



Credential Engine Services for Publishing Pathways: Getting Started

Education and career pathways connect people to opportunities. Transparency about the components in pathways—credentials, skills, jobs, and more—empowers people to get to their desired destinations more easily, efficiently, and equitably. Publishing pathways and their components to the Credential Registry provides linked open data for representing starting points, destinations, alignments to occupations, and optional routes for a person to achieve their education and career goals. Credential Engine helps organizations develop equitable pathways that have:

1. **on-ramps** that are accessible for people with disadvantages, such as a free course or workplace-based training that helps one get started.
2. **clear transparency** about all of the components in the pathway, including different routes for making progress.
3. **destinations that are valuable achievements**, such as a credential that has labor market value and/or a specific job or career that offers opportunities for advancement.

Linked open data pathways have many benefits, including:

- Individuals can explore how their own digital credentials connect to existing and dynamic pathways.
- Education and training providers can communicate that the credentials they offer are connected into pathways that have valuable destinations.
- Curriculum developers can contextualize their instructional, assessment, and credentialing innovations.
- Institutions can build organizational commitment to the intended, transparent outcomes of each credential.
- State agencies can review the value of education and training programs for reskilling workers.
- Career services and pathway tools can help people match skills and training to jobs.

Now more than ever, these are important reasons for making pathways publicly available and communicating their value to all stakeholders.

Credential Engine offers a suite of unique technologies and services to help many different types of organizations, agencies, and companies achieve their goals for pathway transparency. In addition to our open, freely available resources, we offer fee-based services for strategy, project management, and implementation support focused on using the Credential Transparency Description Language (CTDL) effectively.

The description of our services for getting started with publishing pathways is below. These services can be customized and combined with additional services and supports, including in-depth technical services, to address your specific circumstances and needs.

Project Management and Strategy

- Provide overview and resources that explain Credential Engine's mission, technologies, and resources
- Support definition of the pathway publishing project and roles for the organization's team
- Facilitate kickoff meeting for all involved in the project to introduce the work at a high level
- Define the problems the organization is seeking to address with linked open data pathways
- Define the value propositions for the organization
- Identify and/or clarify initial use case(s) to achieve the value propositions
- Define project goals
- Define detailed project steps to achieve the goals
- Help the team identify potential barriers and ways to address them
- Contribute to development of the team's work plan and timeline, and utilize these to make sure the project is on track
- Convene regular progress meetings with the team

Technical Guidance

- Provide overview and resources that explain Credential Engine's technologies for all project stakeholders
 - Explain CTDL and the Registry to non-technical stakeholders
 - Explain CTDL and the Registry to technical stakeholders
 - Explain CTDL terms and data structure related to pathways
 - Review the minimum and benchmark data policies
- Demonstrate publishing processes for getting started
 - Provide an overview of pathway publishing
 - Provide publishing how-to documentation
- Assist with organizing data and preparing it for publishing
 - Identify minimum data that is needed for project goals
 - Review technical requirements
 - Guide the team in identifying sources of pathway data
 - Assist the team in collecting and/or formatting data to prepare it for publishing
 - Provide a detailed technical review of data formatting correctness for up to 3 pathways as part of the preparation for publishing
- Assist with publishing pathways
 - Provide a detailed walkthrough of publishing one of the team's pathways
 - Provide oversight and assistance for the team to publish up to 2 additional pathways
 - Review the published pathways for technical correctness and conformance to Registry guidelines

Project Wrap-Up and Enabling Next Steps

- Facilitate project conclusion review meeting for all involved in the project
- Assist with identifying opportunities to expand the project, including scaling up, addressing additional use cases, and connecting to other organizations or projects
- Discuss how to add value to the work achieved in the project so that

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- Institutions can build organizational commitment to the intended, transparent outcomes of each credential.
- State agencies can review the value of education and training programs for reskilling workers.
- Career services and pathway tools can help people match skills and training to jobs.
- Identify specific next steps
- Provide an overview of Credential Engine and partner resources, technologies, and services to support next steps



To learn more, please visit www.credentialengine.org or contact info@credentialengine.org