



Tech Prep: *Students get the credit they deserve*

Over \$13.1 million saved and more than 88,000 college credits earned.

- **14,100 Washington State high school students earned 88,000 college credits through Tech Prep in 2004-05. That is an average of over six credits per student.**
- **Students and their families realized a direct savings of \$5.0 million by earning Tech Prep credits in 2004-05, providing a savings to taxpayers of \$8.1 million. That's over \$13.1 million saved by the citizens of Washington in 2004-05.**

Tech Prep is a cooperative effort between K-12 schools, community and technical colleges, and the business and labor community to develop applied integrated academic and technical programs. These professional technical courses are taught on high school campuses by high school instructors. The instructors work with local colleges to assure the courses are taught at the college-level and articulate to the college program. This industry and education partnership is committed to providing a well trained and motivated workforce by training students for high-demand occupations while they are co-enrolled in both high school and college.

Tech Prep is competency-based and aligned with occupational pathways in a sequential course of study. Programs emphasize strong academic, technical, problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. Students complete each program with a demonstrated set of validated competencies that are recognized by business and the cooperating institutions. Tech Prep students are prepared for the world of work and better equipped to meet the needs of tomorrow's workplace.

Advantages of Tech Prep

Students can...

- * Earn college credit while still in high school
- * Ease transition to college
- * Save money on tuition, books and lab fees
- * Gain valuable occupational skills and related work experience
- * Begin training for high paying careers
- * Establish connections with the business or industry of their choice
- * Graduate from college early

Direct Transcription

Each of the state's 22 Tech Prep consortia have developed competency-based articulation agreements between high schools and colleges that help students transition from high school into post-secondary professional-technical programs. Through Tech Prep articulation

agreements, colleges award credit to students who successfully complete college-equivalent courses and programs with a “B” or better while still in high school. Articulation agreements between the individual college and school define the criteria for equivalency and the granting of credit.

Strategies for Program Success

Five goals and strategies have been identified as central to improving Washington’s Tech Prep initiative:

- 1. Accountability** – State policy and local consortia planning will reflect an increased emphasis on the use of data and accountability while reducing administrative burden. A uniform data collection and reporting strategy is needed to demonstrate results, initiate improvements and help ensure long-term sustainability.
- 2. Sustainability** – Increasing the capacity for Tech Prep programs to be self sustaining is an important goal for the state and individual consortia. It is increasingly important to educate and prepare all stakeholders to support and participate in Tech Prep.
- 3. Public Awareness** – Increasing public awareness about Tech Prep is an important goal for the state and individual consortia. Strategic public awareness initiatives will result in increased participation rates and broader support for the program.
- 4. Articulation** – Articulation is essential to ensuring portability of programs, courses, and credits; for linking Tech Prep programs and students with two-year and four-year colleges; and for connecting with K-12 education reforms.
- 5. Standards in the Curriculum** – Standards will provide a framework for the educational system to incorporate new goals and expectations, and to integrate them into program curricula and assessments. Skill standards provide a method for integrating academic and applied learning across educational systems, increasing connections with business and labor, and establishing benchmarks for program quality.

For more information about Tech Prep, contact:
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