

# Tech Prep 101

Tech Prep is a national education initiative defined in the federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 (Perkins IV). Tech Prep is a college preparatory program that provides students with skills and knowledge required to successfully enter the workforce. Through participation in Tech Prep, students are provided an opportunity to connect with their future by preparing for a career while in high school. Tech Prep provides a plan of coursework which may begin as early as the 9th grade and continues through the secondary and post-secondary levels to completion in the post-secondary level as a college certificate or degree. Through articulation agreements, developed between high school teachers and community/technical college instructors, high school students can earn college credit if they earn a "B" (3.0) or better in select classes.

## **§Chapter 61.852(a) in the Texas Education Code states that a (a) tech-prep program is a program of study that**

- (1) combines at least two years of secondary education with at least two years of post secondary education in a nonduplicative, sequential course of study
- (2) integrates academic instruction and vocational and technical instruction;
- (3) uses work-based and worksite learning where available and appropriate;
- (4) provides technical preparation in a high wage and in demand occupations;
- (6) leads to an associate degree, two-year postsecondary certificate, or postsecondary two-year apprenticeship
- (7) leads to placement in appropriate employment or to further education.

## **Tech Prep programs provide valuable education, workforce-related technical skills, and specialized training for all Texas youth**

Through an innovative combination of high school classroom study and real-world work experience, Tech Prep students receive valuable skills and technical training that prepare them to enter the world of work sooner, better educated, and better trained. Tech Prep students start learning technical skills and earning college credit while they are still in high school. Highly versatile, challenging, hands-on, and responsive to current trends in local industry, Tech Prep programs combine the academic courses needed for success in school with the technical courses that begin to prepare students for a career.

## **Tech Prep has proven results**

Research shows that Tech Prep students have higher attendance rates, higher graduation rates, lower dropout rates, and higher college-transition rates than their peers. Further, Tech Prep works for under-represented and at-risk students.

## **Tech Prep saves students and their families time and money**

Because Tech Prep students can get college credit for coursework they finish in high school, they can reach their educational and career goals in a much shorter time. Students can earn up to 12 college credit hours – that's about 4 college courses – while they are still in high school - for free – a potential savings of almost \$1800! Many Tech Prep students are earning more than 12 college credit hours by blending articulated courses, academic dual/concurrent enrollment courses, and career and technical education dual enrollment courses through College Tech Prep programs of study.

# Tech Prep 101 *(cont'd)*

## **Students can go as far as they want**

Whether students are interested in going on to a university for further education, a community college for college coursework, a certificate or an associate degree, or directly into the workforce, Tech Prep offers numerous ways for them to follow their chosen path and reach their goals.

## **Tech Prep is good for local business and industry**

Employers need good employees who are educated, trained, and ready to work. Tech Prep students are just that. Tech Prep helps local business and industry by providing:

- Quality employees – Local neighborhood and community employers are armed with an educated workforce
- Qualified workers – Tech Prep students are trained and ready to work
- Relevant workforce training – Tech Prep students are educated and trained in response to the needs of local business and industry
- Locally based workforce – Local youth study, train, and work in the community
- Quick turnaround – Tech Prep students can receive an associate degree in as little as 1½ years after high school graduation
- A Win/Win Relationship – Through local internships and co-ops, business and industry can provide real world training through partnerships with community teachers and students while receiving valuable skills and labor in return

## **Tech Prep makes good sense in your community**

Times have changed. For today's youth to be successful, it is every bit as important that they make good career decisions as it is that they make good grades in school. More and more of today's jobs require technical skills and specialized training. Tech Prep students have the opportunity to explore career options early. In this hands-on, challenging environment students discover their own interests and skills and experience practical, real-world ways to pursue their goals in a wide variety of high-skill, high-wage or high-demand technical careers. Through their high school experiences, students learn important social skills, a positive work ethic, and gain the motivation and confidence to be successful in their future chosen careers.

*Check with your high school counselor, career specialist or CTE teacher right away to find out what is available locally.*

# Tech Prep Terminology

*Below are descriptions of commonly used terms. For more information please see FAQ.*

## **Articulated Course:**

An Articulated course means a course is covered under a formal agreement between a high school and a college that states that a high school student will receive college credit for the high school course after graduation from high school and subsequent enrollment in the college if the student meets specific requirements outlined in the agreement. Articulated credit may be held in escrow.

## **Articulated Credit:**

Articulated credit, also referred to as “escrow” credit is similar to a bank account. It is credit that is accumulated until all requirements are met and then transferred to college credit.

## **Credit in escrow:**

Credit in escrow means a student receives dual credit for a course taken at one institution (high school) after the student enrolls in the second institution (college). Articulated or “escrow credit” is similar to an account in which credit is accumulated. It is then transferred into college credit once all requirements are met.

## **Concurrent (dual) credit enrollment:**

Concurrent (dual) credit means that the student is enrolled at two institutions simultaneously (such as high school and college) and is paying college tuition. Whereas, Tech-Prep programs do not require students to be concurrently enrolled to earn articulated course credit, but Tech-Prep students can earn additional college credits by concurrent enrollment.