

## **WHAT IS TECH PREP?**

---

### **TECH PREP**

A Tech Prep program is a combined secondary and minimum of two-year postsecondary seamless, integrated program of study with options for work-based learning. This program has a placement component that leads to employment and further education, which may include a four-year degree.

### **A TECH PREP STUDENT**

A Tech Prep student is one who is enrolled in a sequential Career and Technical Education (CTE) course in high school that may lead to internship, apprenticeship, and/or a two or four-year college degree.

### **ARTICULATED CREDIT**

- ❖ Articulated credit encourages students to continue their education beyond high school by defining a specific set of courses, with competencies identified.
- ❖ Students are granted postsecondary credit for course work completed in high school when they enroll at the community college in an articulated program and satisfy defined academic requirements.

## **DUAL CREDIT**

- ❖ Curriculum and textbooks are the same as those used at the college.
- ❖ Classes are taught at the high school or students may go to the community college.
- ❖ Upon successful completion of the course, or courses, students in high school receive both high school and college credit for identified dual credit course(s).
- ❖ Students may begin college with all or part of their freshman credits.

## **BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS**

- ❖ Active involvement in the learning process and career planning
- ❖ Higher expectations and achievement, and increased opportunities
- ❖ Less repetition and enhanced postsecondary placement opportunities
- ❖ Knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to succeed in a high skills, high wage economy
- ❖ Save money on college tuition, save time in earning a college degree, and receive advanced standing in college
- ❖ Life-long learning competencies, including skills in teamwork, critical thinking and problem-solving
- ❖ Systematic matching of the goals of schooling with real life
- ❖ Educational and social environments that value, nurture and reward knowledge *and* skills

## **BENEFITS FOR PARENTS**

- ❖ Coordinated degree programs with identified career paths begin in high school and lead to an associate degree or higher.
- ❖ A focused program of studies includes math, science, English/language arts and technology taught in a meaningful setting.
- ❖ Dual enrollment courses save time and money.
- ❖ High educational costs can be avoided.
- ❖ Students are engaged in learning.
- ❖ Education makes sense and becomes understandable to your student.
- ❖ Parents & students become more involved in career planning.
- ❖ Collaborative partnerships are formed between students, parents, educators, government and business/industry.

## **BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

- ❖ Career guidance keeps students in school, reducing dropouts.
- ❖ Graduates obtain both education and skills for employment today.
- ❖ Lifelong learning and transferable skills allow employees to grow, develop and adapt on the job.
- ❖ Efficient, productive businesses contribute to Virginia's economic prosperity.

## **HOW TECH PREP WORKS**

High school career and technical education prepares students for employment and higher education in careers belonging to one of the following 16 career areas or families:

1. Agriculture and Natural Resources
2. Architecture and Construction
3. Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communication Services
4. Business and Administration
5. Education and Training
6. Finance
7. Government and Public Administration
8. Health Science
9. Hospitality and Tourism
10. Human Services
11. Information Technology
12. Law and Public Safety
13. Manufacturing
14. Retail/Wholesale Sales and Service
15. Scientific Research and Engineering
16. Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics

Students' choices in high school include studies and experiences in a **career area** associated with one of the career families.

TECH PREP blends high-level academic and technical courses that are articulated and/or dual-enrolled with courses at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College. This enables high school students to earn college credits while still in high school and enables them to make a smooth transition, free of duplication, to selected Associate Degree programs at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College after they graduate from high school.

## **WHY IS TECH PREP NEEDED?**

Advancing technology and the evolving service economy will create jobs demanding higher skills, necessitating the move to a high productivity work organization. More than 70 percent of the jobs in America in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century will require some advanced level of education, an average of 13.5 years, with an emphasis on both academic and occupational skills. A high school diploma is not an end goal, but a foundation for future success. Students see little relationship in how well they do in school and what kind of job they can get after school. Tech Prep helps students discover relationships between solid academic skills and the jobs and careers they plan to pursue. The integration of academic and occupational education, with an emphasis on math, science and language arts in a meaningful context significantly will improve the performance levels of students in school and of employees following formal education. Preparation for work and further education will be a key element in an individual's ability to survive successfully in the world-class workforce of the future.

## **HOW CAN YOU PREPARE FOR YOUR FUTURE?**



All individuals can expect to work, earn a living, and build a career. To do this successfully requires planning and selecting a career goal that is right for you. You need to set personal goals that will give focus to your years of education. These goals should be outlined in a career and educational plan developed with the assistance of your family and a school counselor. Your career and educational plan provides a strategy for accomplishing your goals. Consider your abilities, interests, and preferences as you map out your goals and career and educational plan. Career development is a lifelong process and the options and opportunities are limitless.