

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Career and Technical Education (CTE) provides all students access to high-quality, rigorous career-focused programs that result in attainment of credentials with labor market value.



Learning that works  
for Utah

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF CTE?

CTE provides all students access to high-quality, rigorous career-focused programs that result in attainment of credentials with labor market value. The structured training each student receives gives him or her the tools needed to be successful in a career after high school and/or further his or her postsecondary education, whether technical school, two-year college, or four-year college. Each student is encouraged to explore various CTE Career Pathways and to develop the essential skills to feel competent in entering today's competitive job market.

## WHAT ARE CTE CAREER PATHWAYS?

A Career Pathway is a sequence of courses within a student's area of interest that connects to career interests and serves as an educational road map, leading to a credential. Utah has developed more than 50 Career Pathways, that align with the national Career Clusters®.

## WHAT SUBJECT AREAS ARE COVERED BY CTE?

From agriculture to engineering to health science to manufacturing, CTE offers more than 50 CTE Career Pathways within 13 CTE Career Clusters.

## IS CTE ONLY FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT COLLEGE-BOUND?

No. Career and Technical Education is essential for all students, providing them with a foundation of academic knowledge and essential technical skills. CTE courses and programs introduce students to career options and assist them in making informed educational choices.

## HOW IS CTE FUNDED?

CTE funding is based on the regular Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU), including incentives to provide Career and Technical Education in schools throughout the state. CTE funding is also supplemented with a federal appropriation through the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act.

CTE is available in every secondary school in Utah. CTE delivers real options for today's students leading to college and rewarding careers.

## WHERE IS CTE OFFERED?

CTE courses and programs are delivered through 166 public middle/jr. high schools and 154 public high schools and charter schools. Most Utah colleges and universities offer postsecondary CTE programs.

## HOW IS CTE OFFERED?

Students in grades K-12 are exposed to various aspects of Career and Technical Education.

### Kindergarten—Sixth Grade

Students have the opportunity to see how classroom instruction connects to the world of work and future career opportunities. Through the Core Curriculum, students see connections to the real world; through guest speakers and field studies, students gain understanding of the world of work and how learning today connects with careers of the future.

### Middle School/Junior High CTE

Through the College and Career Awareness program, typically taught in the seventh grade, every student is involved in activity-centered lessons that utilize technology, develop skills, and explore careers. College and Career Awareness offers exploration and preparation in college and career pathways focusing on jobs that are high-skill and in-demand, as well as satisfying and financially rewarding. The course is design to help students identify their interests, abilities, and skills.

### High School CTE

Students begin to acquire specific job training skills as they continue to take courses that meet their interests and abilities. A rich offering of courses lead students to employment, further education, or training offered in all high schools. Students have opportunities to take concurrent enrollment courses, which provide them with college credit while in high school. The CTE Skill Certificate program provides certification of specific occupational skills that students can take to employers or to postsecondary institutions.

## WHAT OTHER SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS?

### Comprehensive School Counseling Program

Assists students through specific self-appraisal and self-improvement activities, in the development of a Plan for College and Career Readiness, to effectively meet educational goals.

### Work-Based Learning Program

Gives students opportunities to see how classroom instruction connects to the world of work and future careers.

## HOW MANY CTE STUDENTS ARE IN UTAH?

- There are more than 226,000 secondary and postsecondary CTE students in Utah.
- 161,596 secondary students are enrolled in CTE courses annually.
- Nationally 12 million secondary and postsecondary students participate in Career and Technical Education.

## HOW MANY CTE PROGRAMS ARE IN UTAH?

In Utah, CTE programs are offered in all public high schools, middle/junior high schools, and some charter schools. There are eight postsecondary institutions in Utah that offer technical programs, including community colleges, technical colleges, technical education centers, and other public and private two-year and four-year colleges.

## HOW DOES CTE PREPARE STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER?

- Students participate in a CTE Career Pathway.
- Students complete appropriate academic and skill development courses.
- Students participate in concurrent enrollment courses that meet degree requirements.
- Students complete related state or industry skill assessments.
- Students earn industry-recognized credentials of value.

## IS THERE ANY PROOF THAT CTE WORKS?

Yes.

- Students attending CTE high schools demonstrate higher rates of on-time graduation and credit accumulation and a greater likelihood of successfully finishing a college prep math sequence.<sup>1</sup>
- More than 85 percent of CTE students are planning to continue on to postsecondary education.<sup>2</sup>
- **How can I learn more about CTE?**  
Talk to your school counselor, contact the Utah State Board of Education, or access our website: [UtahCTE.org](http://UtahCTE.org).

<sup>1</sup>Neild et al., *The Academic Impacts of Career and Technical Schools: A Case Study of a Large Urban School District*, 2013.

<sup>2</sup>[myCollegeOptions.org/ACTE](http://myCollegeOptions.org/ACTE) Cooperative Research Program 2015.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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February 2019

# CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

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