Programs of Study Question and Answers

Q.   What is a program of study (POS)?
A.   A program of study is a coherent, articulated sequence of rigorous academic and career courses commencing in the 9th grade (or sometimes earlier) leading to an associate degree, an industry-recognized certificate or licensure, and/or a baccalaureate degree.

Q.   Why develop programs of study?
A.   While programs of study are not new to career and technical education (CTE), Perkins IV is the first federal statute to require their systemic implementation.

Programs of study were deliberately added into Perkins IV as a way to achieve a new vision for CTE by more consistently and thoroughly connecting secondary and postsecondary education, requiring integration of rigorous academic and technical instruction and encouraging the acquisition of postsecondary credits.

Q.   Is there consistency in Florida's programs of study?
A.   Yes. Although programs of study are developed to target industries, occupations, and local educational opportunities, the legislation provided guidelines for their development. Additionally, Florida's programs of study are developed using the state-approved template. The template incorporates the core elements described in Section 122(c)(1)(A)(i-iv) of the Act and can be accessed at:
http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/dwdgrants/2007/xls/sample_program_study/blank_template.xls

Q.   How can a program of study help students?
A.   Programs of study provide a roadmap for students to navigate educational options and prepare them to successfully transition into postsecondary education, careers, and lifelong learning.

Q.   How does a program of study save time and money?
A.   By following the recommended coursework in a POS, students make a smooth transition between high school and college. Students have an opportunity to earn college or technical center credits for work completed in high school through dual enrollment or articulation agreements. By not duplicating coursework, students save time, tuition and book money.

Q.   Developing a program of study is a new responsibility for me. Where do I begin?
A.   Developing programs of study is a process, not an event and you don't have to start from scratch. Fortunately, Florida had a very strong Tech Prep system which   has provided a framework for implementing programs of study. When developing a local program of study, make sure you have all the stakeholders at the table: business and industry partners, administrators, academic and technical instructors, counselors, parents, and representatives from higher education. Once a program of study is created, further refinement and continuous evaluation is important in order to keep programs cutting-edge to meet the needs of the ever-changing economy.