FACT SHEET

TECH-PREP[1] PROGRAM

Tech-Prep[2] is a nation-wide, federally supported program[3] emphasizing career and technical education and the creation of linkages between high schools and community colleges. At the federal level, Tech-Prep was designed to be a sequenced program of study that combines at least two years of high school and two years of postsecondary education. Tech-Prep programs are implemented by consortia of local education agencies and community colleges and typically begin during the 11th and 12th grades of high school and continue into the first two years of college. They are designed to help students gain academic knowledge and technical skills, and often earn college credit for their secondary coursework. Programs are intended to lead to an associate degree or a certificate in a specific career field, and ultimately, to high-wage, high-skill employment or advanced postsecondary training.

Tech-Prep programs vary in implementation and design across states and local consortia. Not all consortia implement the Tech-Prep model as it was originally conceived in federal legislation. Tech-Prep can be classified as singleton[4], comprehensive[5] or enhanced[6] comprehensive credit-based transition programs, depending on the individual state and consortium.[7] The emphasis in Tech-Prep programs is on academic preparation and technical skill-building, although some programs may include some support services and resources for students.

Students take classes at either their high school or the partnering postsecondary institution, with either high school

AT-A-GLANCE

Location of Program: High School or College

Student Mix: High School and College

Instructor: High School or College

Course Content: College Class Curriculum/Syllabus or Specially Designed Curriculum

How Credits are Earned: Through completion of Tech-Prep class or in-escrow (varies by state and program)

Degree of Intensity: Low-Middle, depending on the number of Tech-Prep courses taken by the student

or college professors. Students who take Tech-Prep courses at their high school receive either a specially designed curriculum or use the same curriculum, textbooks, and exams as the college classes. Some Tech-Prep programs have students take their college-level classes at the community college with college students. Students can earn college credit for their secondary coursework based on their completion of a Tech-Prep class. Frequently, students must also enroll in a partnering postsecondary institution and complete additional coursework there in order to receive credit for their high school Tech-Prep courses, in a credit-granting arrangement called credit-in-escrow.