



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, two-year and less than one 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, colleges will collaborate with WIDS and WTCS (education directors) to develop a common TSA Assessment Plan for measuring the student achievement given a set of common core program outcomes. Aligned and nonaligned programs may have different approaches to TSA Assessment Plan

“Colleges with the identical program number shall use the same Phase I materials including the common program outcomes and TSA (either WTCS Internal Assessment scoring guide or industry validated third party assessment).

5. Colleges that offer WTCS programs shall develop a TSA Assessment Plan for measuring student achievement unique (one college). This should be done in collaboration with WTCS (education directors)
6. TSA assessments will measure student achievement of industry relevant program outcomes using WTCS Internal Assessment (scoring guide) or an industry-validated 3rd-party assessment.
7. TSA is a component of Performance-Based Funding
8. WTCS will use the Client Reporting System (CRS) for the collection of data.

College Level Guiding Assumptions

1. The TSA assessment focuses on student achievement of technical skills. The assessment of program outcomes measures application and critical thinking, not the recitation of memorized (rote) information
2. Assessment results can be compiled using multiple strategies. For example, the TSA can be conducted through a single summative assessment, within various program courses, in a capstone course or through a portfolio process.

3. Industry-validated 3rd-party assessments are an optional alternative to WTCS TSA scoring guides (internal assessments) when they meet the third party assessment criteria checklist.
4. Performance measured by internal WTCS Assessment will use an identical process developed in collaboration with the colleges, WIDS and WTCS (education directors) Regardless of the assessment instrument , the TSA assessment must use the same WTCS TSA scoring guide (program outcomes and critical criteria)
5. Students will have an opportunity to receive feedback on their performance with details about their areas of accomplishment and the areas that need improvement

WTCS Office Roles

1. Oversees the development of TSA process
2. Approves all District TSA proposals
3. Convenes multi-college meetings to accomplish planning and implementation goals and timeframes related to the TSA Initiative
4. Maintains website information dedicated to TSA

WIDS Consulting Roles

1. Facilitates collaborative development of the TSA design process
2. Creates a WIDS program project on the WTCS Repository that includes all of the following (as applicable)
 - Aligned program outcomes and critical criteria
 - Relevant external standards (if appropriate)
 - Linked outcome matrices with program outcomes linked to external standards (when external standards are used)
 - Course assignment matrices with program outcomes assigned to courses (when courses are aligned)
 - WTCS TSA Scoring Guide (performance assessment task) unless a third party assessment is selected
3. Provides technical assistance in the development and verification of program outcomes and performance standards and critical criteria
4. Posts these documents to the WTCS Repository and publishes the projects for colleges to obtain.
 - Program outcome summary
 - Assigned outcome matrix (aligned programs only)
 - WTCS TSA Scoring Guide (unless a third party assessment is selected)
 - TSA Phase I Approval Request

College Roles

1. Responsible for the planning, implementation, and monitoring of TSA Assessments.
2. Participates in TSA Assessments involving multiple college programs
3. Orientates instructional and student service staff to the TSA Initiative
4. Orientates students and manages an effective relationship to engage them in the assessments
5. Administers WTCS Assessments in compliance within college privacy and security practices
6. Collects TSA data and reports it via the WTCS Client Reporting System. This data includes:
 - number of student not assessed (9)
 - number of students assessed, passing the assessment (1)
 - number of students assessed, not passing the assessment (2)
7. Coordinates the administration and reporting of results for approved 3rd party assessments between college and vendor/external organization
8. Incorporates TSA Assessment into the college's continuing improvement process
9. Understands the connection between TSA and Performance-Based Funding