

The Technical College System of Georgia: An Overview

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The Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) oversees the state's technical colleges, adult literacy programs, and a host of economic and workforce development programs. TCSG provides a unified system of technical education, adult education, and customized business and industry training to grow and sustain the workforce pipeline.

The mission of the Technical College System of Georgia is to build a well-educated, globally competitive workforce. TCSG strives to enhance the economic well-being of Georgia's citizens by providing state-of-the-art technical education that prepares students to seamlessly transition into high quality careers. This overview provides basic information about the five functions of TCSG: technical education, adult education, workforce development, economic development, and Georgia QuickStart. In AY 2023, TCSG served 506,204 individuals across its five divisions.[1]

Technical Education

TCSG colleges offer comprehensive technical education designed to provide students with the skills and knowledge needed for successful entry or re-entry into the workforce, with a specific focus on high-demand industries. TCSG colleges provide training in a wide variety of disciplines, including manufacturing, healthcare, information technology, and transportation. These classes are offered across 22 colleges with 88 campuses, as well as a wide variety of online options. TCSG offers certificate, diploma, and associate degree programs. Students may also earn microcredentials upon successful completion of certain courses.

TCSG's student population in the 2023 academic year was, on average, just under 25 years old, 63.6% female, and 58.7% Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC).[2] Twelve colleges were designated as Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs) for the 2023 academic year.[3] PBIs are defined as a college or university that serves at least 1,000 undergraduate students, have at least 50% low-income or first-generation degree-seekers enrolled, and enroll at least 40% Black American students.

In the 2023 academic year, TCSG served 136,114 technical education students, and TCSG achieved a graduation rate of 76%.[4] Further, 91% of TCSG graduates are employed in a field related to their degree one year after graduation, with total post-graduation placement at 99%.[5] TCSG also guarantees that graduates from degree, diploma, and technical certificate courses will be able to perform competently as defined by industry standards.[6] Any graduate who is determined to lack such competencies shall be retrained at no cost to the employer or the graduate. In the past three years, only three students in the entire state have returned to TCSG under this warranty program.[7]

These statistics highlight the effectiveness of TCSG programs in preparing students for the workforce through practical, relevant training. By maintaining strong connections with employers and providing workforce-relevant training, TCSG is a trusted resource for employers seeking skilled and competent professionals.

Adult Education

Roughly 1.1 million adult Georgians lack a high school diploma.[8] This population may also be housing-insecure, single parents, low-income, and/or are previous criminal offenders.[9] As such, this group, when seeking further education, comes with a wide range of unique challenges and barriers. The Office of Adult Education (OAE) strives to overcome these barriers to provide this group of underserved Georgians greater educational and career opportunities.

TCSG’s 28 adult education programs are administered by TCSG technical colleges, community- and faith-based organizations, and school districts. OAE offers a wide variety of services to adult learners (individuals aged 16 and older who have not completed their high school education), including high school equivalency (HiSET/GED) preparation and testing, adult literacy programs, English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction, civics education, family literacy programs, and workforce training.

Additionally, the CareerPlus Diploma program allows students who did not finish high school to receive college credit while they complete high school course work. Career Plus students gain high-demand workforce skills in business, construction, healthcare, computer science, and other high-demand fields while earning a high school diploma.[10] When linked with the Hope Career Grant, an adult learner can go from having no high school diploma to holding a college degree in a high demand field, all tuition free.

Award Types

Associate degrees:
Minimum 60 credit hours.

Diplomas: Minimum 37 credit hours.

Technical Certificate:
These vary significantly based on program, ranging from 3-36 credit hours.

Microcredentials:
These also vary significantly based on program, but typically require no more than a few weeks of work

Roughly a quarter of adult education students receive ESL instruction,[11] which is also free and available online and at multiple locations across Georgia. Classes are also offered on civics and other topics for adults who wish to attain U.S. citizenship.

In FY23, 37,863 students took advantage of adult education classes,[12] with 3,463 of these students receiving their high school equivalency throughout the year.[13] The majority of these students were female and BIPOC.[14] Classes are offered at over 330 instructional sites, with more than 750 instructors.[15] Over 60% of adult education students are served through online courses. High school equivalency training is also provided at four Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) sites.[16]

The Office of Adult Education is critical for the empowerment of adult learners with necessary skills and credentials to pursue higher education or to enter the workforce more competitively. By addressing basic skill gaps and offering pathways to higher education and careers, the program aims to enhance the economic well-being and quality of life for adult learners across Georgia.

[1]TCSG’s academic year (AY) for technical education runs from fall to summer. For example, AY2023 includes fall 2022, spring 2023, and summer 2023. AY2023 is the latest academic year for which data are available.
 [2]TCSG Administrative Data
 [3]US Department of Education
 [4]TCSG Administrative Data
 [5]TES2023
 [6]Guaranteed Education – TCSG | Technical College System of Georgia
 [7]TCSG Administrative Data
 [8]Source: 2019 ACS 5-Year Estimates, B15001
 [9]Statewide Performance Report - WIOA Title II Adult Education Program - Georgia
 [10]Career Plus High School Diploma Program – TCSG | Technical College System of Georgia
 [11] 2022 Fast Facts-web.pdf(tcsg.edu)
 [12] TCSG Administrative Data
 [13] MES0205 and TCSG Administrative Data
 [14].Georgia Statewide Performance Report FY 2023, Statewide Performance Report - WIOA Title II Adult Education Program - Georgia
 [15] 2022 Fast Facts-web.pdf(tcsg.edu)
 [16]Ibid

Economic Development

The Economic Development offices at TCSG's colleges provide customized contract training for employees of more than two thousand companies across the state.[1] Economic development programs offer customized, non-credit training designed to meet the needs of local industry. Whether it's for incumbent workers for facility upgrades, new employee training, or leadership development, TCSG colleges have the resources and expertise to develop individualized plans to meet corporate needs at the local level.

With over six million training hours in fiscal year 2023, the economic development program has grown by 15% in the last year[2]. Collaborating with 2,388 companies, TCSG provided more than 6.4 million training hours to 68,215 individuals.[3] Employees may be trained in a wide variety of high-utility programs, such as forklift certification, OSHA 10 Safety Training, and ServSafe (food and beverage safety training.) Offering flexible scheduling and delivery options, both online and face-to-face, TCSG's economic development programs help workers develop professionally and advance their careers while growing state and industry workforce capacity.

WorkSource Georgia

TCSG's Office of Workforce Development (OWD) is the administrator of WorkSource Georgia and provides job training under Titles I (adult and youth programs) and III (dislocated workers) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). WorkSource provides career services across the state through 19 local state officers to local workforce development programs. Career/Employment services were brought under the OWD in 2023, bringing the total number served by the department in AY 2023 to 196,234.[4]

In 2022, OWD established Georgia's first ever state-funded apprenticeship expansion program. This program, known as the High Demand Career Initiatives Program, was a proven success in its first year, leading to more than \$1 million dollars in new worker investment and a 48% increase in wages for apprentices involved.[5] The program is projected to serve hundreds of apprentices and employers across the state and is estimated to add nearly \$6 million to Georgia's total worker income the coming years.

TCSG will further work through the WorkSource program to utilize the Apprenticeships for Economic Recovery Grant, which will create even more apprenticeships in industries critical to building the Georgian economy. This will support more than 900 new apprenticeships in strategic industries like advanced manufacturing, healthcare, logistics, and broadband. In addition, an Apprenticeship State Expansion Grant will support another 685 apprentices and over 100 Georgian employers.[6]

Georgia Quick Start

Whether a company is looking to move to Georgia, expand their workforce, or build out new technological capacity to stay competitive, Quick Start exists to provide a rapid, customized response to train up and hire a highly skilled workforce to carry out that growth at no cost to the employer. Georgia Quick Start is the nation's top ranked workforce training program.[1]

Georgia Quick Start has collaborated with some of the largest economic projects in Georgia history, playing an important role in recent investments from Rivian, Hyundai, SK Battery, and Archer Aviation. Roughly 60% of the companies served by Quick Start are new businesses, 73% were Georgia-based manufacturers, and 60% of the projects (with 85% of the trainees) were outside the Metro Atlanta area. Quick Start served 67,778 trainees overall in 2023 and created 32,450 new jobs.[2]

Conclusion

The Technical College System of Georgia is committed to addressing the practical, educational, and economic needs of the state of Georgia. TCSG provides training and career assistance to a population as broad and diverse as the state itself. From English language learners to dual enrollment students, from young people looking for an apprenticeship to long-time workers looking for a career change, from an upskilling employee base to an adult learner going back for their high school equivalency, TCSG is there to provide world-class support and education at all steps of the journey.

[17]TCSG Administrative Data

[18]TCSG Administrative Data

[19]Ibid

[20]TCSG Administrative Data

[21][High Demand Career Initiative – TCSG | Technical College System of Georgia](#)

[22][2022 Annual Report by Technical College System of Georgia - Issuu](#)

[23][Georgia Quick Start Again Named Number One – TCSG | Technical College System of Georgia](#)

[24][OPB Measures, Agency Performance Measures | Governor's Office of Planning and Budget \(georgia.gov\)](#)