



Technical Skills Attainment (TSA) Initiative Guiding Assumptions and Roles

System Level Guiding Assumptions

1. The TSA Initiative applies to all WTCS associate of applied sciences degrees, one-year technical diplomas, two-year technical diplomas, and apprenticeships.
2. Colleges will implement TSA assessments for all program graduates.
3. The completion of the assessment(s) is not a requirement for graduation. Assessments can be taken before or after graduation.
4. For WTCS programs sponsored by **multiple colleges**, each college will collaborate to develop a common TSA Assessment Plan for measuring the student achievement of a set of common core program outcomes. Aligned and nonaligned programs will have different approaches to program outcomes.
5. Colleges that sponsor **unique** WTCS programs will also develop a TSA Assessment Plan for measuring student achievement of program.
6. TSA assessments will measure student achievement of industry relevant program outcomes using one or more scoring guides and/or an optional 3rd-party assessment.
7. Perkins Reserve grants will provide financial support to the implementation of the five-year TSA project.
 - a. A limited number of grants will be awarded to colleges. Not all programs will receive a grant.
 - b. Selections of programs to receive grants will give priority to programs with higher numbers of graduates and student enrollments.
 - c. Grants for programs offered by multiple colleges will engage all colleges offering that program.
8. TSA is one of seven indicators for the new Perkins Scorecard.
9. The WTC System Office will use the Client Reporting System for the collection of data.

College Level Guiding Assumptions

1. The College will prepare a proposal for each program and submit it to the WTC System Office for prior approval.
2. The TSA assessment focuses on student achievement of technical skills. It is not intended to a job readiness assessment. The assessment of program outcomes measures application and critical thinking, not the recitation of memorized information.
3. Assessments can be a single end-of-program assessment or multiple assessments with a smaller scope conducted during the course of the program.
4. 3rd-party assessments are an optional alternative to WTCS assessments.
5. Student performance measured by WTCS Assessments will use a similar strategy; however the assessment need not use the identical tool or instrument. Regardless of the assessment instrument or tool, the TSA assessment must use the same scoring guide (criteria and standard of performance).
6. Students will have an opportunity to receive feedback on their performance with details about their areas of accomplishment and the areas that need improvement.

WTC System Office Roles

1. Oversee the development of the TSA process.
2. Approve all District TSA proposals & plans.
3. Provide state-level project information to college administrators and federal government.
4. Implement and monitor Perkins Reserve grants.
5. Conduct data sharing with other state agencies (as appropriate).
6. Integrate TSA information into the new program approval process.
7. Convene multi-college meetings to accomplish planning and implementation goals and timeframes related to the TSA Initiative.
8. Revise and maintain WTCS Educational Services Manual.

WIDS Consulting Roles

1. Participate in all Perkins Reserve grants as a learning/assessment design resource.
2. Support Perkins Reserve grants by using WIDS to produce the following products: 1) WIDS Program File, Program Outcome Summary, 3) WIDS Analyzer Reports. Post these documents to the WTCS Curriculum Bank.
3. Provide technical assistance in the development and verification of program outcomes and performance standards.

College Roles

1. The College is responsible for the planning, implementation, and monitoring of TSA assessments and integrate these activities into the college's annual Perkins Plan.
2. Participate in Perkins Reserve Grants (TSA Assessment) that focus on multiple college programs.
3. Orient both instructional and student service staff to the TSA Initiative (as appropriate).
4. Orient students and manage an effective relationship to engage them in the assessments.
5. Administer WTCS Assessments: facilities, security, student privacy, and staff resources, etc.
6. Collect TSA data and report it to the WTC System Office via the Client Reporting System. Data includes: 1) number of students participating in the assessment, 2) number passing the assessment, and 3) number not passing the assessment. The WTC System Office will designate programs to use the licensure assessments sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Regulation & Licensing.
7. Coordinate the administration and reporting of results for approved 3rd party assessments between the college and vendor/external organization.
8. Incorporate TSA Assessment into the college's continuing improvement process. Review the college's Perkins Scorecard and revise the college's approach as needed.