



Learning that works for Utah

Our mission:

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 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 postsecondary education, whether technical school, two- or four-year college. Each student is encouraged to explore various CTE Career Pathways 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. CTE is provided in a variety of settings from grades 7-12 and in post-secondary institutions.

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 choices.
- Provide technical skills.
- Provide occupation-specific skills.
- Prepare students for further education and training through CTE Career Pathways.

CTE provides **courses and programs** consistent with industry standards. Courses begin in the 7th grade with College and Career Awareness. Subsequent courses in grades 8-12 teach students specific job readiness and job skills, which can lead to employment and postsecondary education.

CTE programs are provided in public school districts and charter schools, including middle/junior high and high schools.

In 2018-2019, 171,489 students participated in CTE courses.

Is there any proof 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. *(The Academic Impacts of Career and Technical Schools: A Case Study of a Large Urban School District, 2013.)*



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Utah CTE Career Pathways: Pathways to College & Career Readiness

A Career Pathway is a **sequence of courses within a student's area of interest**. Utah Career Pathways align with and are categorized by the national Career Clusters®. Each Career Pathway culminates in an industry-recognized credential of value.

Career Clusters

- Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- Architecture & Construction
- Arts, Audio/Visual Technology & Communications
- Business Finance & Marketing
- Education & Training
- Engineering & Technology
- Health Science
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
- Manufacturing
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

Through participation in CTE Career Pathways students learn how to become productive employees and gain the academic skills to increase their earning potential while still in high school.

CTE students can maximize their opportunities by taking **concurrent enrollment** courses that will connect to postsecondary education, saving time and money toward a certificate or college degree.

Utah's College and Career Awareness Program provides students with the direction, decision-making skills, and planning needed in order to select their career path, including:

- Self-knowledge.
- Education and occupation exploration.
- Preparation for College and Career.

Utah's Skill Certificate Program provides students with opportunities to receive instruction aligned with standards and objectives set by the state of Utah and by industry. Students receive "skill certificates" verifying technical skill achievement.

Utah's Work-Based Learning Program provides opportunities for students to learn a variety of skills through rigorous academic preparation with hands-on career development experiences, including:

- Career Fairs
- Field Studies
- Guest Speakers
- Job Shadows
- Student Internships

Our vision 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 workplace skills vital for entry into the evolving workforce.



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