

Career & College Promise High School Dual Enrollment Program Provides Tuition-Free Classes and a Head Start on College

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A-B Tech has long stood as a champion of opportunity and accessibility in higher education, particularly through its Career and College Promise (CCP) dual enrollment program, which offers high school students in Buncombe and Madison counties a head start on their college education at a fraction of the cost.

CCP students not only earn college credits that are transferable to all public NC universities, but also gain exposure to the college environment early in their academic careers. The program serves as a crucial bridge for students transitioning from high school to college, helping them acclimate to higher education demands in a supportive environment.

The growth of the program at A-B Tech is testament to its success and appeal. From 2012 to 2025, the program expanded by over 175 percent, reflecting both its popularity and increasing recognition of its value to students and parents. This surge in enrollment highlights the trust and interest from the community and underscores the college's commitment to providing accessible educational pathways.

One of the most compelling aspects of the dual enrollment program at A-B Tech is its affordability. Tuition and most fees are waived for participating students, who are only responsible for consumable fees, textbooks and supplies. CCP significantly lowers the financial barrier to higher education, opening the door for many students who might otherwise be unable to afford college and enabling them to begin accumulating credits without financial strain.

For many high school students, dual enrollment is more than just an academic program; it is a gateway to future opportunities. CCP students can get ahead in their education, exploring their interests and making more informed decisions about career paths and academic majors before even graduating from high school. CCP partnerships with our local school systems also have increased access for underserved student populations in rural areas such as Madison County.

Dual enrollment significantly impacts the region by building a more educated workforce equipped with the skills and knowledge to meet local employment demands. Students often choose courses that align with high-demand industries, giving them a competitive advantage in the job market after graduation. In addition to College Transfer options, dual enrollment at A-B Tech includes hands-on, career-focused programs in fields like Artificial Intelligence, Aviation, Construction, Cosmetology, Culinary, Electrical Systems, Engineering, Welding, and more. CCP provides

pathways for nearly every student and industry, advancing both individual opportunity and regional economic growth.

CCP also fosters a culture of lifelong learning and continuous improvement, which are vital in today's rapidly changing world. Students who participate in dual enrollment are more likely to continue their education beyond high school and achieve higher academic credentials. In recent years, more CCP students also have earned A-B Tech degrees before graduating high school. Sixty CCP students earned A-B Tech degrees in 2024.

With its impressive growth, commitment to affordability, and focus on equity, A-B Tech's CCP program exemplifies the college's mission to provide meaningful teaching and learning experiences that respect and support every student's journey. For students in Buncombe and Madison counties, dual enrollment is not just about earning college credits, it's about opening doors to a brighter future.

To learn more, visit abtech.edu/CCP.

Trailblazer Success

A-B Tech is featuring alumni and student success stories through Trailblazer Success profiles. Miles Hollifield earned an Associate in Science transfer degree with honors from A-B Tech in 2023. He is now a student in the NC State School of Engineering, where he received a prestigious Goodnight Scholarship and Siemens internship.



"If you attend A-B Tech you'll save money and get a quality education."

- Miles Hollifield
NC State School of Engineering and A-B Tech Associate in Science AAS