



## CTE Pathways: Connecting High School to College and Career

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### WHAT IS A CTE PATHWAY?

A CTE Pathway is a sequence of courses within a student's area of interest. A Pathway connects from high school to college for a certificate, a degree and/or career.

#### HOW ARE PATHWAYS BENEFICIAL TO STUDENTS?

Many Pathways offer concurrent enrollment credit. A Pathway will save students time and money toward training and/or a college degree.

#### WHY SHOULD STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN CTE CAREER PATHWAYS?

1. To acquire technical skills training.
2. To participate in hands-on learning.
3. To jump-start their future career.
4. To earn college credit while in high school.
5. To save time and money!

#### HOW DO CTE PATHWAYS CONNECT TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION?

CTE Pathways help match education and workplace needs through partnerships with postsecondary institutions, the school districts, business, and industry.

CTE Career Pathways are the maps that can help guide students to:

- High school courses.
- Postsecondary options most relevant to their chosen career destination.

#### WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN A CTE PATHWAY?

- Maximize opportunities for students.
- Increase student awareness of careers and education and training.
- Strengthen the planning process by developing a Plan for College and Career Readiness/SEOP.

#### HOW DO CTE PATHWAYS PREPARE STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER?

- 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 certification, where available.

#### ARE CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT CLASSES INCLUDED IN A CTE PATHWAY?

Yes! CTE Pathways may include concurrent enrollment courses, and credits earned can be transferred to a college or university.

#### IN UTAH, WHAT NUMBER OF STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED IN CTE COURSES?

- 158,677

#### WHAT DO CTE PATHWAYS PREPARE STUDENTS FOR?

Postsecondary education. High school students enrolled in CTE Pathways receive advanced occupational training to pursue postsecondary certificates and degrees.

#### WHAT DOES POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION MEAN?

Postsecondary education means a one-year certificate, a two-year associate or technical degree or a four-year bachelor's degree.

#### WHAT DOES A CTE PATHWAY LOOK LIKE?

A CTE Pathway includes both foundation and elective courses within a student's area of interest. Students are required to earn a specific number of foundation and elective credits in order to be considered a CTE Pathway completer.

#### HOW MANY CREDITS DOES A STUDENT NEED TO BE A CTE PATHWAY CONCENTRATOR?

A student needs 1.50 graduation credits to be a CTE Pathway concentrator.

#### HOW MANY CREDITS DOES A STUDENT NEED TO BE A CTE PATHWAY COMPLETER?

A student needs 3.00 graduation credits to be a CTE Pathway completer.

#### WHAT PERCENTAGE OF JOBS REQUIRE ADDITIONAL TRAINING BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL?

According to the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, 35 percent of the job openings will require at least a bachelor's degree, and 30 percent of the job openings will require some college or an associate degree.

#### HOW MANY CTE PATHWAYS ARE THERE IN UTAH?

Utah recognizes over 50 CTE Career Pathways within seven Areas of Study.

#### WHAT ARE THE CTE AREAS OF STUDY?

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

#### WHAT PATHWAYS ARE OFFERED THROUGH CTE?

For a complete listing of CTE Pathways offered, talk to your high school counselor or access our website: [UtahCTE.org](http://UtahCTE.org).

#### ARE CTE PATHWAYS DIFFERENT FROM THE NATIONAL CAREER CLUSTERS?

No.

Each CTE Pathway is based on national skills standards and national career clusters, preparing students with academic and hands-on learning in order to successfully transition from high school to postsecondary education.

#### ARE STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR COMPLETING THE SECONDARY PORTION OF THE CTE PATHWAY?

Yes.

An award program recognizes students who successfully complete a CTE Pathway while in high school. This award is called the *Secondary Pathway Completer Recognition Award*. Students should talk to their school counselor about applying for this award.

#### HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT CTE AND CTE PATHWAYS?

Talk to your school counselor, contact the Utah State Board of Education, or access our website: [UtahCTE.org](http://UtahCTE.org).

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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