



WTCS Systemwide Activity Update October 2024

Tools of the Trades Scholarship Begins Comprehensive Study

In its eleventh year, [Ascendium's Tools of the Trade Scholarship Program](#) provides funding to apprentices for expenses related to their training, including the purchase of tools, equipment and clothing, tuition, and more. To date, the program has provided over \$5 million in scholarships to just over 3,500 apprentices statewide. Ascendium and the [Wisconsin Technical College System](#) (WTCS) are partnering with Mathematica Policy Research on a comprehensive, three-part study of the program's effects. A retrospective study looking back on demographics and outcomes for recipients compared to non-recipients is expected to yield outcomes by early 2025. An implementation study interviewing WTCS staff and students on their experiences will occur over winter 2024 and spring 2025. Finally, an impact study using random assignment of students and tracking their progression, completion, and employment will take place over the next 4 years.

New Programs in 2024

In calendar year 2024, 10 new apprenticeship programs were approved, with 5 (bolded) being new to system:

50-070-1 Agricultural Equipment Apprenticeship – Fox Valley Technical College

50-508-2 Dental Assistant Apprenticeship – Chippewa Valley Technical College

50-512-1 Surgical Technology Apprenticeship – Northwood Technical College

50-522-1 Teacher Apprenticeship – Waukesha County & Fox Valley Technical Colleges

50-531-1 Paramedic Apprenticeship – Chippewa Valley Technical College

50-154-1 IT-Service Desk Technician Apprenticeship – Gateway Technical College

50-307-1 Early Childhood Educator Apprenticeship – Mid-State Technical College

50-410-1 Carpentry Apprenticeship – Northcentral Technical College

50-412-3 Diesel Technician Apprenticeship – Gateway Technical College

50-420-2 Machinist Apprenticeship – Western Technical College

Program Highlight: Teacher Apprenticeship Program

The Teacher Apprenticeship had its first enrollment this fall (2024). This program prepares apprentices to work as paraprofessionals in a school setting serving students in any combination of grades K-9. Teacher apprentices will engage in the planning and preparation of learning for students, create and maintain safe and effective learning environments and develop and deliver meaningful learning experiences based on assessment of and for learning. Apprentices will earn an associate degree from their technical college and a bachelor's degree from a partner four-year institution, currently Lakeland University. Apprentices are employed as teaching paraprofessionals, with apprenticeship completers receiving a K-9 teaching license.

Curriculum Updates 2024-25

Each year, WTCS and WIDS collaborate on a review and revision of program curricula to ensure common standards across shared programs and update to current industry standards. Apprenticeship programs are reviewed on a 5-year cycle, and 2024-25 begins the 5th year of that cycle. The following programs are being reviewed this year:

50-001-1 Arborist Apprenticeship

50-412-2 Diesel Technician Apprentice

50-420-2 Machinist / 50-439-1 Tool Maker / 50-439-3 Tool & Die / 50-439-5 Mold Maker

50-427-3/ 50-427-5/ 50-427-9 Plumbing Apprenticeships

50-420-1 Injection Mold Set-Up (Plastic)

50-444-1 CNC Machine Operator

WTCS Offering Licensing Exams

The Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) oversees the licensing examinations for Journeyworker Electrician and Plumber, among others. DSPS has partnered with Pearson Vue to offer testing at an expanded array of testing centers. The Journeyworker Electrician exam can now be taken at any Pearson or Pearson Partner Site, which includes over 50 locations. Most WTCS campuses have testing centers approved as Pearson Partner Sites, so apprentices can now complete their Journeyworker credential on campus. At this time, the Journeyworker Plumbing exam is only available at Pearson owned and operated sites due to the requirement of physical blueprints to review.

[2021-22 WTCS Apprenticeship Completion Report](#)