

	CURRICULUM OR INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN		
	DATE OF LAST REVISION	DATE OF LAST REVIEW	COE SELF-STUDY REFERENCE
	12/09/2024	12/13/2024	STANDARD 2 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

SCOPE OF SERVICES:

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology Knoxville, is governed by the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) system, which oversees the state's colleges of applied technology. As such, TCAT Knoxville adheres to the statewide curriculum approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR), ensuring consistency in the quality and content of the curriculum and instruction of its educational programs.

Through a combination of classroom learning, hands-on projects, clinical/externships, and real-world work experiences, the instructional plan at TCAT Knoxville is designed to prepare students for success in high-demand occupations. By aligning with the TBR-approved curriculum, the college offers a wide range of career and technical programs that meet the evolving needs of the local and regional workforce.

TCAT Knoxville is committed to providing accessible, affordable, and high-quality education that empowers its students to develop the expertise, professional attitudes, and problem-solving abilities that employers seek. The college's curriculum is tailored to equip students with the specialized skills, practical knowledge, and hands-on experience required for their chosen career paths.

BUDGETARY RESOURCES:

TCAT Knoxville's curriculum and instructional plan are supported by a comprehensive budget that draws from state appropriations, allowing for investments in faculty professional development, in-service training for each program, and the acquisition and maintenance of essential safety equipment and industry-standard instructional tools.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES:

TCAT Knoxville's curriculum or instructional plan is designed to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for success in their chosen occupations. To ensure competencies of the approved curriculum are met, faculty maintain syllabi for each course of study, identifying expectations and tasks. This comprehensive approach encompasses a variety of learning experiences and support mechanisms, including:

- Occupational Skills and Academic Competencies: At the core of the curriculum or instructional plan is the development of job-specific skills and academic competencies essential for excelling in the field. Through a carefully curated curriculum, students receive comprehensive instruction in technical knowledge, professional work habits, and essential soft skills, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication.
- Hands-on Practice: Recognizing the importance of applied learning, TCAT Knoxville provides ample opportunities for students to work with equipment and materials directly relevant to their chosen occupations. This hands-on approach allows students to hone their skills and build confidence, ensuring they are well-prepared to transition seamlessly into the workforce and contribute immediately to their employers' operations.

- **Health and Safety:** Maintaining a safe and healthy work environment is a top priority. Accordingly, job-related health and safety protocols are an integral component of the instructional plan, with tailored training on essential safety practices and emergency procedures.
- **Orientation to Technology:** As technology transforms modern industries, TCAT Knoxville's curriculum places a strong emphasis on developing technological competencies. Upon acceptance of their chosen program of study, students undergo an orientation to the college, including digital resources and platforms, which include registering for classes, and accessing their student email accounts, which is introduced upon initial application processes and continued into the classroom with the incorporation of Microsoft Teams and other collaborative tools.

Throughout their studies, students receive training on equipment, software, and digital tools specific to their field of study. Ongoing technical support is also available to ensure students can seamlessly integrate technology into their work and adapt to evolving industry standards. This multifaceted approach prepares graduates to be adaptable professionals who can effectively leverage technology to enhance their practice and contribute to their employers' operations.

EVALUATION:

TCAT Knoxville's curriculum and instructional plan are evaluated annually to ensure effectiveness and relevance. This process begins with a program review by the college's occupational advisory committees, which are composed of industry experts. These committees provide valuable insights into current trends, emerging technologies, and evolving skill requirements within the field. The advisory committee also closely examines the program content and equipment to ensure alignment with the industry's best practices. The feedback and recommendations from these advisory committees are discussed during state-wide program curriculum meetings, where individual program faculty engage in a collaborative assessment of the current offerings.

During these in-service sessions, faculty members collaboratively discuss the curriculum, identify improvement opportunities, and implement necessary updates to maintain alignment with industry standards and workforce development needs. Requested changes to the program curriculum are submitted to the Tennessee Board of Regents for review. This comprehensive, multi-stakeholder approach ensures that TCAT Knoxville's educational programs remain dynamic and responsive to the evolving professional landscape, equipping students with the knowledge and skills required for long-term career success.

STAKEHOLDERS WITH WHOM THE PLAN IS SHARED

The plan is available to all employees and students online at www.tcatknoxville.edu.