One of the main goals of ASTEP is employability. Students are involved in a variety of career exploration or internship opportunities throughout the program. ASTEP students are employed at paid integrated campus or community jobs. In addition, students may have unpaid shadowing or internship opportunities to explore career opportunities while taking core academic courses such as “Career Exploration” and “Job Search.”

ASTEP students’ part time employment hours vary based on the semester and program of study. Students typically begin their first year with job shadowing and part time work experience. In their second year, students increase their part-time employment and include discovery of career interest areas. In their third year, students’ employment is focused on career interest areas with additional increased hours. The goal is for students to fully participate in work tasks and responsibilities as defined by their supervisor. Students are supported on the job by peer mentors/job coaches, co-workers or other natural supports.

Student Outcomes
Employment information is collected annually from ASTEP program graduates. Currently, 80% of ASTEP graduates are working at paid (minimum wage or higher) community jobs. In addition, 30% of ASTEP graduates are currently attending additional post-secondary education (PSE).