

The TECH-Prep Internship: Technology Early Career Preparation Intervention Project



As part of the TECH-Prep program, students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) have the opportunity to complete a 40-hour paid summer internship. The internship is a hands-on workplace experience that provides students with an opportunity to apply the professional and technology-related skills introduced during the 12-week TECH-Prep course. During the internship, students work in community businesses who have partnered with the project to gain practical work experience to help build their future careers.



How do Students Gain Real-Work Experience?

Through the internship experience, participants have opportunities to:

- Experience a professional workplace in a real working environment
- Practice communicating with supervisors and coworkers
- Develop teamwork and problem-solving skills
- Learn how to follow workplace expectations and procedures
- Explore personal interests, strengths, and career possibilities



What Workplace Readiness Skills do Students Learn?

During the internship, participants can put important workplace-readiness skills into practice, including:

- Professional etiquette
- Time management
- Following directions
- Interpersonal skills
- Self-advocacy
- Adaptability
- Perseverance
- Taking initiative
- Accepting correction and feedback
- Personal independence
- Networking



Why is the Internship Important?

Technology-focused jobs are rapidly expanding. It is important for students to consider a wide range of work opportunities, including STEM careers in **S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering or **M**ath-related fields. Real work experience helps the student better prepared to meet their postsecondary employment and education goals. The TECH-Prep Internship provides youth with IDD an opportunity to build confidence, explore career interests in STEM fields, practice professional skills, and better understand what to expect in future employment.

Learn More: <https://idd.vcurrctc.org/research/rs3.cfm>

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