

A Parent's Guide to Tech

Everything your student should tell you,
but probably didn't.



"Coming to Meridian gave my son
direction. It helped him make a
smooth transition to college.

I give Meridian a lot of credit for
his success."

– Roba Smith

Parent of Nathan Smith, Pre-Engineering graduate



YOUR STUDENT'S TIME AT TECH

When students enroll at Meridian Technology Center, they are taking the next step to figure out who they are, what they like and where they want to be. With so many areas of study, we're certain your student can find a program that builds on what they enjoy as they prepare for college or a career.

Meridian serves students who live in Agra, Carney, Glencoe, Guthrie, Morrison, Mulhall-Orlando, Pawnee, Perkins-Tryon, Perry and Stillwater school districts. They can attend tuition free during their junior and senior years. Sophomores can enroll for afternoon programs when space is available. The Biomedical Science and Pre-Engineering STEM Academies are open to sophomores, juniors and seniors.

Students enroll in either a morning or afternoon session at Tech. Classes held during the morning session are from 7:50 – 10:40 and the afternoon classes are from 12:45 – 3:35. Depending on your student's high school, they may earn 3 or 4 credits per year. Some of these credits count as electives, some count as academic credits. Check with your student's high school counselor to learn how their high school counts credits from Tech.

WHAT SETS MERIDIAN APART?

Meridian is a low-cost pathway to college or career. Whatever your student's next steps are, their journey can begin here!

- 20+ programs to choose from
- Small classes with hands-on learning
- Skills to go directly to work or to get a better job while in college
- Real-world learning projects in every program
- Free classes for district high school students
- Earn college credit
- Free transportation for district high school students
- Meet friends from 10 area schools
- Many self-paced programs
- Leadership opportunities



ACADEMICS

By working in advance with their high school counselor, students can make the most of their time at Tech and earn high school credit for the courses they're taking at Meridian. It's easy to do but your student will need to talk to their high school guidance counselor to make sure that they have everything in place.

Meridian Program

- Biomedical Sciences - STEM Academy
- Business Technology
- Computer Aided Drafting
- Health Careers
- Information Support and Networking Systems
- Pre-Engineering - STEM Academy

Possible Equivalent High School Credit

- Pre-AP Chemistry, AP Chemistry, Anatomy, Physiology, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Statistics, AP Biology, AP Physics I
- Computer Science
- Computer Science
- Anatomy
- Computer Science
- Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Statistics, Pre-AP Chemistry, AP Chemistry, AP Physics I, Computer Science & AP Computer Science Principles

Math Credits

If your student needs a math credit, they can enroll in one of our majors and attend a math class while they're at Tech. We offer Geometry, Algebra II and Math of Finance. Students need to visit with their high school counselor to see which class best fits with their graduation plan. A representative from the Career Planning Center can help ensure that your student is able to take part in the math class they need.

Earn Online Credits to Graduate

The High School Online Curriculum Program provides assistance to high school students needing additional credits in order to graduate from high school. Visit meridiantech.edu/academics and download the application. Students must have approval from their high school.

College Credit

Your student can earn college credit while they attend Meridian Technology Center. Through a cooperative effort between the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, college credit may be available upon completion of a career major. The College and Career Transition Coordinator works with students to explain and guide students through the process to earn college credit toward an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree. If you have questions regarding the process, please visit with our transition coordinator.

The AAS is a technical workforce degree. An AAS degree is a great path to follow for someone who is planning on directly entering the workforce after earning the degree. The technical college courses are specific to the technical workforce degree and do not apply to other degrees designed to transfer to bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees. However, some credit may apply to a specific bachelor of technology degree.

Career Readiness Certificates

There's a saying that if you love what you do, it's never work. At Tech, we're focused on getting your student ready for something that they LOVE.

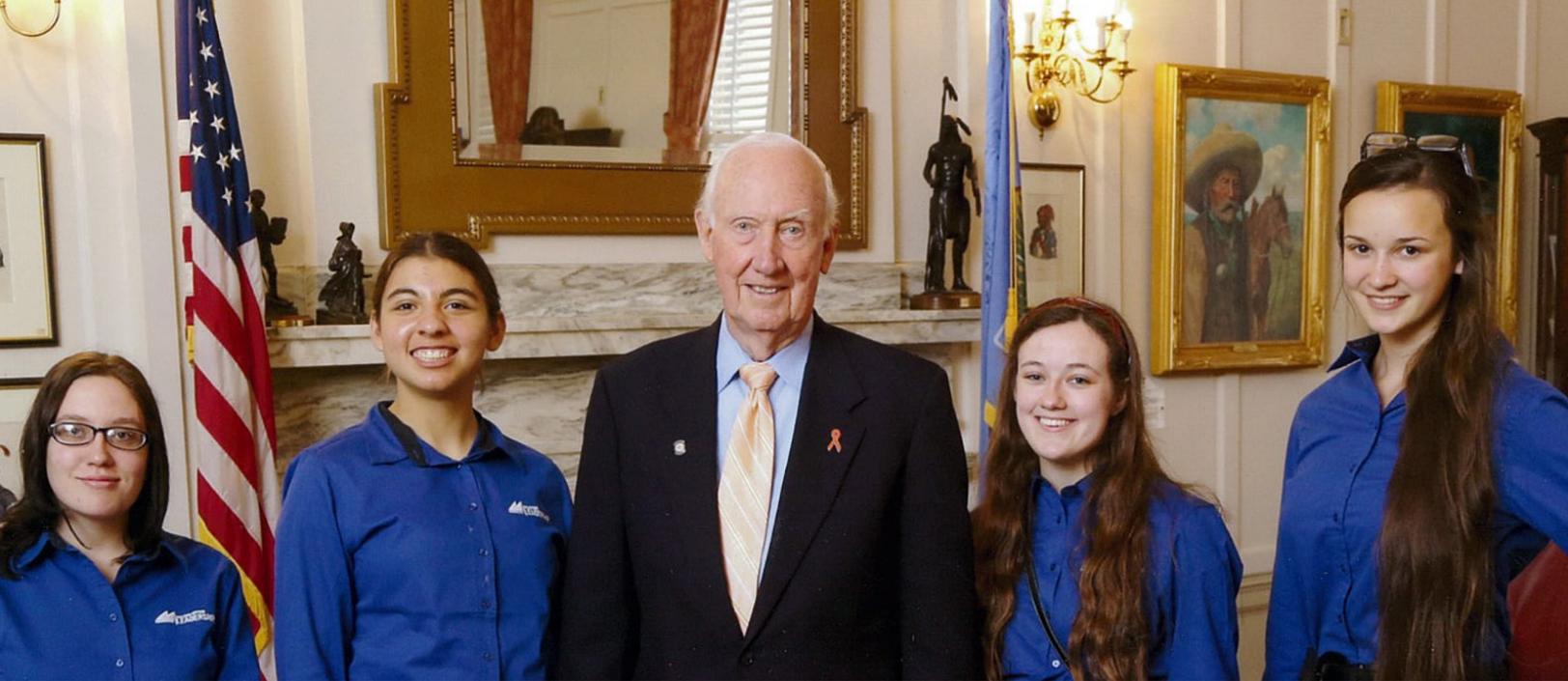
Studies have shown that matching the right employees with the right job creates employee job satisfaction, increased self-confidence and the best wages possible for the employee. The employer benefits with reduced turnover and training, increased productivity and overall company success.

To help with this process, Meridian uses WorkKeys, an assessment tool from the ACT organization. WorkKeys assesses the three areas of Applied Mathematics, Locating Information and Reading for Information. The WorkKeys assessment measures skills employers have identified as critical to job success in their industry and are used in hiring and promoting employees. Students are able to earn an ACT-issued National Career Readiness Certificate by meeting the score requirements for their job field on the three assessments.

- Applied Mathematics measures the skills used when applying mathematical reasoning and problem-solving techniques for work-related problems.
- Locating Information measures the skills people use when they work with workplace graphics such as charts, graphs, tables, floor plans and instrument gauges.
- Reading for Information measures the skills used when people read and use written text on the job.

Assessment results are sent to the Oklahoma Department of CareerTech in order to obtain an Oklahoma Career Readiness Certificate free of charge. More than 132,00 Career Readiness Certificates have been issued in Oklahoma. ACT issues the National Career Readiness Certificate for a small fee.





ORGANIZATIONS

Student organizations, commonly known as CTSOs, are designed to complement career training programs available at Tech. When your student participates in these organizations, they have an opportunity to expand their leadership skills, connect with other students in similar career paths and meet professionals in their field. Everyone is eligible to join a student organization.

What do members do?

- Participate in chapter meetings
- Compete in skills competitions for scholarships and other prizes
- Contribute to the community through service projects
- Develop leadership and teamwork skills

Leadership Class

For students who want to take their involvement in a student organization to the next level, we encourage them to take an active role and run for a student organization officer position. Officers lead the chapter meetings and have the opportunity to make a real impact in the direction of the organization. Officers are also a part of the MTC Leadership Class, a program designed to develop school and community leaders through monthly meetings and training sessions. Activities take place throughout the school year to build leadership and teamwork skills, and develop ambassadors for Meridian.

Through the Leadership Class students develop an understanding of their roles as student organization officers; take part in leadership and teamwork building activities; develop presentation techniques; volunteer in the community; meet legislators, community and school leaders; and assist with special events at Meridian. Participation in the Leadership Class is limited to student organization officers.

National Technical Honor Society (NTHS)

Students who are members of their CTSO and who maintain a 3.5 or higher GPA may be invited to join the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) upon the recommendation of their instructor. This is a prestigious honor, and each year we're thrilled to have so many students meet the criteria.





SERVICES

Enrolling at Tech is just the beginning! Once your student commits to Meridian Technology Center, they have access to a wide range of services that are designed to help them succeed. This may include career assessments, career counseling, job readiness training, academic skills training and job placement services. We can help your student figure out what they want to do and how to get there. Our services include:

Career Development

Free online career information and assessments are available through the Oklahoma Career Guide. These assessments are available to assist you in learning more about your abilities, interests, personality and values. You can complete assessments that link interests, skills and values to careers; set career goals; locate scholarships and build cover letters and a résumé.

To log in:

1. Go to OKCareerGuide.org
2. Click on student or adult
3. Create an account
4. Set up your username and password

Career Counseling

If you have taken all of the assessments on OKCareerGuide.org but still aren't sure what career path to follow, you might benefit from career counseling. This involves a series of visits with our career specialist and includes assessment, interpretation and guidance. Talk to a staff member in the Career Planning Center if you think career counseling would benefit you.

Educational Enhancement Center

We want your student to complete their career major and have the academic skills to continue to learn long after they graduate Tech. To help ensure that they have the academic skills they need to succeed, they can spend time in Meridian's Educational Enhancement Center (EEC). The EEC helps them improve their skills in reading, math and locating information. Individualized lessons are geared toward their needs, and students work at their own pace to improve their skills. Once they have reached the skill levels recommended for their career major, they will take the WorkKeys assessment.

Job Placement Services

When our students are successful, individuals, industries and communities win. To help your student take the skills they learn at Tech and put them to work, Meridian instructors actively assist students as they seek full-time, permanent employment upon successful completion of their training programs.

Meridian also maintains a Community Jobs page on its website. Potential employers are able to submit job announcements. Job seekers are able to learn about available jobs and apply online through the hiring company's website. Visit meridiantech.edu/jobboard to review current job listings.

Disability Services

Meridian Technology Center provides reasonable accommodation and support for students with disabilities and special education needs covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). At the present time, Meridian does not offer any comprehensive transition or postsecondary programs for students with intellectual disabilities.

High school students who are on an Individual Education Program (IEP) need to follow the enrollment process for high school students. The student's special education teacher should provide Meridian with a copy of the student's IEP prior to the first day of class. Meridian staff will work closely with the student's IEP team to implement the necessary accommodations and modifications.

Translation Services

Don't let a language barrier keep your student from gaining a skill. Meridian offers English as a Second Language classes at no cost. Free transportation from a district high school is available for morning and afternoon classes. Contact Jennifer Tresseler, Adult Education Instructor/Coordinator, at (405) 377.3333, ext. 327 or jennifert@meridiantech.edu for more information and an updated schedule of course offerings and times.

Spanish-speaking students at Meridian have the opportunity to gain more than career training through free translation services. Contact Martha Walter at (405) 377.3333 ext. 253 or marthaw@meridiantech.edu for more information.

ACT Test Preparation

To assist students who are planning to pursue college upon the completion of their training at Tech, in the fall Meridian hosts an ACT test preparation course presented by Power Prep. Visit act.org for ACT test prep assistance, test-taking tips and practice exams. Please visit with a college counselor about course placement scores.

ENROLLMENT TIMELINE:

October, November and December:

Meridian Counselors visit your students high school to talk to them about Tech. Students will learn about the programs Meridian offers and upcoming opportunities to visit campus.

January:

Sophomore Showcase and Open House. Your student will visit campus between January 18 -20, 2017 and spend time in three programs during the Sophomore Showcase. An Open House will be held from 5-7 pm on January 26, 2017. During the Open House, teachers and current students will be in the classroom to talk with you and your student about the program, share projects they've worked on and answer any questions about the program or coming to Tech.

February:

Priority enrollment is February 1. Students receive additional points on their application when its submitted before this priority deadline. Programs fill quickly, so encourage your student to apply early!

Visit meridiantech.edu/enrollment for more information.



WHAT'S NEXT?

At Meridian, seeing is believing! We've seen students enlightened when they realize that coming to Tech gives them a hands-on way to apply much of what they've learned in high school. We have several opportunities throughout the year to share what we do with your student. We encourage you to talk to your student about the information they've learned about Tech and what programs they'd like to explore.

Members of the Career Planning Center have already visited with students at their high school to talk to them about the competitive advantage that Tech provides. Students have selected two programs that they would like to learn more about when they visit campus.

March:

Admissions decisions are made and letters sent to students. Students will find out if they have been accepted into a program, put on a waiting list or not admitted to Meridian.

April:

Students and their families complete the final step of their enrollment at Tech during Meridian's Signing Day event. Students will be asked to sign a letter of intent regarding their acceptance into a program at Tech.

August:

Parent and New Student Orientation. Learn about services that are available for your student. Meridian Superintendent/CEO Dr. Douglas Major hosts a parent meeting to discuss ways the school can partner with you to make your student's transition to Tech a success, including attendance and graduation requirements.

OUR TEAM

We know that a lot of big decisions are on the way for you and your student. We're always happy to answer questions about the application process or what it's like once your student is here. In addition to instructional staff, your student will frequently interact with their program's Director of Instruction or a member of the Career Planning Center. Here is a quick reference guide on who to contact for more information:



DeAnna Little
Director of Instruction
Trade & Industry
deanna@meridiantech.edu



David Shelton
Director of Instruction
Academic Services & Health Occupations
rdshelton@meridiantech.edu



Linda Thompson
Director of Instruction
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Jeanie Zagar
Executive Director,
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Judy Sindelar
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Teri Ray
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Carol Herring
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"Tech is hard academics combined with skill. When you have an education and a skill, you're golden."

– Sheree Howell
Parent of Gus, Faith and Grace Howell,
former and current Meridian students.



This guide is designed to provide you with the information you need to help your student make an informed decision about Meridian being a part of their high school success plan. This is just a snapshot of how Meridian can give your student a competitive advantage for their plans for college or a career.

We encourage you to visit meridiantech.edu and explore the 20 plus programs Tech has to offer!