

UTAH FACTS ABOUT CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION



Our mission

Career and Technical Education (CTE) creates Pathways to success for every secondary student by providing him or her with the technical skills and academic knowledge needed to prepare for future employment and/or a successful transition to postsecondary education.

CTE provides students with technical training to prepare for a successful career. The structured training each student receives gives him or her the tools needed to be successful in a job after high school and/or further his or her post-secondary education, whether technical school, two- or four-year college. Each student is encouraged to explore various CTE Areas of Study and to develop the essential skills to enter today's competitive job market with confidence.

Career and Technical Education is **an essential component of the total educational system in Utah** and is critical to the country's ability to compete in a global economy. Career and Technical Education is provided in a variety of settings and levels including middle school/junior high career exploration, secondary programs, postsecondary certificates and degrees, and customized training for employees in the workplace.

The **role** of Career and Technical Education is to:

- Provide Career and Technical Education in the state's K-12 system of public education.
- Introduce students to career options.
- Assist in development of career goals.
- Provide technical skills.
- Provide occupation-specific skills.
- Prepare students for further education and training.

CTE provides courses and programs consistent with industry standards. Courses begin in the 7th grade with the exploratory CTE Intro course. Subsequent courses in grades 8-12 teach students specific job readiness and job skills, which can lead to employment and post-secondary education.

CTE programs are offered in all

- 41 school districts
- 142 middle schools
- 116 high schools, with 141,673 secondary students participating in CTE training in grades 9-12.

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

In Utah, there are over 60 **Career Pathways** within the eight CTE Areas of Study.

What Are Career Pathways?

The High School to College and Career Pathways initiative helps match education and workplace needs through partnerships with postsecondary institutions, the school districts, business, and industry. CTE Pathways identify and group courses within Career and Technical Education (CTE) Areas of Study that offer students depth of knowledge and skill linked with specific post-secondary programs culminating in certificates or degrees.

The goals of Pathways are to:

- Talk to students about the importance of choosing a Pathway.
- Increase student awareness of careers, education, and training.
- Strengthen the planning process using an SEOP.
- Parent involvement and awareness of CTE programs.
- Discuss post-secondary options—training, certificate, and degree.

Nationally there are 14.4 million high school and college students enrolled in Career and Technical Education programs.

In Utah there are over:

- 325,000 secondary and postsecondary CTE students.
- 198,000 students participate in CTE (grades 7-12).

Many postsecondary institutions in Utah offer technical programs, including universities, colleges, technical colleges, and other public and private two- and four-year colleges.

Is there any proof CTE works?

Yes.

- Students who take two or more CTE courses are less likely to drop out of high school.
- High School CTE programs prepare students for the many high paying, high-tech jobs requiring less than a bachelor's degree.

Secondary Student Participation in Utah

(By the Numbers)

- Last year, 141,673 students (grades 9-12) participated in CTE courses.
- Last year, 91,045 students were awarded a CTE Skill Certificate.
- Last year, approximately 138,000 students participated in internships, job shadows, field studies, and career fairs.
- Last year, 28,185 secondary CTE students participated in CTE concurrent enrollment, earning 69,851 credit hours.

The vision of CTE is to see that every student has the opportunity to explore a variety of career areas, throughout high school, that will equip him or her with the academic knowledge, technical and employment skills vital for entry into the evolving workforce of the 21st century.

For more information contact your local district CTE Director, the Utah State Office of Education, or access UtahCTE.org.

