



OCtech Youth Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship FAQs

1. What is a Youth Pre-Apprenticeship?

A youth pre-apprenticeship is available to students interested in applying for a youth apprenticeship later in their high school career. A pre-apprenticeship student receives free tuition for Early College courses (in specific career pathways), as well as book, supplies, or industry certification fees. This year, pre-apprenticeships will be awarded to students in the Automotive, Welding, Mechatronics (PLTW), Truck Driving, Emergency Medical Technician, Patient Care Technician (Nursing Assistant), and Medical Assisting pathways.

OCtech Youth Pre-Apprenticeships will begin in Fall 2019. Students from area high schools must be enrolled in one of the Early College Pathways listed above to be eligible for scholarship funds. In order to be eligible for scholarship funds in subsequent semesters, students must maintain a 2.0 College GPA. Youth Pre-Apprenticeship students who fail a required course will be responsible for the cost of retaking it, and failing grades may jeopardize their continuation in the program and/or their eligibility to receive Lottery Tuition Assistance.

2. What is a Youth Apprenticeship?

A Youth Apprenticeship is a flexible training program that cultivates a well-educated, highly-skilled worker able to meet the demands of a competitive global economy. Youth Apprenticeships are open to high school juniors, seniors and graduating seniors, giving them the opportunity to earn while they learn through paid on-the-job training under the direction of an industry mentor. Youth apprentices also take college classes that directly relate to their apprenticeship.

OCtech Youth Apprenticeships will begin in Spring 2020. In order to be chosen as a youth apprentice, students must have qualifying test scores, be on track for graduation, and have good attendance and behavior records. The Youth Apprenticeship program is competitive and there are a limited number of industry placements available. Students must be successful in Early College courses prior to the assignment of industry placement. In addition, students must have reliable transportation to school and work, and may have to forgo extracurricular activities that would interfere with the apprenticeship. Depending on the student's career pathway, the program may last two years.

3. What kinds of employment opportunities are available?

Youth apprenticeships at OCtech are offered in the following career areas: Automotive, Welding, Mechatronics (PLTW), Truck Driving, Emergency Medical Technician, Patient Care Technician (Nursing Assistant), and Medical Assisting pathways.

4. How will a Youth Apprenticeship benefit me?

Youth apprentices who successfully complete the program will receive:

- Paid employment and mentoring from an industry professional

- A high school diploma
- College credit from OCtech free of charge during the pre-apprenticeship - all tuition, fees, books, materials and certification exams for youth apprentices are included
- Credits from OCtech that may be applied toward an associate degree
- National credentials from the U.S. Department of Labor
- Paid work experience for resume
- Marketable skills for life

5. Will my high school schedule change?

Your high school schedule will be adjusted to accommodate the college courses you will be taking. Your high school counselor will work with you to ensure you meet all of your academic goals and that you are on track to graduate with your high school diploma.

6. Can I be a youth apprentice and still participate in sports or other extracurricular activities?

Possibly not, depending on your schedule. Becoming a youth apprentice requires a serious commitment of time, effort and energy. You will be working a minimum of five hours per week for your employer during the academic year and then full-time during the summer between the two years of the program. In addition to regular high school classes, youth apprentices take a specific sequence of college courses each semester over the course of two years. The program is designed for motivated students interested in gaining work experience, on-the-job training and in-the-classroom instruction, and developing professional connections while still in high school. The demands of the program are significant, but so are the rewards.

7. What are the requirements of the Youth Apprenticeship program?

- You must be hired by one of the participating employers to become a youth apprentice.
- You must be a rising junior, senior or graduating senior, at least 16 years of age by the start-of-work date.
- You must have qualifying scores on the ACCUPLACER placement test, the admissions testing tool that OCtech uses to assess academic readiness. (In some cases, qualifying SAT or ACT scores may be used.) You must have reliable transportation to work and to on-campus OCtech classes.
- You must be legally able to work in the U.S.
- You must reside in one of the counties served by Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College
- You must successfully complete the OCtech classes connected with your apprenticeship.
- You must be on track for graduation at your high school.

8. How do I apply?

Please speak to your guidance counselor or an OCtech admissions representative for more information about the program and to receive a Youth Pre-Apprenticeship or Youth Apprenticeship application. OCtech is currently accepting Youth Pre-Apprenticeship applications.