



Scaling CBE Decision Tree

Purpose:

Use this decision tree as the college considers what approaches to scaling might be best for the institution and students.

Approach	When Might This Approach Be Appropriate?	What Might Be Some Challenges Adopting This Approach?	What Resources Might Be Needed?
Increase enrollment in the existing direct assessment CBE program	Enrollment is strong and students are showing continued interest in the program; you believe you can recruit more learners to the existing program. You may not have the resources to facilitate the development of another CBE program in another discipline.	This approach increases the instructional workload for a single program. There may not be enough qualified faculty familiar with the CBE program to teach. Enrollment should remain proportional to workforce opportunity. Conversations with employer partners are necessary to ensure the program is not flooding the job market.	Marketing and communications, personnel

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Increase geographic reach in the existing direct assessment CBE program	Students are showing interest in the program; you believe you can recruit more learners to the existing program by expanding the geographic reach of marketing efforts. You may not have the resources to facilitate the development of another CBE program in another discipline.	This approach increases the instructional workload for a single program. There may not be enough qualified faculty familiar with the CBE program to teach. The college may need to invest resources in building relationships in a new region to support outreach and recruitment. This can take time.	Marketing and communications, personnel
Adjusting policies, partnerships, technology, or other elements of program design to align closer with a CBE philosophy	Enrollment is strong and students are showing continued interest in the program; you believe you can improve the student experience by making adjustments to policies, practices, or procedures. There is sufficient funding to make investments in additional capacity or tools.	Changing the structure of the program can have unintended impacts or unexpected costs. The ROI may not be worth it. With so much change happening already, faculty and staff may be fatigued.	Personnel, tools and technology

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Expanding to offer more programs in a CBE format	Enrollment is strong and sustainable within the existing program, but growth in that field is not needed. There are other departments or faculty interested in direct assessment CBE. You are hoping to realize efficiencies of scale. (Note: Some CA CBE Collaborative colleges indicated that scaling to more programs could also improve cost-efficiency, reducing institutional and student costs.)	This approach increases the instructional workload across multiple programs. There may not be enough qualified faculty familiar with the CBE program to teach. While there are common design decisions, each additional program will need to go through a design process to address decisions relevant to their program area. This can be time consuming and costly.	All
Partnering with other institutions	Partnering with other institutions carry multiple synergistic avenues for scaling. It can build capacity, provide direct admission to 4-year programs, cross promote, etc...		