

EARN YOUR GED AND A GOOD JOB... AO-K

The AO-K program, offered through Washburn Tech, provides an opportunity for individuals to **work toward a GED** while gaining new technical skills in preparation for a better career. With a GED and technical credentials, students have better options in today's economy.

Participants attend adult education classes only until they raise their scores to the level required to enter the AO-K program. Once in the AO-K Program, students attend GED classes half-day and technical training half-day. This allows students to finish sooner. An additional AO-K instructor is present in the technical classroom a portion of the time to supplement the instruction and to assist the students in the learning process. The AO-K student may also participate in additional instruction and organized study groups to enhance the learning experience. Currently, there are four Pathway options for training within AO-K at Washburn Tech.

The 15 credit hour **Healthcare** Pathway focuses on completing the GED and acquiring certification as a Certified Nursing Assistant (**CNA**), Home Health Aid (**HHA**), Certified Medication Aid (**CMA**). The students also learn CPR, First Aid, OSHA 10 and develop a strong knowledge of medical vocabulary. These credentials and skills prepare the individuals for careers in the fast growing field of geriatric care and other medically related fields.

The 23 credit hours **Machine Tool** Pathway focusing on earning the GED and acquiring lathing, milling and grinding skills in preparation to work as a machinist manufacturing parts in a machine shop or manufacturing fabrication facility setting. The NIMS certification is a part of this pathway.

The 21 credit hours **Welding** Pathway focusing on earning the GED and acquiring Stick, MIG and TIG welding skills in preparation to work as a fabrication welder. The AWS F1, G1, and F2 certifications are a part of this pathway.

The 25 credit hour **Building Technology** Pathway focuses on earning the GED and acquiring skills in framing, finishing, electrical, plumbing, surveying, masonry, and other skills to work in the building industry. Students earn the NCCER certification.

The Kansas Board of Regents covers the pathway tuition cost for students without a High school diploma or GED. Students may have to purchase uniforms, books and other supplies for school. AO-K works in concert with the Department for Children and Families case managers, Vocational Rehabilitation and Work Force Center case managers to maximize the benefit of training dollars from all sources. The semester after successfully completing 6 credits of the AO-K pathway in the Machine Tool, Building Technology or Welding pathways an AO-K student may apply for Federal Financial Aid even though they do not yet have a GED or High School diploma. The Healthcare pathway is not federal financial aid eligible.

For more information contact Lea Ann Curtis at (785)670-2248 or leaann.curtis@washburn.edu or stop by the Advantage Center, Room AE110, at Washburn Tech.

