Students in Career and Technical Education have the opportunity to participate in Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs), thus engaging in leadership activities as an integral part of the instructional program.

CTSOs present organized activities for students to gain personal and leadership skills, making them more employable, preparing them to become productive citizens, and assisiting them in assuming positive roles in the home and community. They are not after-school clubs where only a few CTE students belong, but a powerful instructional tool integrated into the CTE classroom. CTSOs help students develop leadership skills and positive work values, while reinforcing the Career and Technical Education curriculum.

DECA—An association of marketing students. DECA is a student leadership organization that provides hands-on leadership development. Students learn how to develop, price, place, and promote products in the right business setting. The organization builds self-confidence, positive work attitudes, and communication skills. Utah has 2,578 members in 70 chapters.

In 2018, a group of DECA student members participated in competitive events at the DECA International Career Development Conference. Two secondary student members placed in the top ten, with fourteen additional members as finalists.

FBLA—Future Business Leaders of America. FBLA provides students with opportunities for leadership, community involvement, business partnerships, and competition with other students in events ranging from Public Speaking to Job Interview to Parliamentary Procedures. Utah has 3,022 members in 125 chapters.

In 2017, thirty-five secondary student members placed in the top ten in the nation for their extraordinary achievement in FBLA events at the FBLA National Leadership Conference.

FCCLA—Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. FCCLA provides students with opportunities to attain knowledge, skills, and leadership characteristics necessary to succeed in life and careers through Family and Consumer Sciences education. Utah has 2,944 members in 121 chapters.

In 2018, 185 student members competed in 30 different STAR Events at the FCCLA National Leadership Conference. Of these students, 71 received gold medals, 92 received silver medals, and 22 received bronze medals.

FFA—The organization for agricultural education students. FFA is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of young people by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. Utah has 6,567 members in 89 chapters.

In October 2018, 164 secondary and postsecondary SkillsUSA student members competed in 74 of the 100 hands-on occupational and leadership skill area competitive events at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. Forty-three of these students were medalists, with 16 receiving gold medals. Utah ranked eighth in medals received for any one state.

HOSA—Health Occupations Students of America. HOSA provides students with opportunities to attain the knowledge, skills, and leadership characteristics necessary to succeed in a health care profession, through leadership training, career training, and service projects. Utah has 3,969 members in 104 chapters.

In 2018, 185 student members placed in the top ten in a variety of healthcare-related competitions.

TSA—Technology Student Association. TSA is the only student organization dedicated to students enrolled in technology and engineering classes in grades 7-12. TSA fosters personal growth, leadership training, career development, teamwork, community service, competitive events, and student recognition to supplement the curriculum in technology and engineering. Leadership opportunities are available at the local, state, or national levels. Utah has 2,472 members in 62 chapters.

In 2018, forty-two middle/junior high and high school TSA student members placed in the top ten in the nation for their exceptional achievement in 10 of the 65 technology-based competitive events at the National TSA Leadership Conference. Each event was based on principles and concepts learned through projects during the school year in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) subjects.

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.
What Students Are Saying About CTE

CTE provides hands-on learning opportunities for students 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. CTE has created more than 50 Career Pathways 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.

"The CTE courses I have taken prepared me for entering my chosen field of study. The knowledge from these classes has been and will be beneficial to my success in college."

Thomas Jones
Information Technology Education

"The CTE courses I have taken prepared me for my chosen career path because I have received knowledge and training in business management and restaurant fundamentals."

Alexis Kingery
Business and Marketing Education

"Because of the CTE courses I have taken, the safety certification I have earned, and my internship, my Lake High teacher is on the spot."

Travis Gardner
Skilled and Technical Sciences Education

"By taking the CNA and EMT courses in high school, I’m better prepared to enter the workforce. These courses allowed me to gain hands-on learning and on-the-job training through internships, and receive instruction from teachers who work in the field."

Taylar Brown
Health Science Education

74 percent of students who concentrated in a CTE Career Pathway placed in postsecondary education, advanced training, military service, or employment, (October 1 - December 31, 2016-2017).

"My CTE classes and my leadership experience in 4-H and FFA laid a strong foundation which I can build upon. I plan to go to college to complete a teaching degree."

Kaitlin Hallam
Agricultural Education

"CTE classes have helped me think more like an engineer and helped me open my mind to the new things that are possible."

Michael Peters
Technology and Engineering Education

"The CTE classes I have taken throughout high school have introduced me to my dream career path. After taking child development I decided I wanted a career working with children."

Kayla Clopten
Family and Consumer Sciences Education

A Utah CTE Career Pathway is a method of searching for a career that fits a students’ interests and lifestyle and allows him or her to build academic courses around it. Career Pathways ensure that students will be prepared to take advantage of the full range of postsecondary options, including on-the-job training, certification programs, and two- and four-year college degrees.

"The CTE courses I have taken prepare me for continuing my business education and training."

Kaitlin Hallam
Agricultural Education

"CTE courses prepared me for entering my chosen field of study. The knowledge from these classes has been and will be beneficial to my success in college."

Thomas Jones
Information Technology Education

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

"I have chosen to work toward a bachelor’s degree in marketing because of the CTE Pathway I was involved in throughout high school."

Madison Warner
Business and Marketing Education

In 2017-2018, 57 percent of students concentrated in a CTE Career Pathway. A concentrator is a student who has completed 1.5 credits in a single CTE program of study.

20% of students completed a CTE Career Pathway. A completer is a student who has completed 3.0 credits in a single CTE program of study.

"I have chosen to work toward a bachelor’s degree in marketing because of the CTE Pathway I was involved in throughout high school."

Madison Warner
Business and Marketing Education

My best CTE programs do a better job of preparing many students for college and career than traditional academics-only programs.

"Today's best CTE programs do a better job of preparing many students for college and career than traditional academics-only programs."

American Graduate School of Education Pathways to Prosperity Project, 2011.

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

myCollegeOptions.org/ACTE Cooperative Research Program, 2015.