

Criteria	IFLDE (Flexible Learning and Digital Education)	Traditional College Course	Vocational Training
Mode of Learning	Online, blended learning, modular, flexible schedules	Face-to-face classroom learning, fixed schedules	Hands-on, practical training, workshop-based
Learning Approach	Self-paced, competency-based, allows recognition of prior learning	Structured curriculum, sequential learning	Practical skills-focused, minimal theoretical learning
Target Learners	Working professionals, out-of-school youth, individuals with prior work experience	High school graduates, full-time students	Individuals seeking quick employment skills, short-course learners
Accreditation	Recognizes prior learning and work experiences, follows CHED guidelines for ETEEAP	Follows standard academic curriculum regulated by CHED	Accredited by TESDA or technical institutions
Program Duration	Flexible, can be completed faster based on competency and prior learning	Fixed duration (4-5 years for bachelor's degree)	Short-term courses (usually 3-12 months)
Learning Outcome	Earns a college degree through non-traditional means (ETEEAP) or flexible learning	Earns a bachelor's degree or diploma after completing standard curriculum	Earns a certificate or NC (National Certificate) for technical skills
Cost of Education	Generally lower since it minimizes physical resources and infrastructure	Higher due to facilities, physical classrooms, and in-campus expenses	Lower to moderate, depending on course complexity
Assessment Method	Competency-based assessment, recognition of prior learning, portfolio submission	Exams, practical assessments, thesis, projects	Skills demonstration, practical assessment, competency-based test

Schedule Flexibility	Highly flexible, learners can set their own pace	Fixed schedule, students must follow semester-based timelines	Fixed class schedule, but some offer flexible time for working students
Qualification Outcome	Recognized college degree through ETEEAP or flexible learning program	Recognized college degree with complete academic requirements	Recognized technical certificate or NC (National Certificate)
Suitability For	Working professionals, those who missed formal education, individuals wanting degree recognition	Fresh high school graduates, full-time students, students aiming for academic professions	Individuals aiming for practical skills, employment readiness, or career shift
Government Agency Involved	CHED (Commission on Higher Education) via ETEEAP & Flexible Learning	CHED (Commission on Higher Education)	TESDA (Technical Education and Skills Development Authority)
Practical Focus	Combines theoretical learning with recognition of practical work experience	Primarily theoretical with practical applications based on curriculum	90% practical hands-on training, 10% theoretical learning
Post-Graduation Opportunities	Obtain a bachelor's degree with lesser time through work-based experience	Graduate with a degree after completing full academic curriculum	Immediate job readiness, practical job placement assistance
Example Courses	Business Management, Information Technology, Public Administration (recognized through prior work experience)	Bachelor of Science in IT, Engineering, Business Administration	Welding, Automotive Servicing, Bookkeeping, Cooking, etc.

Takeaways:

- **IFLDE** is ideal for working professionals and individuals with prior work experience who want to **convert their skills into a recognized degree** without attending full-length college courses.
- **Traditional College Courses** offer a formal, standardized academic path with fixed time frames.
- **Vocational Training** focuses purely on practical skills for employment, but does not grant a full college degree.