

# **RURAL GUIDED PATHWAYS PROJECT INSTITUTE #5**

**Rethinking Transitions from Continuing  
Education and Non-credit Programs  
Maximizing Prior Learning Assessment and  
Competency-based Education**

**October 19, 2023**



**NATIONAL  
CENTER FOR  
INQUIRY &  
IMPROVEMENT**

# PANELIST

- **Christina Amato, Dean of E-Learning, Sinclair Community College (OH)**
- **Emma Miller, Organizational Leadership Program Chair, South Texas College (TX)**
- **Cristy Sugarman, Executive Director, Center for Alternative Studies & Educational Testing, North Shore Community College (MA)**



# **Sinclair Community College**

**Flexible Pathways for Diverse Learners**

**Christina Amato**, Dean, eLearning  
October 19, 2023

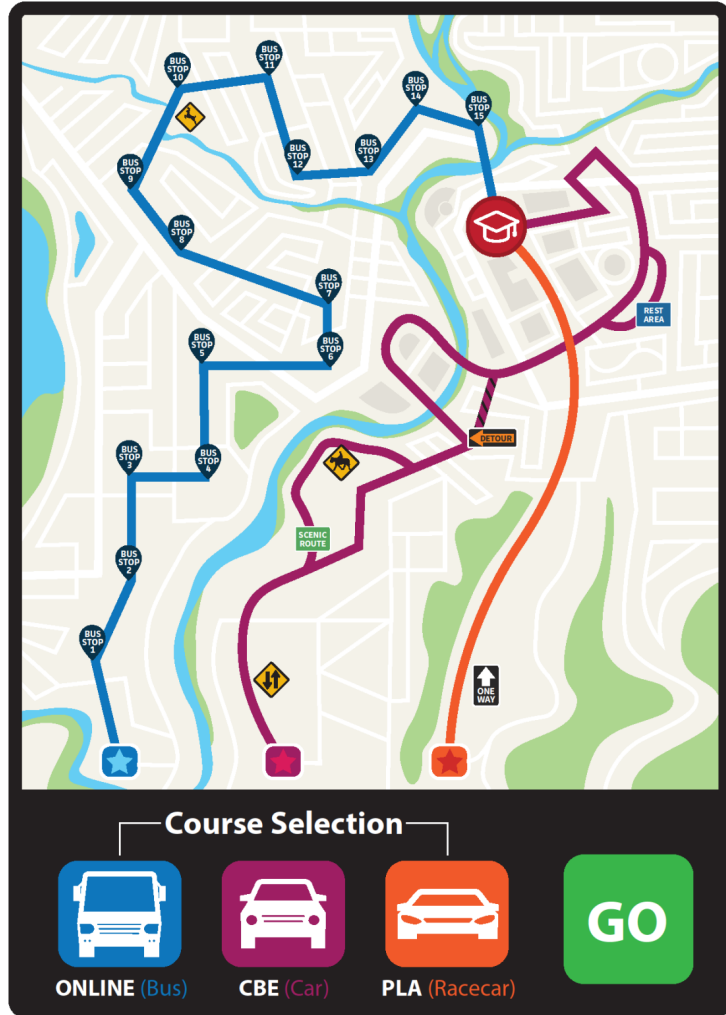


# About Sinclair

- Dayton, Ohio
- 30,000 learners annually
  - Credit, Non-Credit
  - Traditional, Online, Military-Affiliated, High School, Rural, Incarcerated
- eLearning Division
  - 38 Staff in Instructional Design, Technology, Media, Consulting, Training and Professional Development
  - Produce 300+ projects annually
  - Manage portfolio of online, blended, CBE, PLA program offerings
  - Partnered and undergoing co-location with the Center for Teaching & Learning



# eLearn at Sinclair: Multiple Pathways, Same Destination



- 90+ eLearn Programs
- 15 CBE Programs
- PLA
  - CLEP, DANTES, AP
  - Articulated, Military Credit
  - 125 in-house exams/portfolios



# 10 Years of CBE at Sinclair



**5,600+** students enrolled across 13 programs and 80 courses, with **2,300+** graduates since 2013



**44%** adult learners over the age of 24, and **30%** minority



Average time to course completion is **30%** faster than a traditional semester



Students **credential at higher rates** non-CBE students in the same programs



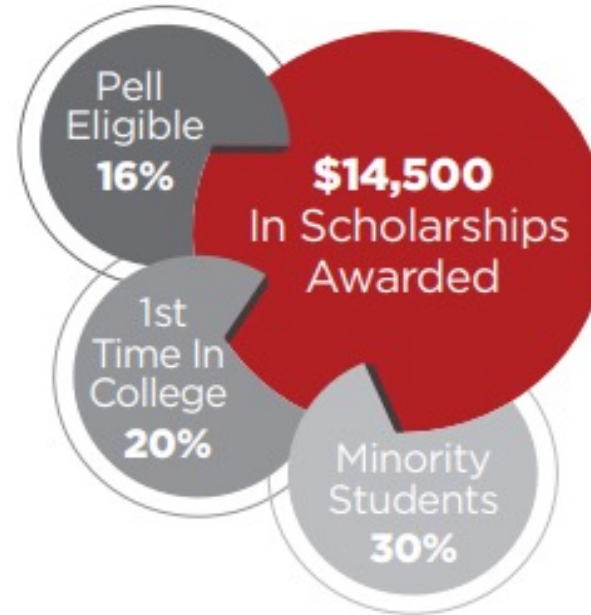
# 47 Years of PLA at Sinclair

Two Key Takeaways:

1. Starting in 2020, PLA exams became free to students through institutional scholarship

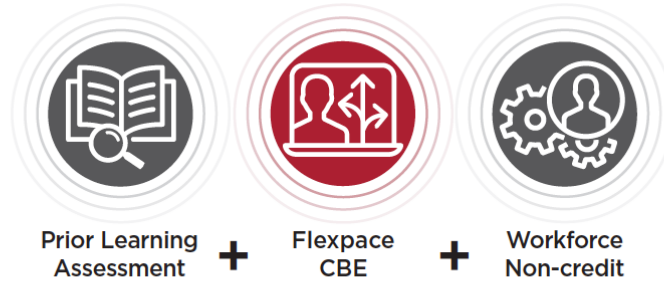
2. In 2021, A PLA interest question was added to the college application

- 66% increase in attempts
- 37% increase in attainment



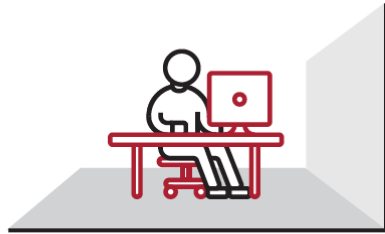
## STRATEGY

Combining **CBE**, **PLA**, and **non-credit** options to customize the student experience, and accelerate course and credit completion.



# CBE & PLA Integration Pilot 2022-2023

## STEP 1 PROFICIENCY EXAM



### OUTCOMES

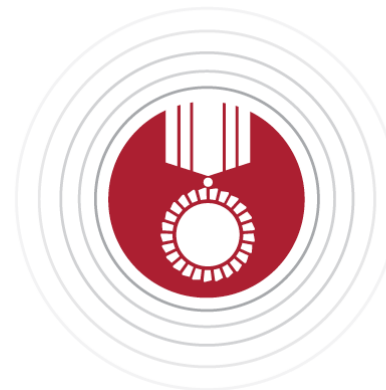
- 1 Full Mastery
- 2 Partial Mastery
- 3 No Mastery



Results are no longer exclusively viewed as “*all or nothing*.” Partial mastery can still be documented and applied.

## STEP 2 CUSTOMIZED LEARNING PATH

- 1 **Full Mastery** | Student receives credit for course and badges for the course objectives mastered.
- 2 **Partial Mastery** | Student receives badges for course objectives that were mastered. Encouraged to register for FlexPlace course where badges can be applied.
- 3 **No Mastery** | Student is encouraged to register for the course in a modality of their choice.





Thank  
you!



*South Texas  
College  
Baccalaureate  
Programs and  
Competency-Based*

Dr. Emma L. Miller

Program Chair

BAS-Organizational Leadership

South Texas College

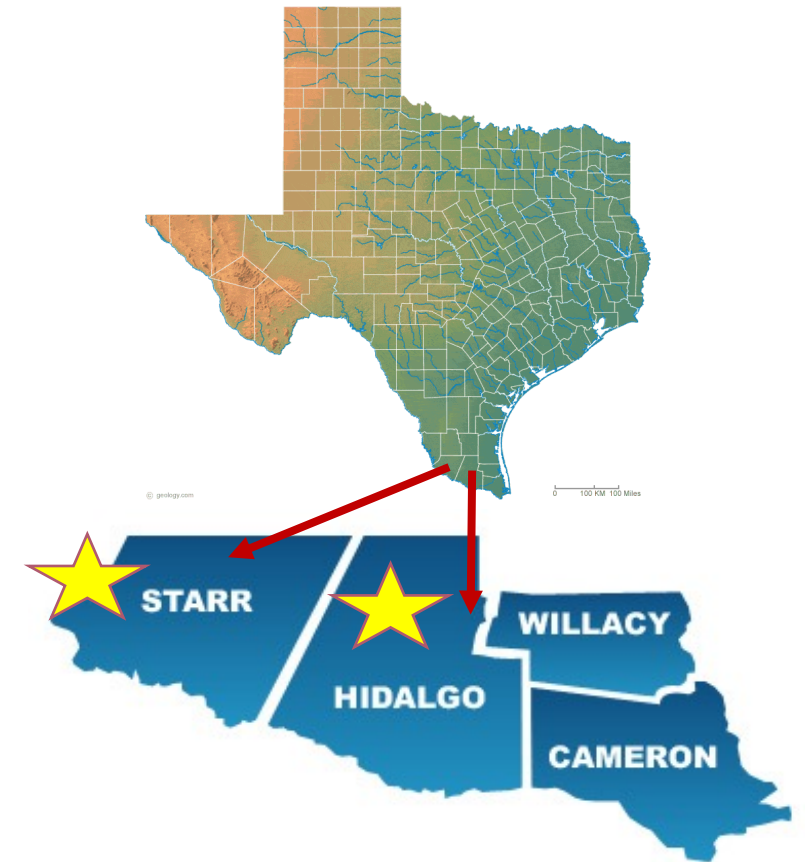
[emiller1@southtexascollege.edu](mailto:emiller1@southtexascollege.edu)

(956) 872-2216

# About South Texas College

## Brief History

- Established in **1993**
- Serving Two Counties:
  - ✓ Hidalgo and Starr Combined Population of 1 million
- **6 Campuses and 2 Higher Education Centers**
- **Annual Budget** of Over \$180 Million
- **3 Successful Bond Elections** with Community Approving Over \$250 Million
- **Fall 2021 Enrollment over 28,000 Credit Students**



### Student Population

60% First in their Family to attend college

95% Hispanic Enrollment

60% Students on Financial Aid (Excluding Dual)

Enrollment  
28,000 credit students  
17,000 non-credit students



# *Baccalaureate Degrees*

## **Competency –Based Bachelor Programs**

- ✓ **2014** – BAS-Organizational Leadership
  - ✓ **2017** – BAT-Computer and Information Technologies
  - ✓ **2018** – BAT-Technology Management (renamed to Operations Management)
  - ✓ **2019** – BAT-Medical & Health Services Management
  - ✓ **2020** - BS-Nursing
- The only Texas community college to offer five baccalaureate degrees



# Competency-Based Education (CBE)

STC's Competency Based-Education (CBE) enables students to complete a certificate, associate or bachelor's degree at an affordable price and in significantly less time. CBE terms are only seven weeks long and students progress through courses at their own pace.

If a course is finished early, students have the option of enrolling in another course during the same 7-week term at no extra cost. Plus, students may receive college credit toward the completion of their degree for qualifying previous work, education, and military training.

Our CBE degree programs have already produced hundreds of graduates who have benefited directly from course content that is designed around competencies needed in today's competitive job market.

[Request Details](#)

[CBE Manual \(PDF\)](#)

## Academic Programs with CBE Courses:

- Bachelor of Applied Technology in Computer and Information Technologies
- Bachelor of Applied Technology in Medical and Health Services Management
- Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership
- Bachelor of Applied Technology in Operations Management
- Associate of Applied Science in Child Development and Early Childhood
- Accounting Clerk Certificate
- Public Services Assistant Certificate
- Information and Network Systems Certificate
- Computer Applications Specialist Certificate

## Coming Spring 2024

- Construction Supervision
- Heating, Ventilation, A/C & Refrigeration
- Electrician Technology

**Dr. Cristy Sugarman**

Executive Director

Center Alternative Studies & Educational Testing

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**NORTH SHORE**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# Demonstrating Learning



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JOINT SERVICES  
TRANSCRIPT

“OFFICIAL”

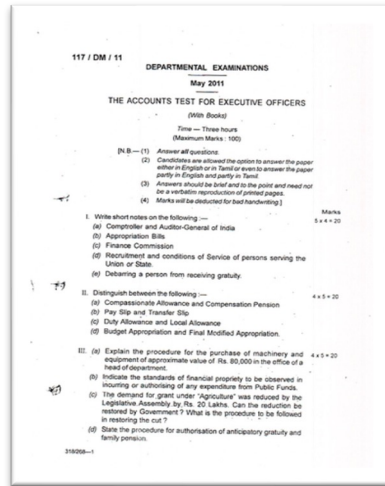
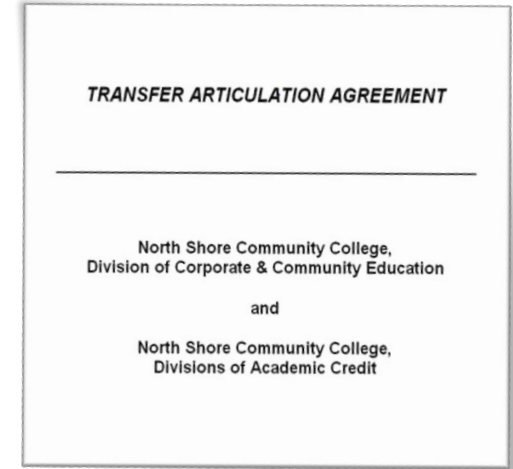
Transcript Sent To:  
University of XXXXXXX

Name: ADAM, LAM  
SSN: XXX-XX-XXXX  
Rank: Sergeant First Class (E7)  
Status: Active

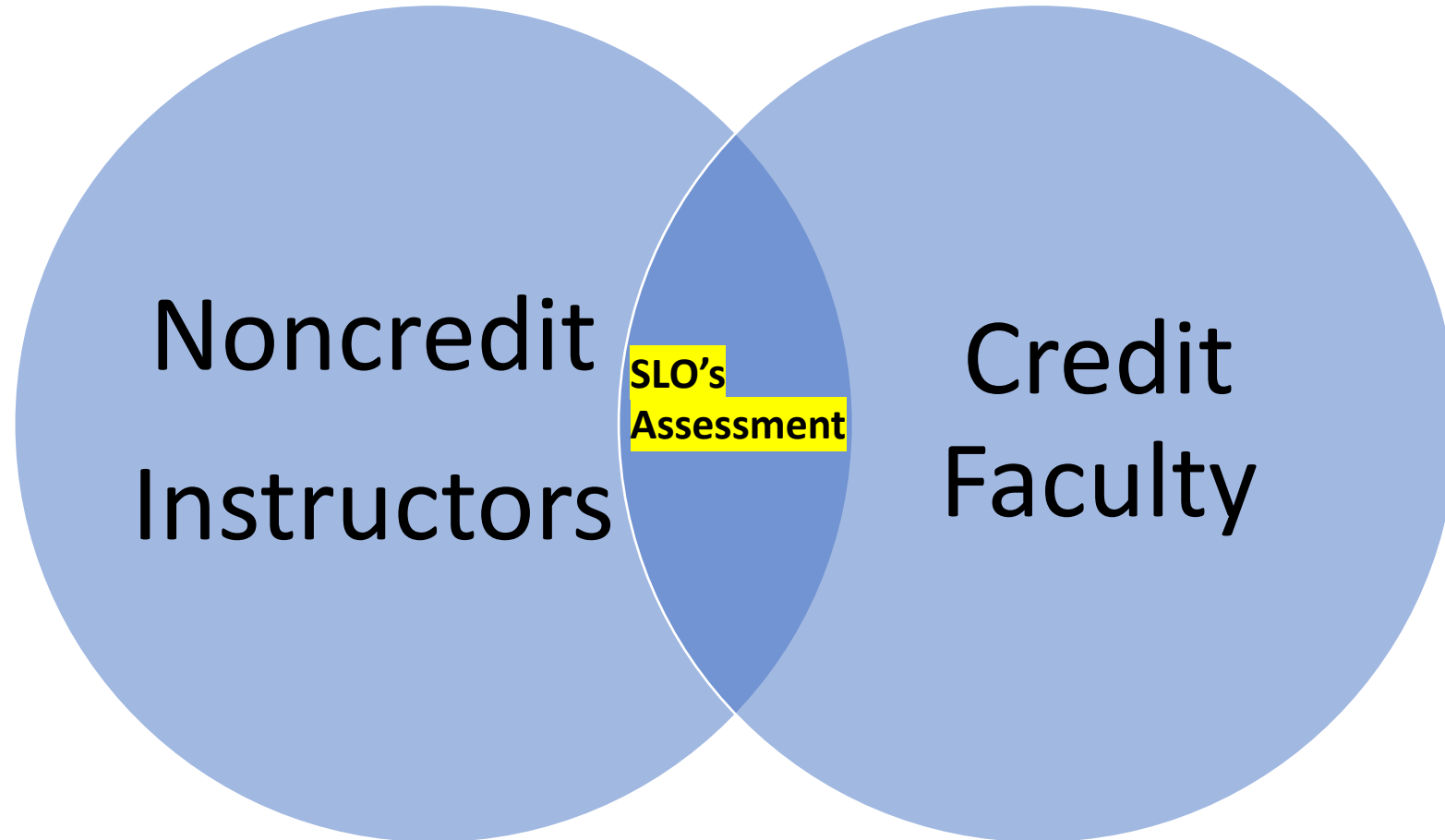
Course ID	ACE Identifier Course Title Learn/Develop/Credit Acc.	Date Taken	ACE Credit Recommendation	Level
750-ST	AR-2281-6399 Basic Combat Training Open completion of the course, the student will be able to demonstrate general knowledge of military organization and culture, history of individual and group combat skills including marksmanship and first aid, achievement of minimum physical conditioning standards, and application of basic safety and living skills in a military environment.	13-MAR-1987 to 07-MAY-1987		
	- First Aid		1.00	I
	- Marksmanship		1.00	I
	- Outdoor Skills Proficiency		1.00	I
	- Personal Physical Conditioning (010001000)		1.00	I
500-TD10	AR-1486-6811 Parasail Evaluator Specialist US Army Training Center Fort Benning GA To train individuals to maintain personnel records.	08-MAY-1987 to 16-FEB-1987		
	- Casual Bookkeeping		1.00	I
	- Office Procedures		1.00	I
	- Training (08000000)		1.00	I
601-18-PLDC	AR-2281-4242 Platoon Leadership Development	23-MAR-1990 to 18-APR-1990		

\*\* PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION \*\*

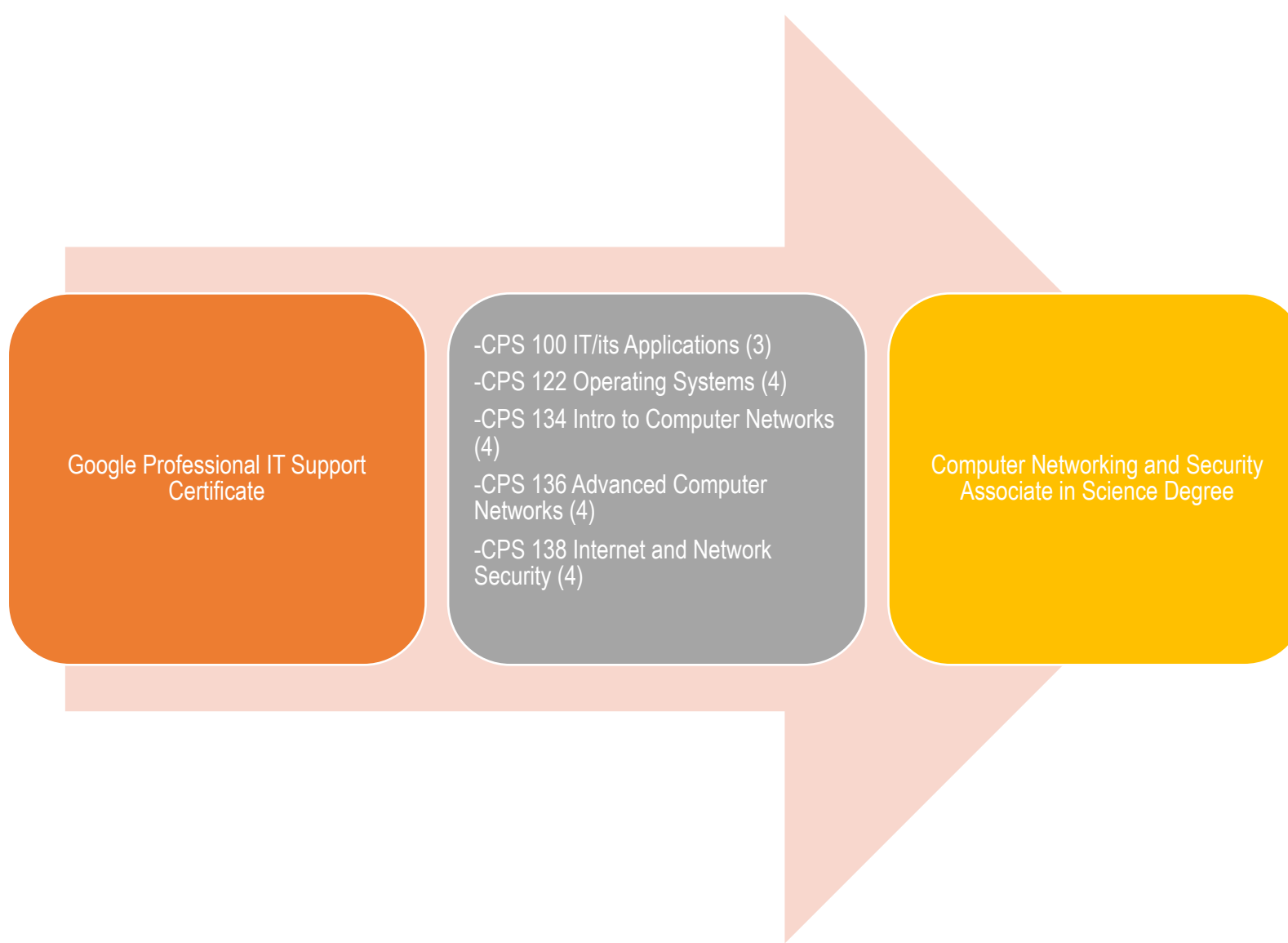
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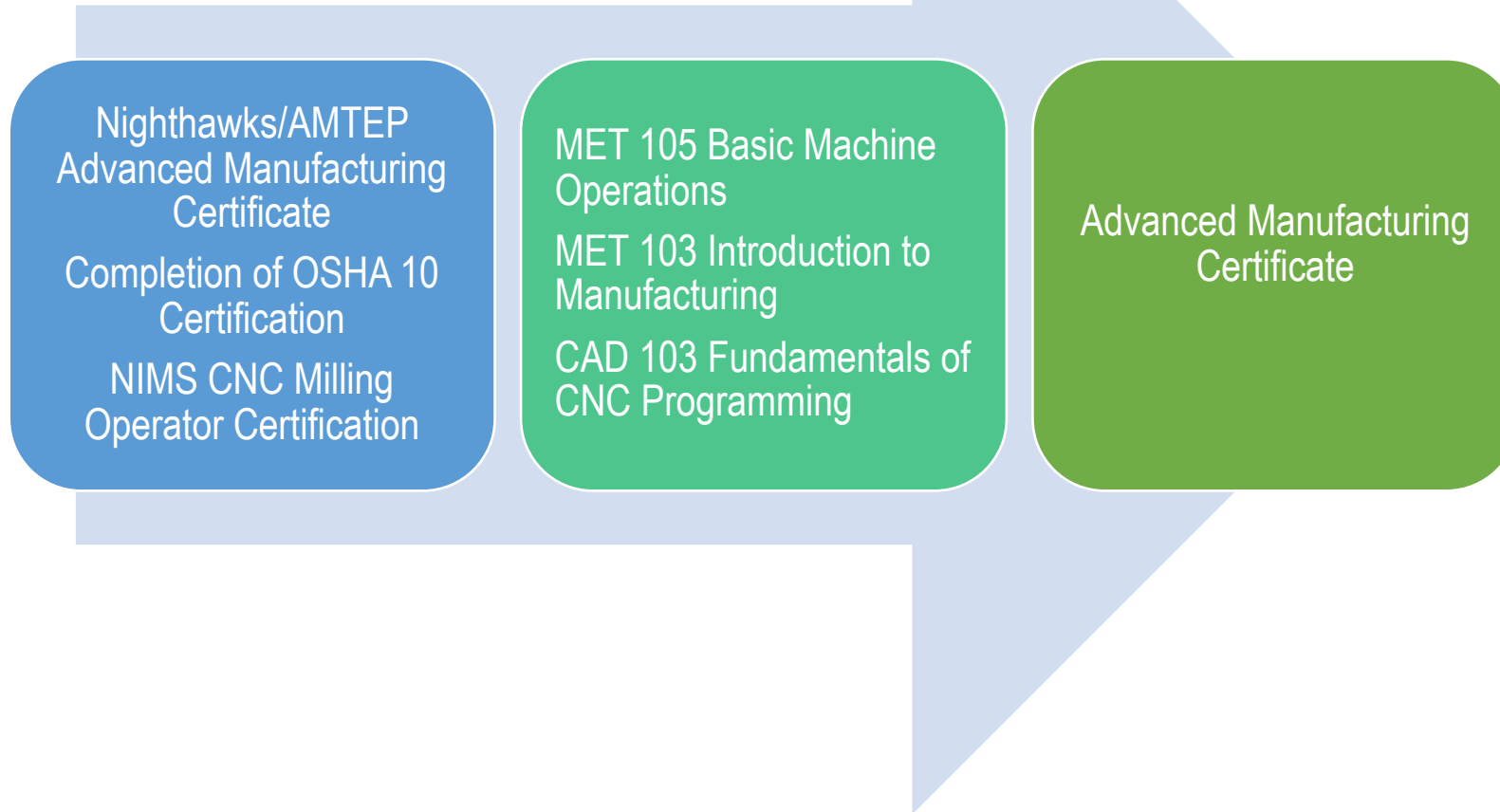
# Methodology







## **Example of Incremental Credentialing/Noncredit-to-Credit at NSCC**



## **Example of Incremental Credentialing/Noncredit- to-Credit at NSCC**

# Audience Q & A



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# Panel Discussion



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# Audience Q & A



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