WELCOME TO WESTERN DAKOTA TECH

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**Welcome**

Western Dakota Tech is the only technical institute that serves the western South Dakota region. WDT offers more than 30 diploma and Associate of Applied Science degree programs in a variety of fields, including Business and Computers, Construction and Manufacturing, Energy and Environmental Technologies, Health Sciences, Legal and Public Services, and Transportation Technologies. In addition, a wide variety of non-credit classes, workshops, professional programs, and seminars are available through the Corporate Education Center.

WDT faculty, staff, and administration focus their efforts on helping students gain the skills and experiences they need to succeed. Through hands-on learning, internships, and industry partnerships, WDT students graduate ready to make real and immediate contributions to their employers and their communities.

**Mission**

Western Dakota Tech is a public institution of higher learning that embraces quality programs, expert faculty and staff, and commitment to academic excellence to teach the knowledge, skills, and behaviors students need to be successful.

**Objectives**

Students will demonstrate:

1. The occupational skills necessary to obtain and retain successful employment in their field of training.
2. Proficiency in academic skills in the area of communications, mathematics, computer use, and social studies appropriate to their program of study.

WDT will:

1. Maintain efficient and effective facilities designed to serve the needs of the students.
2. Develop and retain a staff of technically competent and highly trained individuals.
3. Secure adequate financial resources necessary to accomplish its mission.
4. Assure equal access to those who are disabled, economically or academically disadvantaged, in non-traditional programs of study, and/or of limited English proficiency.
5. Provide services to those requiring academic assistance, counseling, and career guidance.
6. Provide assistance in securing training-related employment to students and graduates.
7. Provide opportunities for higher learning to high school students.
8. Develop and implement short-term and customized training opportunities through the Corporate Education Center.

**Vision Statement**

Western Dakota Tech will be a leader in career and technical education that creates student, institutional, and community success through its practices, policies, and activities. WDT will embrace all students and provide the education they need to be successful. WDT will build a campus culture that inspires faculty and staff to reach their potential and ensures the future of the institution. WDT will build partnerships and undertake projects that strengthen the institution and the communities it serves. Finally, WDT will be a model for postsecondary education in our region and nation.

**Accreditation**

The Higher Learning Commission, a Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, 30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, IL 60602-2504, (800) 621-7440, [www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org](http://www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org), accredits Western Dakota Tech.

The South Dakota Board of Education has approved Western Dakota Tech to grant the Associate in Applied Science degree and one- and two-year Diplomas.

**Program Certifications/Accreditations**

Various professional organizations approve or certify all or part of the following programs. These include:

- Fire Science: National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (The Pro Board)
- Law Enforcement Technology: Seasonal Law Enforcement Training Program and State of South Dakota Law Enforcement Standards and Training Commission
- Paralegal: American Bar Association (ABA)
- Paramedic: Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP)
- Pharmacy Technician: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)
- Practical Nursing: South Dakota Board of Nursing
- Surgical Technology: Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA)
- Transportation Technology: National Automobile Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF)
**ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

Advisory Committees from business and industry represent the strong partnership Western Dakota Tech enjoys with the region and the Rapid City community. The committees meet at least twice a year with program instructors to discuss current job market trends, recent developments in the industry, and task competencies for courses, equipment selection, and student performance. As resource persons, the committee members are the most direct and up-to-date sources for current trends in the industry. This education and business partnership ensures the validity of the task competencies and the effectiveness of WDT.

**PROGRAM & COURSE INFORMATION**

Course descriptions in the catalog are only summaries of the actual course content. Western Dakota Tech reserves the right to alter course content and curricula without notice. WDT also reserves the right to cancel any tentatively scheduled class and to combine class sections due to insufficient enrollment. In the event of a class cancellation, refunds will be issued. WDT reserves the right to make changes in courses and regulations published in this catalog and other publications without obligation or prior notice.

**CORPORATE EDUCATION CENTER**

Today's constantly changing world demands the continual upgrading of skills and education. The Corporate Education Center helps meet those demands. The Corporate Ed Center offers a variety of short-term, non-credit courses designed for the working adult. Learning in the classroom one day is applied on the job the next. The Corporate Ed Center can also customize courses to meet an individual business’ needs. Training may be accomplished both on-site and off-site. The Corporate Ed Center offers courses on computer software, truck driving, business, construction, welding, professional development, and various health topics. WDT is an official American Heart Association Training Center and provides CPR, First Aid, and EMT training. WDT is also authorized by the South Dakota Department of Public Safety to conduct Third Party Skill Testing for Commercial Driver’s License in Class A/B/PS Vehicles. The Corporate Ed Center also offers online courses providing the opportunity to learn at home, at the office, or while traveling.

Programs and courses are offered in the eight skill areas that are critical for corporate and individual success: employability, social values, teamwork, life skills, analytical skills, communication skills, technology skills, and industry specific skills. The training is offered in three tracks, each one building on the other so skills grow on a solid base. Students are tracked as they progress; using state-of-the-art software that creates individualized transcripts for every person who takes part in any training with us. This allows employers to build and track a comprehensive training program for every employee in any organization. The Corporate Education Center believes that investing in lifelong learning leads employees toward more satisfying, productive working lives. It also enhances job performance, teamwork, and overall competitiveness.