

Tech Prep and Dual Credit Terms

A Working Aid to Communication

Developed by the Vocational Technical Education Providers Group

1. Definition of Tech Prep adopted by UA Programs

(developed by a committee of urban and rural post-secondary and secondary educators, government, and business representatives)

The Tech Prep Program is a partnership between University of Alaska (UA), secondary school districts, and other partnership institutions. It is a program that recognizes technical and related academic preparation and, where possible, work-based learning in a specific career field. It partners secondary education, post-secondary education, labor and business in a sequential course of study without duplication of coursework that will lead a student to a certificate, credential, apprenticeship, associate degree or baccalaureate degree.

2. Federal Definition of Tech Prep

Section 202(a)(3) of Perkins III states that a “Tech Prep program” means a program of study that:

- combines at a minimum 2 years of secondary education (as determined under State law) with a minimum of 2 years of postsecondary education in a nonduplicative, sequential course of study;
- integrates academic, and vocational and technical, instruction, and utilize work-based and worksite learning where appropriate and available;
- provides technical preparation in a career field such as engineering technology, applied science, a mechanical, industrial, or practical art or trade, agriculture, health occupations, business, or applied economics;
- builds student competence in mathematics, science, reading, writing, communications, economics, and workplace skills through applied, contextual academics, and integrated instruction, in a coherent sequence of courses;
- leads to an associate or a baccalaureate degree or a postsecondary certificate in a specific career field; and
- leads to placement in appropriate employment or to further education.

Note: This definition must be used by institutions receiving Perkins III funding when reporting Tech Prep students to the state.

3. Articulation: An agreement to work together to develop seamless transitions for students.

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4. Federal definition of Articulation: “The term “articulation agreement” means a written commitment to a program designed to provide students with a non-duplicative sequence of progressive achievement leading to degrees or certificates in a Tech Prep education program.” (Perkins III, Section 202 (a)(1))
5. Registered (postsecondary): Students enrolled in a class by completing a registration form.
6. Admitted (postsecondary): Students enrolled in a program to earn a certificate or degree by completing an application for admission and being accepted.
7. Enrolled (postsecondary): Same as admitted. Can also refer to taking classes (see registered).
8. Direct Credit: Term is not used by postsecondary registrars. Has been used in the state to indicate that a secondary student receives credit for a course at the time of course completion, instead of at a later time contingent on full time postsecondary enrollment.
9. Concurrent Credit:

A student receives credit from two (or more) institutions for successful completion of a single course.

- a. This may or may not be part of a Tech Prep program. An example that is not Tech Prep is a stand-alone academic course delivered at the secondary school as an advanced placement or brokered course.
 - b. Tech Prep concurrent credit: requires a written standards-based agreement between the secondary school and the postsecondary institution and the course must be part of a sequence of study leading to a credential, certificate, degree and/or apprenticeship in a career area.
 - c. Postsecondary concurrent credit. A postsecondary institution grants credit for a course taken at another postsecondary or adult education institution or agency through a written agreement between the two institutions.
10. Dual credit: Student receives credit from more than one agency or institution for a single course. This is an ordinary language term. It refers to concurrent credit, but also can apply to transfer credits. Specific ways of obtaining dual credit are listed below.

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Types of delivery for dual credit:

- a. Student receives postsecondary credit for a course taught at the secondary institution under an articulation agreement between the secondary and postsecondary institution.
 - b. Postsecondary instructor is paid by a secondary institution to deliver a postsecondary course to secondary students.
 - c. Students register and attend a postsecondary course for which the secondary institution also gives credit.
 - d. Labor union training programs recognize the work done in a secondary program and give advanced apprenticeship standing to the students who complete the program (school to apprenticeship model).
 - e. Labor union training programs provide training for which secondary schools grant credit.
 - f. Secondary and postsecondary institution both give credit for a course taught by a third agency.
 - g. Student receives postsecondary credit for courses taught by another agency or institution, such as an adult basic education provider or an adult correctional facility.
 - h. Student receives postsecondary credit for training provided by another training agency, such as a labor union.
 - i. Transfer credit for prior experience.
 - j. Advanced Placement. A program sponsored by The College Board to offer college level courses at the secondary school.
11. Brokered course: One institution pays another institution to deliver a course to its students. Can be accompanied by a dual credit arrangement.
12. Co-sponsored course: A process through which an institution offers a course whose costs and/or facilities are underwritten or provided by another group, such as a business or industry partner. Can be accompanied by a dual credit arrangement.
13. Work Based Learning: Work based learning refers to learning that results from work experience that is planned to contribute to the intellectual and career development of students. The work experience is supplemented with instruction and activities that apply, reinforce, refine, or extend the learning that occurs during work, so that students develop attitudes, knowledge, skills, and habits that might not develop from work experience alone. For a glossary of terms related to Work Based Learning, see the Work Based Learning Manual at: <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/CTE/workbase.html#guide>
14. School to Apprenticeship: A cooperative education program for secondary students that integrates academic and occupational instruction, includes a paid work experience, and leads to entrance into a registered apprenticeship program. After graduation, participants become full time apprentices and have already completed a number of the requirements.