



Within the State of Tennessee, the College System of Tennessee (otherwise known as the Tennessee Board of Regents) has 27 colleges of applied technology. Commonly referred to as a “TCAT” the colleges of applied technology provide training for a variety of career fields. Some of the many programs TCATs have to offer include: aesthetics, automotive technology, computer information technology, cosmetology, dental assisting, early childhood education, truck driving, welding technology, etc.

What programs does this college provide?

Each of the 27 colleges of applied technology have different program offerings. Prospective students can go to <https://www.tbr.edu/academics/programs> to explore the different colleges and the programs available at each college.

What areas of Tennessee do they serve?

TCATs 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 college of applied technology varies by program, but generally it costs less than \$10,000 per year, and many programs do not exceed a year 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), and the Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant. More information on the Tennessee scholarships available can be found online at: <https://www.tn.gov/collegepays.html>.

For which students might be a technical certificate or degree 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. Further, TCATs partner with high schools with dual enrollment programs starting the junior year of high school. Dual enrollment courses not only



help a student finish their high school diploma, but also can provide students with college credit to help them earn a certificate or degree faster.

How do I apply?

The first step is to decide on your career interests and goals. Find the TCAT that has 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 college of applied technology 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 TCATs 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 TCAT for a tour as part of career awareness and exploration learning opportunities.
- Invite an admissions counselor from a TCAT to come speak to the student about the courses offered and other opportunities available.
- Students who are interested in attending a TCAT 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 TCAT offer career services to help students seek employment after they finish their program?
- What is the cost of attendance?
- What types of accommodations are made for students with disabilities?