

# TECH PREP

St. Petersburg College SPC

College Preparation with an edge

In the last 100 years, there have been many changes to the way we work and live

In 1900

Only 10 percent had high school diplomas

Less than 3 percent had a college degree

One in four had less than a fifth grade education

Muscle was more important than knowledge

Today

More than 80 percent have a  
high school diploma

About 25 percent have a four  
year college degree

Look how the demand for workers has changed over the years

Job Skill Level Changes 1950-2005 Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Unskilled in 1950 was at 60 percent and went to 35 percent by 1991 and 10 percent by 2005

Skilled in 1950 was at 20 percent and went to 45 percent in 1991 and 70 percent by 2005

Profession stayed at 20 percent

This change continues as we see

Decline in manufacturing and  
low-skill jobs

Increased demand for  
highly-skilled workers

## **New job titles have been created in the past 75 years**

Radiology technologist  
Highway engineer  
Television producer  
Air traffic controller  
Organ donor coordinator  
Computer programmer and  
network administrator

But, as the changes continued, studies were revealing disappointing facts ...

Our students were not getting the academic knowledge and skills needed to get new jobs

Students lacked the foundation to enter training programs that lead to new jobs nor were they prepared for college level work

Then in 1990, Federal legislation created

Tech Prep

It's purpose was:

- To meet needs of students
- To meet needs of employers
- To create a better-prepared workforce for our high-tech global economy

## FACTS:

Most high-paying careers require education beyond high school...either technical school or college

Students need to be well prepared for college or other postsecondary technical education

Tech Prep involves students in rigorous high school programs that connect to post-secondary study and lead to high-skill, high-wage careers

Tech Prep requires at least two years of high school linked to two years postsecondary study in:

a college, or  
a technical school, or  
an apprenticeship

2 + 2

Many Tech Prep programs allow students to apply course work done in high school or technical school as college credit and continue on to a four year college degree

Tech Prep blends  
**Rigorous academics**  
with  
**Career-technical courses**

It builds strong academic foundations, equipping students with essential skills:

- math
- science
- technology
- written and oral communications

## **What are the benefits of Tech Prep?**

### **For students:**

- College credit for courses completed in high school
- Strong core of academics as base for various careers
- Cutting-edge technical expertise
- Exposure to high-paying careers

## **What are the benefits of Tech Prep?**

### **For parents:**

- Reduced tuition costs and other expenses
- More motivated students who have a career focus

## **What are the benefits of Tech Prep?**

### **For employers:**

- Better educated workforce
- Fewer shortages of skilled labor
- Reduced training costs
- Employees who are able to apply knowledge and skills to solve problems
- Opportunity to dictate curriculum needs

## **What are the benefits of Tech Prep? For teachers and schools**

- More interesting coursework
- Fewer disciplinary problems
- Better grades for students
- Fewer dropouts
- Better preparation for higher education
- Smoother transition from high school to higher education

To find out more about Tech Prep, go to:  
<http://www.spcollege.edu/central/techprep>

Tech Prep