



CTE TODAY!



What is Career and Technical Education?

- Encompasses 94 percent of high school students and 8.4 million individuals seeking postsecondary certificates and associate degrees in CTE fields¹
- Is delivered flexibly through high schools, area career centers, career academies, community and technical colleges, four-year universities and more
- Educates students for a range of career options through 16 Career Clusters[®] and 79+ pathways
- Offers clear pathways to industry certifications, postsecondary certificates and degrees
- Partners with businesses to prepare students for tomorrow's workforce
- Fulfills employer needs in high-skill, high-wage, high-demand areas
- Prepares students to be college- and career-ready by providing core academic skills, employability skills and technical, job-specific skills

Today's cutting-edge, rigorous and relevant career and technical education (CTE) prepares youth and adults for high-wage, high-skill, high-demand careers in established and emerging industries.

CTE Works for Business

CTE addresses the needs of industries and helps close the skills gap.

- Half of all STEM jobs call for workers with less than a bachelor's degree.⁸
- Health care occupations, many of which require an associate degree or less, make up 12 of the 20 fastest growing occupations.⁹
- 3 million workers will be needed for the nation's infrastructure in the next decade, including designing, building and operating transportation, housing, utilities and telecommunications.¹⁰
- Middle-skill jobs, jobs that require education and training beyond high school but less than a bachelor's degree, are a significant part of the economy. Of the 55 million job openings created by 2020, 30 percent will require some college or a two-year associate degree.¹¹
- More than 80 percent of manufacturers report that talent shortages will impact their ability to meet customer demand.¹²

CTE Works for the Economy

Investing in CTE yields big returns for state economies.

- In Wisconsin, taxpayers receive \$12.20 in benefits for every dollar invested in the technical college system.¹³
- In Washington, for every dollar invested in secondary CTE programs, taxpayers receive a \$9 return on investment.¹⁴
- In Tennessee, CTE returns \$2 for every \$1 invested. At the secondary level, CTE program completers account for more than \$13 million in annual tax revenues.¹⁵

CTE Works for High School Students

High school students involved in CTE are more engaged, graduate at higher rates and typically go on to postsecondary education.

- Taking one CTE class for every two academic classes minimizes the risk of students dropping out of high school.²
- The average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in CTE programs is 93 percent, compared to an average national freshman graduation rate of 80 percent.³
- 91 percent of high school graduates who earned 2-3 CTE credits enrolled in college.⁴

CTE Works for College Students and Adults

Postsecondary CTE prepares students and adults for in-demand careers, and allows them to take on less debt.

- Students can attend public community and technical colleges for a fraction of the cost of tuition at other institutions: \$3,520, on average, in 2016-2017.⁵
- According to research in Texas, Colorado and Virginia, graduates with technical or applied science associate degrees out-earn bachelor's degree holders by \$2,000 to \$11,000.⁶
- 27 percent of people with less than an associate degree, including licenses and certificates, earn more than the average bachelor's degree recipient.⁷

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Endnotes

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4. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Data Point: Career and Technical Education Coursetaking and Postsecondary Enrollment and Attainment: High School Classes of 1992 and 2004*, 2016.
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