

Centralia College Launches High School Completion Program

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Centralia College Launches High School Completion Program By The Chronicle

Centralia College has launched a program for individuals seeking a high school diploma. The program, dubbed High School 21, is for adults ages 21 and older.

The program provides a way to earn a high school diploma without working through the General Educational Development process.

This fall, required orientations to enter the program will take place weekly.

The outcome-based competency program offers flexibility that the GED process does not, Brigitte Kidd, the college's dean of instruction for transitional education, said in a press release.

"We look at the whole student and aren't tied by some of the strict guidelines of the GED programs," Kidd said.

To receive credit toward a diploma, rather than a GED, college officials can evaluate and may award credit based on the student's high school coursework, placement on assessment tests and work history.

"This program works well for adult learners looking for an alternative to the GED program," Kidd said.

Some studies show that many employers prefer to hire those with a high school diploma instead of those with a GED, according to the release.

With changes in the GED program slated to take place next year, this program provides an alternative. Unlike the GED program, students may also have the chance to earn vocational credits for work history.

The program costs \$25 per quarter. Participants must also pay for books.

"We choose our books carefully so that there is little if any cost to the student," Kidd said. "High School 21 is one of the least expensive ways for an adult to earn their high school diploma."

For more information and orientation scheduling, contact the Phoenix Center at (360) 736-9391, ext. 216