

# Skill Certificate Program

## VERIFYING TECHNICAL SKILL ATTAINMENT

### Our mission:

Skill Certificate Program initiatives provide statewide competency-based student assessments. Student skill attainment is measured by core standards and competencies needed to be successful in the workforce.

The core standards and competencies help improve programs, curriculum and instruction through the use of incentive-based, competency-based student assessment.

The Skill Certificate Program provides students with opportunities to receive instruction aligned with standards and objectives set by the state of Utah and by industry. Students receive “skill certificates” verifying technical skill achievement.

### ASSESSMENT

By first establishing a core set of skills identified by the state Career and Technical Education (CTE) program specialists and teachers, with the support of business and industry, each of the assessments in the Skill Certificate Program is designed to measure how individual students, programs, schools, and districts are performing based on a set of standards used consistently throughout the state.

### INCENTIVES

- Districts receive an incentive based on the performance of their students on the assessments in the various program areas.
- Eight percent of Career and Technical Education funding is distributed through the Skill Certificate Program.

### CTE PATHWAYS

The Skill Certificate Program supports the CTE Pathways initiative.

- CTE Skill Certificate assessments are available in each of the eight areas of study: Agriculture, Business, Family and Consumer Sciences, Health Science, Information Technology, Marketing, Skilled and Technical Sciences, and Technology and Engineering.
- Skill Certificate assessments are available for CTE courses in each area of study.

**Our vision** is to give every student the opportunity to perform to the best of his or her ability by encouraging him or her to participate in a variety of skill tests that will aid in jump-starting careers through development of academic knowledge and technical skill attainment.

### SUPPORTING PROGRAMS:

CTE Introduction

Comprehensive Counseling and Guidance

Nontraditional Careers

▶ Skill Certificate

Work-Based Learning



### TEST DEVELOPMENT

- Questions are aligned to the course standards and objectives.
- Demonstrated student performance is a component of the test.
- Components of tests include an objective section and performance graded at an 80 percent level.
- Tests are developed by the Utah State Office of Education CTE program area specialists and their development teams.
- Over 130 tests have been developed and are available online.
- Twenty-five state and/or national certifications are also recognized.

### PARTICIPATION

- All 40 public school districts, and some charter schools, voluntarily participate.
- All 109 public high schools participate.
- All 9 Utah College of Applied Technology (UCAT) centers have the opportunity for attending high school students to participate.

### ACCOUNTABILITY

CTE provides Skill Certificates in courses and programs in grades 9-12. These tests verify skill attainment and, where available, industry exams are offered. This accountability system assures that all courses and programs in the state are consistently teaching to the standards established by experts in that occupational area. The Skill Certificate Program is used to report technical skill attainment for the accountability system mandated in the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998.

### TESTS OFFERED IN ALL CTE AREAS OF STUDY

Agricultural Education  
Business Education  
Family and Consumer Sciences Education  
Health Science Education  
Information Technology Education  
Marketing Education  
Skilled and Technical Sciences Education  
Technology and Engineering Education

### NUMBER OF TESTS ADMINISTERED

2008-2009	200,543
2004-2005	165,792
1999-2000	114,417
1995-1996	32,638

In 2008-2009, over 85,700 students were awarded a CTE Skill Certificate, indicating a high level of performance. Student performance must be demonstrated in class as part of the Skill Certificate process.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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