Charleston Regional Youth Apprenticeships

Regional employers are offering rising high school juniors, seniors and graduating seniors the opportunity to get paid to learn. Youth apprentices receive paid on-the-job training along with classroom instruction at Trident Technical College through TTC’s Workforce Academies. All tuition and costs for apprenticeship-related courses are paid for by the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce for students who are hired as youth apprentices by participating employers.

Apprenticeships are available in the following areas:

- Industrial Mechanics
- Culinary Arts
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Machine Tool Technology
- Hotel Operations
- CNA/Pre-Nursing
- Computer Networking
- Bookkeeping/Pre-Accounting
- Medical Office Assistant
- Computer Programming
- Civil CAD Technician
- HVAC
- Cybersecurity
- Security/ Pre-Law Enforcement
- Automotive Technology

Students who complete the two-year program will receive:
- Paid employment and mentoring from an industry professional
- A high school diploma (for those still taking high school classes)
- One year of college credit from TTC free of charge
- A completion certificate for coursework that may be applied to an associate degree
- National credentials from the U.S. Department of Labor
- Two years of work experience
- Marketable skills for life

To be eligible, a student must:
- Be a rising junior or senior (at least 16 years of age) or a graduating senior
- Achieve qualifying placement test scores
- Demonstrate academic readiness and responsibility
- Have reliable transportation to work and to school
- Be legally able to work in the U.S.
Youth Apprenticeship FAQs

What are Youth Apprenticeships?
Apprenticeships are flexible training programs that cultivate well-educated, highly skilled workers able to meet the demands of a competitive global economy. Youth apprenticeships are open to high school juniors, seniors and graduating seniors, giving them the opportunity to earn while they learn through paid on-the-job training under the direction of an industry mentor. Youth apprentices also take college classes that directly relate to their apprenticeship.

Will my high school schedule change?
Your high school schedule will be adjusted to accommodate the college courses you will be taking at TTC. Youth apprentices usually take high school classes in the mornings and their TTC classes in the afternoons. Your high school counselor will work with you to ensure you meet all of your academic goals and that you are on track to graduate with your high school diploma.

Can I still participate in sports or other extracurricular activities?
Probably not. There simply won’t be room in your schedule. Becoming a youth apprentice requires a serious commitment of time, effort and energy. You will be working a minimum of five hours per week for your employer during the academic year and then full time during the summer between the two years of the program. In addition to regular high school classes, youth apprentices take a specific sequence of college courses each semester over the course of two years. The program is designed for motivated students interested in gaining work experience, on-the-job and in-the-classroom training, and professional connections while still in high school. The demands of the program are significant, but so are the rewards.

How do I apply?
Talk to your high school counselor and ask for a Youth Apprenticeship application and a Dual Credit Application, or go online: www.tridenttech.edu/career/workforce/car_youth_apprenticeships.htm. Return the fully completed packet to your school counselor or to the Office of High School Programs in Building 700/Room 101-B at TTC’s Main Campus, 7000 Rivers Ave. in North Charleston. You may email it to Ellen Kaufman at ellen.kaufman@tridenttech.edu or Tanisha Hook at tanisha.hook@tridenttech.edu. Fax it to 843.574.6489. Mail it to Trident Technical College, Office of High School Programs, P.O. Box 118067, Charleston, SC 29423-8067.

Once my application is complete, am I in the program?
Qualifying placement test scores and a complete application packet are only the first steps. You have to be called for a job interview by one of the participating employers and then receive and accept a job offer. You must be hired by one of the participating companies to become a youth apprentice.

Need more help?
We get it! The process may seem daunting until you talk to someone. If you have questions that haven’t been answered or need some help getting started or completing the application, call Ellen Kaufman in the Office of High School Programs at 843.574.6990, or email ellen.kaufman@tridenttech.edu.