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.

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.1
• More than 85 percent of CTE students are planning to continue on to postsecondary education.2
• 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.

2myCollegeOptions.org/ACTE Cooperative Research Program 2015.
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