



# MISSISSIPPI

## State Profile

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
<b>Advanced Summer Courses</b>	Yes	Some universities offer these courses for college credit.	No		No	
<b><u>Advanced Placement (AP)</u></b>	Yes	Four components of AP program are online student learning scholarships, exam reimbursements, counselor outreach, and vertical teams training. Program intended to increase the enrollment of low-income students, to better prepare teachers and students for courses, and increase participation of low-income students in AP exams.	Yes	Targets "under-identified" students who are low-income, racial or ethnic minority, or expected to need early preparation to be ready for AP courses	Yes	Federal funding supports the Advanced Placement Incentive Program and test fee reimbursement
<b><u>Bridge Programs</u></b>	Yes	Sponsored by individual universities	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African American students</li> <li>• First-generation students</li> <li>• Low-income students</li> </ul>	No	Federal funding
<b>College Level Exam Program (CLEP)</b>	Yes	Universities have different assessment systems for awarding CLEP credit.	No		No	
<b>Distance Learning/ Virtual School</b>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">MS Online Learning Institute (MOLLI)</a>, but does not offer courses for college credit.</li> <li>• STAR classrooms provide video feed between districts.</li> </ul>	No	Distance learning is most often targeted to areas with teacher shortages and schools with a low demand for advanced courses.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal funds for AP and technology development support MOLLI.</li> <li>• State funding supports distance learning in STAR classrooms.</li> </ul>
<b>Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment</b>	Yes	High school credit is not currently awarded for dual enrollment.	Yes	Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)	Yes	In the past legislative session, legislation was passed requiring school districts to cooperate with junior and senior colleges to develop dual credit course opportunities for all students in the state.
<b>Early or Middle College High Schools</b>	No	The state is interested in them.	No		No	

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<u><a href="#">GEAR UP</a></u>	Yes	The program follows students from middle school through college. They also have TRIO-Talent Search.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First-generation students</li> <li>• Low-income students</li> </ul>	Yes	Federal funding
<b>GED in College Settings</b>	Yes	No information known or available	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At-risk students</li> <li>• Low-income students</li> </ul>	Yes	
<b>International Baccalaureate (IB)</b>	Yes	One high school participating	No	Participating school district has a high number of underserved students.	Yes	Federal funding
<u><a href="#">P-20 Initiatives</a></u>	Yes	Joint effort of the DOE and Institute of Higher Learning including vocational pathways, GEAR UP, and grant supported initiatives	Yes	Combines other academic pathways such as GEAR UP that specify underserved student groups	Yes	State grants
<u><a href="#">Tech Prep</a></u>	Yes	Tech Prep is a 7th, 8th and 9th grade program; all students at those levels in participating schools take 1 career exploration class per grade.	No		Yes	Large investment in Tech Prep; participation is voluntary but 75-80% of schools participate.

### Summary of academic pathways:

Mississippi has a range of pathways available. The state currently has dual enrollment (courses taken for college credit only) but is in the process of creating dual credit opportunities (courses taken for high school and college credit). Unusually, Tech Prep is a middle school program rather than a high school to college pathway and is considered a priority in the state as evidenced by its level of funding. The active P-20 initiative brings together representatives of different educational levels in support of improving transition to college in the state. This initiative is seen as helping to develop greater collaboration and positive opportunities for students.

### Interesting or unique models identified by state officials:

- A system for increasing participation in AP courses
- GEAR UP
- P-20 Initiatives



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### Observations by state officials about special efforts to reach underserved students:

Special efforts are made to reach traditionally underserved students in bridge programs, GEAR UP, and by promoting participation in AP courses. GED programs in college settings make an effort to reach low-income students and drop-outs.

### Observations by state officials about state support for pathways:

Recently passed legislation promoting dual credit opportunities for students indicates that the state is becoming increasingly involved in promoting pathways to college. The P-20 initiative has also been an important initiative, leading to greater coordination among state agencies, the development of new vocational pathways and other activities.

### Lessons learned by state officials:

- It is important to carefully prepare students for advanced course work rather than throwing them into it; the success rate of students in advanced course work increases dramatically when they are identified early and prepared to undertake it.
- One on one attention and careful structuring of educational experiences are important to success.
- These pathways have raised awareness during the last 7-10 years of the importance of postsecondary education and the need for more participation by racial and ethnic minority students.

### Programs recommended by state officials:

<u>Pathways</u>	<u>Educational Institution</u>	<u>Contact person</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Bridge Programs	State Board of Higher Education	Marvin Jeeter	--	(601) 432-6623
Bridge Programs	University of Mississippi	Donald Cole	--	(662) 915-7427
CLEP	University of Southern Mississippi	Frances Karnes	--	(601) 266-5001
IB	Jackson Public Schools	Earl Watkins	--	(601) 960-8725

### State official's contact information:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
*Judy Couey	Director of Curriculum and Instruction	MS Department of Education	<a href="mailto:jcouey@mde.k12.ms.us">jcouey@mde.k12.ms.us</a>	(601) 359-2586
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(Prepared by Elisabeth Barnett/ Updated March, 2006/ \*State official reviewed this state profile.)