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It's Academic

Community College Offers Pathway to Careers for Philadelphia Students

By Bonnie Eisenfeld



Community College of Philadelphia

CCP students exploring architectural lighting.

Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) is the two-year college of choice for many Philadelphia high school students as an affordable pathway to a career or a four-year college. College-bound students study academic subjects leading to an associate degree, in preparation for transfer to four-year colleges for the final two years; most transfer to Pennsylvania colleges.

But many careers do not require four years of college; for students seeking those careers, CCP offers a plethora of professional and technical career programs requiring only two years to complete a degree or certificate. And, through its dual

enrollment programs, high school students can fast-track by enrolling in college-level courses and then graduate with both a high school diploma and an associate degree.

Almost 29,000 students are enrolled either full-time or part-time. More than half are age 24 or older. Sixty-five percent are enrolled in liberal arts programs, with plans to transfer to four-year colleges; 21 percent are enrolled in certification programs leading to a career; and 13 percent are enrolled in noncredit continuing-education courses. Since CCP opened in 1965, more than 685,000 individuals have been served.

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Community College of Philadelphia offers more than 70 degree and certificate programs in business, law, health care, science, technology, arts, architecture and design, construction, transportation, communications, and education (<https://ccp.edu/academic-offerings/all-offerings>). New programs launched in 2019 include tourism and hospitality management, fashion merchandising and marketing, business leadership, and black studies. In addition, students have an option to enroll in two-week study-abroad sessions at a variety of destinations.

CCP's Nursing Program, Early Childhood Education Apprenticeship program, and Biomedical Research Technician Apprenticeship Program have received national recognition. Power Up Your Business, which provides free practical training to small businesses, placed third in the Social Enterprise Intermediary category of the Greater Philadelphia Social Innovations Awards. The *Social Innovations Journal* awarded CCP first place for Post-Secondary Innovator and the *Philadelphia Business Journal* gave CCP the Advancing Women Company Award.

An inquiring student will get counseling about careers and the degrees, certificates, programs and courses leading to that career. The student who needs financial assistance will get help applying for financial aid, scholarships, work-study programs, and federal and state benefits. CCP offers childcare, developmental courses (for those who do not place in college-level courses), re-entry assistance (for formerly incarcerated individuals), tax preparation, health-care enrollment, legal counseling, financial education, referrals, and whatever other resources they need to succeed.

On the Main Campus, running from 16th to 18th Street and from Spring Garden to Callowhill Street, courses are taught in huge modern buildings equipped with state-of-the-art scientific and technical labs, computers, culinary arts kitchens, and more. Plus, there are a student-life building and an athletics center—an entire 21st century college campus. Regional campuses are located in Northeast, Northwest, and West Philadelphia.

More than just an academic institution, CCP is a community unto itself. In the community greenhouse, students grow healthy foods for themselves and the city. Students, staff,



Culinary arts students at work.



Science students working in a lab.

and alumni can produce, record and release their own music on CCP's own record label, Spring Garden Records. CCP has community volunteer programs: College staff and students collected and filled more than 200 backpacks with school supplies for students of the Spring Garden school, launched a children's book for kindergarten and first grade classes, and organized a seasonal food drive for families.

Tuition and fees are affordable because CCP is partially funded by state and city government, and supplemented by gifts from foundations, corporations, and private donors. At the Black and Gold Gala fundraiser to benefit the 50th Anniversary Promise Scholarship, 600 guests donated \$310,000. An additional \$1,000 or more came from each of the 150 members of the Mint Society, and 70 members of the

Rotunda Society gave a lifetime amount of \$100,000 or more. <https://ccp.edu/foundation>

If you wish to support tuition for a student, usually about \$10,000 for a two-year program, you can specify (within limits) the requirements that student must fulfill to receive the scholarship. Donors can also give to the Emergency Fund, to help students in special circumstances obtain last-minute funds for textbooks, food, transportation, and tuition.

To make a contribution to support students attending Community College of Philadelphia, please send it to Community College of Philadelphia Foundation, 1700 Spring Garden Street, Annex 7, Philadelphia PA 19130. For more information, please contact Lyvette Jones, at 215-751-8046 or email lyjones@ccp.edu.