



TECH PREP EDUCATION

Tech Prep education is a planned sequence of courses designed as career pathways in vocational and technical fields. It begins no earlier than the ninth grade and continues through two to four years of postsecondary education. The postsecondary experience may include participation in a formal apprenticeship program or earning an associate or baccalaureate degree.

Scope

Tech Prep programs:

- Combine at a minimum two years of secondary education with a minimum of two years of postsecondary education in a non-duplicative, sequential course of study;
- Integrate academic, vocational and technical instruction;
- Utilize work-based and worksite learning where appropriate and available;
- Provide technical preparation in a career field such as engineering technology; applied science; mechanical, industrial, or practical arts or trade; agriculture; health occupations; business or applied economics;
- Build student competencies in mathematics, science, reading, writing, communications and economics as well as workplace skills through applied, contextual academics and integrated instruction in a coherent sequence of courses;
- Lead to an associate or baccalaureate degree in a specific career field; and
- Lead to placement in appropriate employment or to further education.

Tech Prep programs require a formal and program-specific articulation agreement between secondary and postsecondary institutions. Tech Prep is made available to all secondary students and prepares them either for direct entry into the workplace as technically skilled employees or into institutions of higher education.

Regulatory Authority

Tech Prep is a federally funded program intended to develop Tech Prep consortiums nationwide. It is supported by the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 (*Public Law 105–332, Title II*). The funds for Tech Prep are jointly administered by the California Department of Education and the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges. Tech Prep programming is supported by the 2000–2004 California State Plan for Vocational and Technical Education (approved in March 2000).

Source: Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998, 2000–2004 California State Plan for Vocational and Technical Education.

For more information visit:

California Department of Education

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/perkins/>

Career Development and Curriculum Leadership Unit

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/shsd/aci/tp/>

California Law, Education and Labor Code

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html>

This factsheet is part of the Work-Based Learning Toolkit and is intended to provide an overview of relevant quality, safety and legal issues relating to work-based learning placements at the time of publication.

It is not intended to provide comprehensive information nor to serve as a substitute for appropriate legal advice.

To access the complete toolkit, visit www.stc-clearinghouse.com or www.nwwo.org