



Transition

T E N N E S S E E

Community College

Within the State of Tennessee, the College System of Tennessee (otherwise known as the Tennessee Board of Regents) has 13 community colleges. Community colleges provide training for a variety of career fields. Community Colleges offer both technical certifications and associate degree programs. Many of the associate degrees are part of the Tennessee Transfer Pathways that can be transferred into a Tennessee public university to apply credit towards a bachelor's degree.

What programs does a community college provide?

Each of the 13 community colleges have different program offerings. Prospective students can go to <https://www.tbr.edu> to explore the different colleges and the programs available at each college.

What areas of Tennessee do they serve?

Community Colleges are located across the state. With 46 main campuses and 115 teaching locations in 90 of the 95 counties in Tennessee, the College System of Tennessee has many options to serve residents throughout the State.

Is there a cost and, if so, who pays?

The cost to attend a community college varies by institution, but generally it costs less than \$10,000 per year, and many programs do not exceed two years in length. There are also different



scholarships and federal grants available to students such as: Tennessee Promise, Tennessee Reconnect, Tennessee Hope Scholarships, Pell grants, federal supplemental educational opportunity grants, federal work-study, Tennessee Student Assistance Award (students who are TN residents and have Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of \$2,100 or less). More information on the Tennessee scholarships available can be found online at: <https://www.tn.gov/collegepays.html>

For which students might community college be appropriate?

Students with a high school diploma or HiSET/ GED who want to seek employment in a technical field are appropriate candidates to attend a TCAT. Community colleges prepare students to enter the workforce imminently, but they also provide students with the ability to continue their academic path at a traditional university.



How do I apply?

The first step is to decide on your career interests and goals. Find the community colleges that have your program of interest and apply online through the college's website. The application process requires: an application for enrollment, proof of HiSET/GED or high school diploma, and FAFSA application (tax information will be necessary).

What is the family's responsibility?

It is the family's responsibility to help their student explore if a community college is the right fit for their child after they leave high school. In addition to finding the best academic fit, it is important to determine the best financial fit based on what is affordable.

What is the student's responsibility?

The student is responsible for sincerely considering their interests and goals. The student should put forth effort in researching potential career options, and then attempt to shadow, observe, or intern with someone in the related field.

What is the responsibility of an educator?

Teachers should share information about the College System of Tennessee to students who are interested in seeking technical careers. Teachers can also incorporate community colleges into the career awareness and exploration activities in the classroom to help them identify if this is a postsecondary option that they would like to pursue.

Where can I learn more?

Visit their website at: www.tbr.edu

How (and when) do you involve them in the transition planning process?

- Teachers should help students conduct online research or visit a nearby community college for a tour as part of career awareness and exploration learning opportunities.
- Invite an admissions counselor from a community college to come speak to the student about the courses offered and other opportunities available.
- Students who are interested in attending a community college can try to find internships or job shadowing experiences related to the field they are interested in so that they can determine if they want to pursue an education in that field.

What questions should I ask of TCAT?

- What programs are available on this campus?
- Does career services to help students seek employment after they finish their program?
- What is the cost of attendance?
- What degrees are accepted when applying for admission?