



DISCOVER APPRENTICESHIP: REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP-COLLEGE CONSORTIUM

Apprenticeship in the U.S. is increasingly being used as an entry-point or even conducted in tandem with higher education. Colleges are looking for ways to better recognize the skills earned through apprenticeship programs. They also regularly partner with businesses to strengthen their program offerings through apprenticeship and provide students with hands-on learning that complements their theoretical learning. Apprenticeship programs offered in connection with colleges have expanded apprenticeship occupations across white-collar industries such as information technology, insurance and healthcare.

WHAT IS THE REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP-COLLEGE CONSORTIUM (RACC)?

The RACC, coordinated by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), is a national network of postsecondary institutions, employers, labor and industry associations that work to create opportunities for apprentice graduates who want to advance their skills by pursuing an associate or bachelor's degree. Leading colleges across the country join the RACC to facilitate the transfer of college credit across colleges and registered apprenticeship programs (RAP).

RACC membership also includes state, regional and national organizations that represent RAPs and colleges. College members agree to provide credit for a RAP completion certificate as recommended by a recognized third-party evaluator. Currently, there are thousands of individual articulation agreements between a single college and a local RAP. The consortium serves as a national network of colleges and RAPs, allowing apprentice graduates to accelerate the completion of their postsecondary degrees at member colleges.

RACC GOALS

-  Provide apprentices an accelerated pathway to earn an associate or bachelor's degree and advocate for the flexibility needed to enable apprentices to earn credit for their RAP experience.
-  Enhance the competitiveness of businesses by expanding the pool of highly-trained workers.
-  Create a new pipeline of degree-seekers to increase graduation rates.
-  Strengthen relationships among RAPs and postsecondary institutions.
-  Enhance national understanding of and responses to the needs of apprentices as another working student population.

WHAT IS A REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM?

A RAP is a proven model of apprenticeship that has been validated by DOL or a State Apprenticeship Agency. RAPs enable and energize more employers to participate, providing them access to larger talent pools that have been trained for entry-level to management positions, thereby meeting industry demands and creating employment opportunities across the country.

WHY SHOULD COLLEGES JOIN THE RACC?

The RACC brings together colleges, employers, industry associations, and other RAP sponsors to provide college-to-career opportunities to a significant number of student-workers across the country. Two- and four-year colleges continue to be the largest providers of postsecondary education, but in today's economy, individuals are looking for flexible avenues to obtain credentials, career opportunities and greater earning potential.

By joining the RACC, institutions will have access to apprentice graduates who want to complete a degree to move further up a career path. Apprentice graduates are a highly-motivated pool of degree-seekers. Having gone through the rigor and structure of an apprenticeship, they are likely to easily complete a college degree.

QUALITY PROGRAMMING AND INTEGRITY

All RACC members must have their programs evaluated by a third-party organization to determine the college credit value of the apprenticeship completion certificate. Currently, the American Council on Education, National College Credit Recommendation Service and two- and four-year postsecondary institutions that go through a similar evaluation process to RAPs are acceptable third-party evaluators. All RACC college members must be degree-granting institutions accredited by a regional institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Additionally, please sign up for the Apprenticeship Bootcamp and join as members: ase.workforcegps.org/resources/2019/11/05/17/14/Registered-Apprenticeship-101-Bootcamp.

HOW DO I LEARN MORE?

The DOL Office of Apprenticeship RACC website is a helpful resource for more information: www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/apprenticeship/community-colleges. Look for the "Postsecondary Application." Membership is free, and members agree to abide by the **RACC Framework** that outlines goals, principles and criteria for membership and the **RACC Standards of Good Practice**, also found on the website. For further information and to discuss any questions, please contact Apprenticeship.College@dol.gov or 202-693-2796.

DISCOVER APPRENTICESHIP TODAY!

To learn more about apprenticeship and how it's being used to prepare workers for the careers of today and tomorrow, visit the U.S. Department of Labor's one-stop source for all things apprenticeship: www.apprenticeship.gov.

Phone: 1-877-872-5627

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