

Fact Sheet

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 post-secondary 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 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, post-secondary 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
- 147 middle schools
- 113 high schools, with over 137,500 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 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 post-secondary institutions, the school districts, business, and industry. 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 degrees or certificates.

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 degrees.

Nationally there are 11 million secondary and post-secondary Career and Technical Education students.

In Utah, there are over:

- 325,000 secondary and post-secondary CTE students.
- 198,000 students participate in CTE (grades 7-12).
- 27,000 secondary students attend courses through the Utah College of Applied Technology (UCAT).

Many post-secondary 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.
- Students concentrating in CTE have tests scores equal to those who are "college prep" students.

Secondary Student Participation in Utah – 2008-2009

(By the Numbers)

- Over 137,500 students (grades 9-12) participate in CTE courses annually.
- Over 8,000 high school seniors have completed a specific CTE Pathway.
- Over 85,700 Skill Certificates have been awarded to students.
- Over 138,000 students participate in internships, job shadows, field studies, and career fairs annually.
- Over 70,000 concurrent enrollment credit hours have been earned by CTE students.
- Over 27,000 secondary students attend courses in the Utah College of Applied Technology (UCAT).

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 local district CTE director, Utah State Office of Education, or access our Web site www.utahcte.org