

What Does WITC Offer?

WITC is the college of choice for students who wish to pursue associate degrees, technical diplomas, or certificates, GED/HSED completion, and for those presently employed who wish to advance in their careers. Area employers contract with the college for customized training consisting of specific courses that are developed and taught by WITC instructors at an employer's work site. WITC also provides instruction for apprentices in cooperation with employers and the state of Wisconsin.

Program Sequencing

Courses are scheduled to enable full-time students who enter the fall term (first semester), and carry a full program credit load, to complete all graduation requirements within two or four semesters, depending on their program. WITC cannot guarantee that specific courses will be available as needed to students entering programs at midyear, enrolling part-time, and/or students with non-sequenced academic schedules; nor can we guarantee that a program will not be suspended or discontinued prior to a student's completion.

Associate Degrees (Applied Science)

WITC's associate of applied science (A.A.S.) degrees lead you to employment in a specified career or career advancement. An associate degree may also be the first step towards a bachelor's degree. These programs generally take two years to complete when pursued on a full-time basis.

Technical Diplomas

If you wish to prepare for a specific job or upgrade your job skills, WITC offers specialized programs that lead to a diploma in your chosen field. Diploma programs vary in length from less than one year to two years and provide extensive career training.

Certificates

WITC awards certificates for the successful completion of a group of course(s) targeted toward a specialty area.

Multiple Learning Options

Wisconsin Youth Options

The Youth Options program allows high school students to attend a Wisconsin technical college—either full- or part-time—and earn both high school and technical college credit. You are eligible if you go to a public high school and have completed 10th grade with good academic standing, met any course prerequisites, have written approval from your parent or guardian, and have no history of disciplinary problems. You will need:

1. A completed PI8700A form signed by the school board.
2. A completed Wisconsin Technical College application.
3. A letter from the school board stating which classes, books, and fees are the school district's tuition responsibility.

The program opens the door to greater learning opportunities for those who are motivated to get started on their careers and who are ready to try a new learning environment. If you are interested, you must notify your local school board—using the DPI PI8700-A form—by March 1 for the fall semester or October 1 for the spring semester. Forms are available in your high school guidance office, or see your high school counselor for more information. Youth Options information is also available on the WITC Web site at witic.edu.

Auditing Courses

A student may audit a course to gain a general understanding of a subject matter, but only with approval from the respective instructor (or Academic Dean, if the instructor is not available). This is dependent on the student meeting necessary prerequisites or other course requirements.

A student must decide whether to audit a course at the time of registration and must also complete the Intent to Audit form (can be found on the student portal in a downloadable format or in hard copy from the Student Services office). A student wanting to audit a course must pay the same tuition and fees as a student enrolled for credit. Any course prerequisites must be met before registering and enrolling in an audited course. Under the 1999 Wisconsin Act 154, individuals who are 60 years of age or older are exempt from paying tuition when auditing courses, excluding community service courses and apprenticeship courses on a space-available basis. Any auditor age 60 or over must be a resident of Wisconsin and will be required to pay course material fees and all other applicable student fees.

A student does not earn course credit for auditing a course, nor is an achievement grade awarded at course end. Audited courses may not be used to satisfy the prerequisites or requirements for other courses. Courses taken on an audit basis are not part of the student's credit load for financial aid, veterans' benefits, or for any other purpose for which the college is asked to certify a student's full- or part-time enrollment status.

A student auditing a course is expected to meet attendance requirements, participate in classroom and lab work, and complete all assignments, but is not required to take examinations. At course end, an audited course will reflect a “G” notation on the student’s official record and transcript for that course. A student may not change his or her course enrollment status at a later date to receive credit for an audited course.

The college administration reserves the right to restrict the auditing of any course. Audit options are provided in courses on a space-available basis. Additional course sections do not need to be created to accommodate groups of student auditors.

GED/HSED Completion

GED/HSED preparation is available at WITC Student Success Centers in these communities: Ashland, New Richmond, Rice Lake, Superior, Hayward, Ladysmith, and Spooner. For other current locations, visit witc.edu. All services to adult students are free!

What Is the GED?

The GED requires a student to complete a battery of five (5) tests: Language Arts/Writing, Language Arts/ Reading, Math, Social Studies, and Science.

What Is the HSED?

The High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) is more comprehensive than the GED. The HSED requires all of the GED tests, plus:

- Verifying one-half Health credit earned in grades 7-12 or passing the additional Health test.
- Verifying three Social Studies credits earned in grades 9-12, passing the additional Civics test, or completing a 36-hour, Civics course on campus.
- Completion of Career Exploration Activities.

Who Can Take the GED?

The GED/HSED tests may be taken if you are a Wisconsin resident who is at least 18 1/2 years of age, or if the class with which you entered 9th grade has graduated from high school.

Apprenticeship

What Is It?

An apprenticeship is a state-certified training program that combines paid, on-the-job supervised, experience with 300-600 hours of classroom instruction. Apprenticeships are offered in three occupational areas: construction, industrial, and service. All require a minimum of 2,000 hours of on-the-job work experience. As an apprentice, students will sign a contract between themselves, an employer, and the state that says the student will work for that employer for a specified length of time, if the employer agrees to teach the student a trade. The student will then start the apprenticeship at 40-60 percent of the trade’s journeyworker salary and even receive a salary for daytime classroom hours.

Are You Qualified?

The student must be 16 years or older and have a high school diploma or equivalent, be physically fit, and have the aptitude for the trade. Most employers or joint apprenticeship committees have approved selection standards with more specific requirements. In some trades, the requirements for applicants include up to two years of high school math. Some trades require that the applicant also take an aptitude test.

What Is Offered?

The apprenticeship courses offered at WITC include:

- Barber/Cosmetologist
- Carpentry - Associated Builders and Contractors of Wisconsin
- Maintenance Mechanic/Millwright
- Plumbing
- Bricklaying/Masonry

For a complete list of over 300 state-certified apprenticeships, visit the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Web site at dwd.state.wi.us or call Myra Stachowicz at the Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards Field Representative Office in Chippewa Falls at 800.511.9095 or 715.738.3853.

How Do I Start?

Looking for an apprenticeship is like looking for a job. Applications should be made directly with employers or Joint Apprenticeship Committees. Students should start by learning what they can about the trade by talking to people who are in the occupation: employers employees, high school counselors, WITC instructors and counselors, employers’ associations, and labor unions.

For more information, contact Randy Deli, WITC Apprenticeship Coordinator at 800.243.9482, Extension 5113 or Sue Finstad, Apprenticeship Assistant, Extension 5289 or go to witc.edu.