Important Things to Know for Students & Parents

Orange County Public Schools  ·  Osceola District Schools  ·  Valencia College

Career Pathways (formerly Tech Prep) Consortium

Career Pathways is a program that provides students with an opportunity to prepare for a career and college. A student begins Career Pathways in high school focusing on higher academics and then links high school studies with a program at the technical center or Valencia College. Students save time and money by earning college credits for work accomplished in high school by taking a program area Career Pathways joint assessment. The information below addresses commonly asked questions about how the Career Pathways program works.

Commonly Asked Questions

Now that I have signed a Career Pathways Program Plan, what does that mean?
You have now been identified as a Career Pathways student and will be eligible to take an assessment upon successful completion of the required course(s). As you continue in your career pathway, you may be asked to sign up on another program plan to take advantage of another assessment opportunity.

When will I take the assessment?
Your Career & Technical Education (CTE) Specialist will notify you when the assessment will be given at your school. Each program area has a different assessment. It could be a test, interview, portfolio, lab activity or a combination of these activities. The assessment is given near the end of the school year.

When will I be notified of the results?
You should receive results by the end of the school year. Keep in mind that in some areas, many students are taking an assessment. Some areas have portfolios that need to be graded, which takes more time.

What credits will I earn?
Check with your CTE Specialist or teacher for a copy of the Career Pathway which provides information about the program area in which you are enrolled.

Must I attend Valencia or the Tech Centers in Orange or Osceola in order to receive the Career Pathways credits?
Yes. At Valencia, you must enroll and attend after high school graduation in order to receive the credit. Dual enrollment and early admission do not qualify since these activities take place before high school graduation. In the summer immediately following high school graduation, Summer Term B is the first available term you can receive your Career Pathways credits. At the Tech Centers, any time spent at the technical center during high school applies toward completion of your program once you graduate and enroll as an adult. The credits will expire 24 months after high school graduation.

How will I receive the credits?
In the first term at Valencia, the credits will be placed on your college transcript. You do not have to register for the classes that you earned through Career Pathways. If your social security number is on file in the Valencia Career Pathways office your credits should automatically post to your transcripts. If your social security number is not on file, please contact the Valencia Career Pathways office at 407-582-3489 in your first term of enrollment. Upon enrolling at a Tech Center, your competencies from high school will be evaluated and hours awarded.

Do I have to pay for these credits earned through Career Pathways?
No. At Valencia, you don’t have to pay for the college credits that you earn through Career Pathways, but you must pay the regular application fee to the college when enrolling. Tuition for any other courses you may take must be paid. At the Tech Centers, there are no fees for competencies earned prior to high school graduation. Enrollment in a Tech Center following graduation requires payment of tuition, books, and any other supplies.

Can I also be eligible for a Bright Futures Scholarship?
Yes, check with your Guidance Counselor for information about the Bright Futures Scholarships. Financial Aid is also available.

Can I transfer this college credit to other colleges after attending Valencia?
If you don’t plan to earn an associate’s degree at Valencia, but plan to go directly to a university, you should check with that university about whether it will accept Career Pathways credits. Even though you must attend Valencia for at least one class to receive your Career Pathways credits, the college you will be attending will determine whether these credits will be accepted. At Valencia, if you earn an A.S. / A.A.S. or college credit certificate degrees, the credits may serve as part of the program requirements or as elective credits. If you earn a transfer degree, the credits might serve as an elective toward the degree earned at Valencia.

Equivalent credits may be awarded at Seminole State College in some program areas. Check with the admissions office at Seminole State College for more information.