

FAQ Sheet

(Frequently Asked Questions)

If I attend the TCTC, does that mean that I am no longer a student at my home school?

No! You always remain a student at your home school, too. You receive your diploma from your home school and attend commencement exercises.

What is the difference between a diploma and a certificate of completion?

A diploma certifies that you have met the graduation requirements of your home school. The certificate of completion signifies that you have successfully completed two years of a career/technical program with at least a 90% attendance rate. The certificate of completion becomes part of your Career Passport which you will receive at an awards ceremony at the conclusion of the senior year.

Does attending the TCTC mean that I can no longer participate in extracurricular activities at my home school?

Absolutely not! TCTC students are dismissed at 2:00 pm daily, allowing plenty of time for you to return to your home school for extracurricular activities. TCTC students are involved in varsity sports, music, drama and many other after-school activities at their home schools.

At the TCTC, will I be involved with my chosen area of interest all day?

TCTC students spend approximately one half of each day in their chosen programs. The other half of each day is spent in academic classes.

What academic classes will I take at the TCTC?

TCTC students take English each of the two years they attend and Government for one of the two years. Students also receive at least one math and one science credit during their two-year program of study. Math courses range from Integrated Math up through Trig/Precalculus and Calculus. Science courses range from Integrated Science up through Physics. Students, together with their home school counselors, select the math and science levels which best fit their needs.

Is there anything I can do now to prepare to attend the TCTC next year?

Yes! Work on your attendance first and foremost. In order to earn a certificate of completion, students must have a 90% attendance rate while here. Now is a good time to start! Also, for some of our programs which lead to state licensure (Cosmetology for example), your attendance this year will be a factor considered when your application is reviewed.

What do I do if I am behind in credits toward graduation?

Since there are limited opportunities to make up credits once a student is at the TCTC, we do not accept students who are more than two credits deficient. You need to speak with your home school counselor **now** to plan how you will make up these credits in order to be able to attend next year. This may involve summer school, correspondence school and/or tutoring.

Can TCTC students attend college after graduation?

While many of our students go directly into the workforce, TCTC students can and do attend a variety of post-secondary institutions after graduating from their home schools and receiving a TCTC certificate of completion. These options range from trade and technical schools to two- and four-year colleges. The higher levels of math and science now offered at the TCTC make this transition easier than ever before.

Do I have to attend the TCTC for a full day?

Some of our TCTC home schools permit students to attend the TCTC for a career/technical program and then return to the home school for academic classes. **You must check with your home school guidance counselor or principal to determine if your home school permits this option.** A few of our programs, however, do not allow for students to attend for only one half of the day. These programs are Cosmetology, Restaurant Services, Hospitality Services, Hotel/Motel and Marketing Education. This is because of the hours required for state licensure as well as to allow students to participate in customer service activities. All other programs are open to students wishing to attend only one half of the day.

Some of the programs seem similar. Can you help me understand some of the differences between these programs?

Some of the programs typically confused are Electrical Technology and Carpentry and Building Trades. Please refer to the TCTC program brochures available in your home school guidance office, the TCTC website at www.tctchome.com or call the TCTC guidance office for clarification. If you inadvertently visited the wrong program on Career Day, we will be happy to arrange a return visit for you if your school permits it. A conference with a program teacher can also be arranged for you and your parents. Our experience tells us that the students who are most successful at the TCTC are those who have done their homework before selecting a program. Programs cannot be changed after the first two weeks of the school year.

What do I do if I change my mind about the TCTC or one of its programs in the fall?

Our home schools and the TCTC ask that you attend the TCTC for the first two weeks of school. If you wish, you may return to your home school at the conclusion of those two weeks. If you think you have chosen the wrong program, simply see your TCTC Guidance Counselor after the first few days of school. He/she will arrange for you to visit other programs. You may change programs any time within the first two weeks of school. Our goal is to make sure that you have made an informed choice.

Does it cost any money to attend the TCTC?

While there are no tuition charges for any students attending the TCTC, there are fees associated with most of the programs. Some examples of these fees are for tools, uniforms and dues for student organizations. All tools and uniforms purchased, however, remain the property of the student for his/her use after completion of the program. In addition, financial aid is available to students who qualify by virtue of good grades and attendance at the TCTC.

Is it true that you have incentive programs for students?

Yes! Good grades and good attendance are important not just for school, but for your future employment as well. Quarterly drawings are held for students with perfect attendance and honor roll status. MP3 Players, Portable DVD Players and Digital Cameras are typical prizes. The grand-prize winner in each category (honor roll and perfect attendance) receives a free iPod touch at the end of the year!

My parents have questions about the TCTC. How can they find answers?

Ask your parents or guardians to call the TCTC guidance office with any questions they may have. We may be reached at either 330-847-0503 or toll free at 1-866-737-6925, extensions 1005, 1006, 1007 or 1010. Parents are also welcome to attend the TCTC Open House scheduled for February 3, 2010. Please visit the TCTC website at www.tctchome.com for additional information.