



Hightower HS P-TECH Early College

Fort Bend ISD is expanding college opportunities for students, thanks to an exciting partnership with Houston Community College (HCC). Students who attend Hightower P-TECH Early College will not only take high school courses, but will also take classes at HCC Coleman College for Health Sciences to earn a high school diploma and an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in four years.

P-TECH stands for Pathways to Technology. Within specified pathways, students take core and career/technology courses that deliver rigorous academic, technical, and workplace skills that employers need. P-TECH will help students attend college to develop the specific skills needed for careers in high-growth industries. A traditional Associates of Arts (AA) or Associates of Science (AS) degree prepares students to transfer to a 4-year institution to pursue their bachelor's degree. The AAS degrees are "career" programs that prepare students for immediate employment.

"The unique culture of a P-TECH school is built upon high expectations for students and a belief that all students can earn their college degree. Students see themselves as "college students" and "on a career pathway" from the moment they begin 9th grade. The model integrates high school and college coursework, enabling students to begin college courses as soon as they are ready. Students also participate in a range of workplace opportunities that include mentoring, site visits and paid internships — all designed to support students' academic and professional growth."¹

The P-TECH Early College program at Hightower provides two pathways for students, from which they will select one.

- Pathway A
 - HS Endorsement: STEM
 - Program: Health Information Technology (HIT)
 - Degree Plan: AAS Health Information Technology
 - Certificate(s): Health Information Technology – Analysis and Coding

- Pathway B
 - HS Endorsements: STEM
 - Program: Histologic Technician (HT)
 - Degree Plan: AAS Histologic Technician
 - Certificate(s): Histotechnologist

Interested students will receive information in the fall of each school year, and can apply for the program during the specified window of time. Informational meetings, recruitment, and more is held to attract students that desire a career in the medical profession. More information can be found on the FBISD website, the Hightower HS website, and P-TECH.org.

1 - <http://www.ptech.org/how-it-works/the-model/>