

Tech-Prep

Definition:

A Tech-Prep program of study is a career and technical credit-based transition program. It provides secondary students with a “seamless education” from secondary to postsecondary education by permitting students to complete college courses in a collegiate program of study during high school. Students enrolled in a Tech-Prep program of study earn college credits for a coherent sequence of three or more courses they complete during high school as a result of a written commitment between a secondary and a postsecondary institution called an articulation agreement.

Contents of a Tech-Prep Program of Study:

1. Combines, at a minimum, two years of secondary education (e.g., junior and senior years) followed by a minimum of two years of postsecondary education;
2. Utilizes curricula that strengthens academic, and career and technical knowledge and skills that aligns with programs of study offered at community colleges and four-year colleges and universities;
3. Provides academic and technical preparation for careers in one of 16 different broad industry areas (i.e., career clusters) such as (but not limited to) Health Science, Business, Administration and Management; Education and Training; and Information Technology;
4. Builds student competence in core academic subjects (i.e., English, reading or language arts, math, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, history and geography) and in career and technical courses through the implementation of applied, contextual, and integrated instruction;
5. Activities are coordinated by consortium members (i.e., postsecondary institutions, business and industry representative, secondary school districts) who pool resources, and provide multiple opportunities to students for the purpose of achieving a common goal;
6. Provides teachers, administrators, and counselors with professional development activities that support the goals of Tech-Prep and promotes “best practices;”
7. Utilizes work-based and worksite learning experiences when appropriate and available;
8. Leads to a two-year certificate or industry-recognized credential, or an associate degree or baccalaureate degree in a career major that leads to high skill, high wage employment through a written commitment with a postsecondary institution called an articulation agreement.

Tech Prep Status

Tech Prep Participant: A high school student who is taking a college course that is a component of a Tech-Prep program of study (i.e., a coherent sequence of three or more courses) for which the student may or may not earn college credit, and who does not intend to complete the program of study, or pursue a postsecondary degree, certificate, or industry-recognized credential.

Tech Prep Concentrator- Secondary: A student who is enrolled in a Tech-Prep program of study (i.e., a coherent sequence of three or more courses), has earned college credit for two or more of the courses, and intends to complete the program of study and pursue a postsecondary degree, a two-year certificate or industry-recognized credential in the same program of study, or a similar program of study.

POSTSECONDARY TECH-PREP DEFINITIONS

Tech Prep Postsecondary Concentrator: A student who has completed the secondary portion of a recognized Tech-Prep program of study and has enrolled in the postsecondary component of that program of study, or a similar program of study, at an institution of higher education.

Tech Prep Completer: A student who has enrolled and completed both the secondary and the postsecondary portion of a recognized program of study or a similar program of study, and has received an associate or baccalaureate degree, or a two-year certificate or industry recognized credential.