the SBCTC Online Grants Management System (OGMS) and are accepted on an ongoing basis

- a) Proposals will be assessed against criteria listed below. Colleges must satisfy all criteria under "Criteria for Approval" and agree to all assurances.

Criteria for Approval

Academic I-BEST serves students seeking an academic or vocational transfer to a four-year college or university. SBCTC must approve each academic I-BEST application.

- Programs will focus on integration of [College and Career Readiness Standards](#) with college level English (i.e. ENGL& 101) and/or quantitative skills (i.e. MATH& 107) as outlined in the Direct Transfer Agreement (DTA). Courses in the program must be college-level and be transcribed the quarter they are earned. These courses are contextualized in other courses needed to complete the intended degree (e.g., core transfer courses such as humanities, science, etc.).
- Program design and implementation must involve adult basic education, pre-college/Developmental Education, academic transfer, and student services in a rigorous

planning and accessing process that results in both literacy and skills gains ensuring the success of the program.

- Program design must provide students with the opportunity to earn college-level credit in English and/or Math within the first term of the pathway as determined through outcomes assessment.
- Educational delivery will result in both literacy and skills gains by using a mode of instruction incorporating joint ABE/ESL and academic transfer faculty planning and instructing, and assessing.
- All ABE/ESL students must qualify for federally supported levels of basic skills education upon enrollment. Use CASAS to appraise and pre-test students at the start of the I-BEST program. Students must have a score below 256 to be in courses coded for enhanced or highly funded FTE. Post-test students following the WA State Basic Skills Assessment Policy Record CASAS results and attendance hours in WABERS+. Students who test out of basic skills during the program can remain in the program until completion. Federal ABE funds can only be used to support students that are eligible for federally supported levels of ABE.
- Developmental Education students will be assessed via each institution's existing policy and methodology.
- Instruction requires at least a 50% overlap of instructors' time. Please note that the adult basic education fee of \$25 is not charged for ABE/ESL students who are in I-BEST classes.
- Students will be coded with the appropriate intent code per the SBCTC Student and Course Coding Manual.
- College level courses with at least 50% overlap will be coded per the I-BEST Course/Class Coding Simplification Coding Brief.
- The transcript will automatically record the credits.
- Programs must meet all criteria outlined in the application process.

Accountability Report

All I-BEST programs are monitored by SBCTC to ensure that colleges are meeting program requirements and student achievement goals. Providers must turn in a quarterly report of ABE/ESL I-BEST students by class (from SMS) to WABERS+ Help Desk at wabers@sbctc.edu. This report is used to check for missing classes and that all integrated classes have the enhanced funding.

BEEdA Office Contact Information

- Contact William Durden, wdurden@sbctc.edu or 360-704-4368, for more information about Academic I-BEST.
- Contact Christy Lowder, clowder@sbctc.edu or 360-704-4323, if you have OGMS related questions.

Modifications to Approved Applications

All modifications or changes to programs must be approved through the original OGMS application by submitting an addendum and additional attachments that reflect the changes.

Academic I-BEST Example Diagram

