

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



Learning that works  
for Utah

### WHAT IS A CTE CAREER PATHWAY?

A CTE 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 32 CTE Career Pathways that align with the national Career Clusters®.

### HOW ARE CTE CAREER PATHWAYS BENEFICIAL TO STUDENTS?

Many CTE Career Pathways offer concurrent enrollment credit. Participation in a CTE Career 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 CAREER PATHWAYS CONNECT TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION?

CTE Career Pathways help match education and workplace needs through partnerships with postsecondary institutions, LEAs (local education agency), 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 CAREER 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.

Career Pathways help students find their passion by offering courses within their area of interest.

### HOW DO CTE CAREER 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-recognized credentials of value.

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

Yes! CTE Career 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?

- 187,580 secondary (SY 23-24)
- 80,195 postsecondary (SY 22-23)

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

Postsecondary education and training. High school students enrolled in CTE Career 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 CAREER PATHWAY LOOK LIKE?**

A CTE Career Pathway includes both foundation and elective courses within a student's area of interest. Students are required to earn a specific number of credits in order to be considered a CTE Career Pathway concentrator or completer. **WHAT IS A CTE CONCENTRATOR?**

A concentrator is a student who has completed specific requirements in a single CTE program of study. In 2023-2024, 48.7 percent of students concentrated in a CTE Career Pathway. The graduation rate for students who are CTE concentrators is 96.8 percent, compared to Utah's statewide graduation rate of 88.8 percent.

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

A student needs 3.00 graduation credits to be a CTE Career Pathway completer. In 2023-2024, 31.2 percent of students completed a CTE Career Pathway.

### 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 CAREER PATHWAYS ARE THERE IN UTAH?

Utah recognizes 32 CTE 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 32 CTE Career Pathways within 13 CTE Career Clusters.

### WHAT CAREER PATHWAYS ARE OFFERED THROUGH CTE?

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

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

Yes. An award program recognizes students who successfully complete a CTE Career 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 CAREER PATHWAYS?

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



Utah CTE Career Pathways

Utah CTE classes are open to all qualified students without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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