IDAHO DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION

IDAHO
Division of
Professional-Technical Education
PTE

SKILL STACK

PTE ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES / IDAHO SkillStack

www.pte.idaho.gov

PTE ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES

formerly known as Tech Prep, is one of four advanced opportunities recognized by the State Board of Education. This program links approved high school professional-technical programs to certificate and degree programs at technical colleges.

Policy changes specify two options for high school students interested in advanced professional-technical courses:

1: **Dual Credit**

2: **Technical Competency Credit**
(formerly known as Tech Prep)

1: DUAL CREDIT*

The Dual Credit option allows high school students to simultaneously earn credit toward a high school diploma and a postsecondary degree or certificate. Upon completion of a single course, dual credit is awarded and reflected on both high school and postsecondary transcripts. Students may enroll in dual credit courses taught at high schools, online, or on college campuses.

There are two types of postsecondary credits:

Academic

Academic credits apply to post-secondary academic programs and some postsecondary technical programs.

Technical

Technical credits generally only apply to postsecondary technical programs.

**Students should work closely with their advisor(s) to ensure the credit earned in their dual credit course will apply to their intended postsecondary degree program.*

Dual Credit is eligible for Fast Foward funds, and the cost to students is **$65 per credit.**

2: TECHNICAL COMPETENCY CREDIT (TCC)*

The TCC option allows students to document proficiency in the skills and abilities they develop in approved high school professional-technical courses. TCC is evaluated for postsecondary transcription at a later date within two years. Technical Competency Credits are awarded for skills and competecies identified as eligible through a TCC Agreement between the secondary school and at least one Idaho postsecondary institution; it is not course-to-course articulation. Over time, these articulation agreements will be replaced by SkillStack microcertifications/badges (see SkillStack information section).

*Students participating in a high school program approved for TCC are considered postsecondary students once they actually matriculate to a postsecondary institution. Unfortunately, TCC is NOT eligible for Fast Forward funds, but the cost to student is only $10 per credit.

PTE ADVANCED OPPORTUNITES (SUMMARY)

1: DUAL CREDIT

Catalogued College Course

$65 per credit

- Fees paid at time of registration
- Credit earned simultaneously at high school and college

Fast Forward eligible

2:TECHNICAL COMPETENCY CREDIT (TCC)

Competency Based

$10 per credit

- Fees paid when student chooses to purchase credits within 2 years
- Postsecondary credit awarded at time of purchase

NOT Fast Forward eligible

TRANSITION COORDINATORS

Individuals formerly referred to as **Tech Prep Coordinators,** whose primary focus was to write articulation agreements, are now **Transition Coordinators.** Their focus is to help students enrolled in professional-technical programs transition to college using informed and purposeful decisions.

There are six Regional Transition Coordinators, housed at each technical college.

SkillStack

In partnership with the Department of Labor, the Idaho Division of Professional-Technical Education is formally launching SkillStack* in Fall of 2015. Idaho SkillStack allows high school students to earn microcertifications/badges that are aligned towards postsecondary credit (via Technical Competency Credit), industry certifications, and in-demand jobs. The following professional-technical programs will be released over the course of the 2015-16 school year:

- Administrative Services
- Auto Collision
- Automotive Technology
- Early Childhood Services
- Information Services Support
- Programming & Software Development
- Web Development & Design
- Wedling

Earning SkillStack microcertifications/badges helps students see their progress towards postsecondary and career goals. The students' badge portfolio also links directly to CIS (Career Information Systems) so that they can explore potential careers.

*SkillStack was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment Training Administration. SkillStack was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Why Professional-Technical Education?

- 17 of the 20 occupations with the highest demand in Idaho are tied to PTE Career Pathways

- 92% of technical college graduates found jobs or continued their education

Contact Idaho Division of Professional-Technical Education

Len B. Jordan Building, Room 324
650 W. State Street
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0095

Phone: (208) 334 3216
Fax: (208) 334-3216
www.pte.idaho.gov

IDAHO
Division of
Professional-Technical Education
PTE