

Training Webinar: Advanced Technical Certificates (ATC)

October 27, 2020

Q&A

- **Are ATCs recognized by Business & Industry? Will it truly add value for the student?**
 - The ATC guidelines have been revised, in part, to create better bridges to business and industry. When an ATC is submitted to System Office for approval, the college will have to demonstrate its value and labor market outlook, just like any other credential.
- **As long as the courses included in the ATC are financially aidable, is the ATC aidable as well?**
 - Aidability is based upon credits and clock hours. Each ATC will be different; consult with your institution's financial aid office to determine eligibility.
- **Do ATCs qualify for financial aid coverage, or is it like a TD and based on credits and clock hours?**
 - Aidability is based upon credits and clock hours. Each ATC will be different; consult with your institution's financial aid office to determine eligibility.
- **Wouldn't the financial aid rules apply across all colleges in the same way? Would one college's financial aid office approve aid while another does not?**
 - If an ATC is aidable at one college, the same ATC should be aidable at all colleges; however, not every ATC will be aidable.
- **Originally, ATC implementation was designed to be a quick response mechanism (i.e. when a major employer closes down) and would need to be renewed every three years. How do the new ATC guidelines compare?**
 - If a quick response is needed, local certificates are encouraged. If this is a long-term solution needed in your District, go through the full approval process to be an ATC.
 - ATCs no longer need to be renewed every three years
 - Difference between ATC and TD: prior knowledge is required for ATC. It is not an entry-level credential.
- **We offer the preschool credential that is part of our ECE program. This is approved by DCF, but will it be impacted through WTCS at all?**
 - Not currently used as ATCs, but we could have a conversation about whether they would be viable for going through the process.
 - ATCs are reviewed are just like any other credential; please reach out to the education director if you have questions.
- **Should the curriculum be built/reported with "occupational specific/supportive" designated courses or will there be a new "advanced technical occupation" course type for those?**
 - This is a good idea that we will explore with the new data system.
- **Can you clarify what constitutes an advanced course? Is this simply a course that is newly developed and does not appear in existing programs and/or credentials? Will there be curricular standards that these courses must adhere to?**

- At this time, the baseline is that these are advanced content not already in the existing associate degree or technical diploma. However, there will need to be conversations with the education director to understand what the advanced content will be.
- No specific standards except that it should be beyond an Associate Degree level; responsibility is on college and advisory committees. We will rely on your expertise.
- **When offering an ATC as a local certificate prior to WTCS board approval, should those courses be submitted with a CE code of 92 instead of 93?**
 - Until it is fully approved, use the correct code for a local certificate because it is still a local certificate.
- **Will there be an expectation for these programs to participate in the TSA process?**
 - Yes, ATCs will be expected to participate in the TSA process.
- **What are the implementation dates?**
 - The ESM guidance is published and colleges can start developing and submitting ATCs now.
 - However, our WTCS data system cannot currently accept program curriculum due to the new Aid Code 11.
 - In the interim, a spreadsheet will be used to track curriculum; it will not actually be in the portal.
 - The timing for when ATC curriculum will be accepted into the portal will depend on our Course/Curriculum/Program Data System rewrite process, which we hope will be done by the end of next year.
- **Will the Concept Review and Program Approval forms ask about criteria for admitting students?**
 - Continue to use the current CR/PA forms. We will add a place for an attachment to show that demonstration.
- **When will the new portal system be available?**
 - No firm date, but likely end of next year.