

Information for Parents

A Youth Apprenticeship is an exciting and valuable opportunity for your high school student, and we want you to be as informed as possible about this two-year program. Just as sports or other extracurricular activities typically demand some degree of parental involvement for a student to be successful, a youth apprenticeship also requires some commitment from parents or guardians.

Learn and Earn

This is a “learn and earn” opportunity and students must be hired by one of the participating employers in order to become youth apprentices. Once applications are sent to the companies, **all hiring decisions are made by the employers.** Trident Technical College does not “place” applicants with companies, and students must be prepared to go on job interviews and regularly check their phone and email messages. You can help by reminding them to check their messages!

It Can Be Competitive

As with any job search and application process, **there is no guarantee that a student will be hired.** For example, in apprenticeship pathways such as Information Technology (Networking, Computer Programming, Cybersecurity and IT Governance), there are many more qualified applicants than available opportunities. This is not to discourage interested students from applying, but it is a competitive program, and some areas are more competitive than others. You can help your student maintain a realistic perspective when applying by discussing options.

This is a Two-Year Commitment

Once a student is hired as a youth apprentice, he or she makes a good faith, two-year commitment to the employer and to the corresponding TTC certificate program. Even if a youth apprentice moves through the college curriculum at an accelerated pace, companies are hiring with the expectation that the apprentice will be with them for the full two years of the program.

Reliable Transportation Is a Must

Youth apprentices must have reliable transportation to work and to the appropriate TTC campus for classes. This may mean a parent or other responsible licensed driver needs to provide rides to work and school. Additionally, any student who applies for an Automotive or Security/Pre-Law Enforcement apprenticeship must have his or her own valid South Carolina Driver’s License.

Grades and Attendance Matter

Youth apprentices are required to be successful in their TTC courses, and you can help by checking in periodically with your student about how she or he is doing in class. Youth apprentices are expected to attend every class session and complete all assignments by their due date, and those taking online courses are expected to be active participants and meet all deadlines and requirements. **Youth apprentices who fail a required course will be responsible for the cost of retaking it, and failing grades may jeopardize their continuation in the program and/or their eligibility to receive Lottery Tuition Assistance.**

Expect Out-of-Pocket Expenses

Some examples of anticipated expenses include:

1. Transportation
2. Background checks (CNA/Pre-Nursing, EMT)
3. Vaccinations/physicals (CNA/Pre-Nursing, EMT)
4. Uniform (EMT)
5. Appropriate footwear (CNA/Pre-Nursing, EMT, Culinary, Manufacturing, Automotive, etc.)
6. TTC admissions application for graduating seniors (\$30)
7. State licensing/exam fees (EMT, CNA/Pre-Nursing)

Youth Apprentices May Take Additional Classes

Youth apprentices may take TTC courses beyond those required by their apprenticeship, but the cost of tuition, fees, and any textbooks and supplies for those courses will be the financial responsibility of the student. Please be sure you and your student understand the costs you may incur before enrolling in courses outside of the youth apprenticeship curriculum.

The Youth Apprenticeship Curriculum Leads to a Certificate in Applied Science

The required courses in each apprenticeship pathway lead to a certificate in applied science from Trident Technical College. ***This is not an associate degree program.*** Youth apprentices may take additional courses leading to a two-year degree, but those costs are not covered by the Charleston Regional Youth Apprenticeship Program.