CCBA QUALITY FRAMEWORK
ELEMENTS OF QUALITY

The CCBA Quality Framework establishes a shared understanding of quality across community college bachelor's (CCB) degree programs. It provides a structured yet flexible approach to defining and measuring quality that reflects the mission and context of community colleges. Organized around 10 core elements, the framework articulates foundational values that guide the design, implementation, evaluation, and continuous improvement of CCB programs.

1 REGIONAL LABOR MARKET SIGNIFICANCE AND ALIGNMENT

This element encourages colleges to use labor market data to inform program offerings and career advising, ensuring students graduate with the skills needed for success and communities benefit from a talent pipeline.

2 PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

This element emphasizes active advisory boards, employer-informed curriculum design, and regional collaboration to ensure programs align with local labor market needs.

3 LEADERSHIP

This element emphasizes the role of senior and program-level leaders in setting direction, modeling collaboration, and ensuring accountability across academic, student, and workforce divisions.

4 ACCESS AND SUCCESS

This element emphasizes the use of data to better understand who is applying, enrolling, progressing, and succeeding—and to make informed adjustments that support the success of all learners.

5 HIGH LEVEL OF LEARNING

This element emphasizes the intentional design of curriculum, the alignment of program learning outcomes with workforce and academic expectations, and the qualifications and ongoing development of faculty.

6 EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

This element highlights the importance of integrating work-based learning and hands-on experiences throughout the curriculum.

7 FLEXIBILITY

This element supports the design of programs that meet students where they are so they can progress toward their bachelor's degree goals without sacrificing other life commitments.

8 AFFORDABILITY

This element includes intentional strategies such as providing financial guidance and assistance, recognizing prior learning, identifying cost-saving measures, and ensuring transparency in program costs.

9 STUDENT SUPPORT

This element emphasizes the importance of intentionally designed student support systems that reflect the distinct needs of CCB students.

10 EVALUATION: EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS AND PRACTICE

This element encourages CCB programs to use data and evidence-based practices to evaluate their effectiveness. Continuous improvement is essential to ensuring program quality and long-term sustainability.