ACTE's Quality Framework
Your Tool for Program Improvement

Association for Career and Technical Education
ACTE®

AN INITIATIVE OF ACTE

HIGH QUALITY CTE

Association for Career and Technical Education
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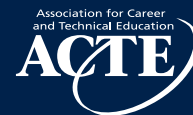
Through its ongoing High-quality CTE Initiative, ACTE has developed an evidence-based Framework to describe the key components of a high-quality CTE program of study. The *ACTE Quality CTE Program of Study Framework*™ contains 12 primary elements and 92 criteria, along with wrap-around system supports, that are essential for CTE program quality.

An accompanying self-evaluation tool, available in electronic and print formats, can be used by secondary and postsecondary CTE educators and stakeholders to evaluate progress in implementing the elements of high-quality CTE programs; inform broader program evaluations, such as the Perkins V comprehensive local needs assessment (CLNA); and shape future professional development and program improvement activities.

Access the complete Framework, the self-evaluation instrument and resources that support success within each element at **www.acteonline.org/high-quality-cte**.

> The *ACTE Quality CTE Program of Study Framework* is integral to the success of Meridian Technology Center's career training programs. It guides our continuous improvement efforts and helps identify professional development needs on our campus. For new faculty, the Framework supports monthly discussions on the criteria used to define a high-quality CTE program. All faculty rank their programs annually, submit evidence, and set goals for the upcoming year based on the rankings. In the broader scope, the continuous improvement efforts informed by the ACTE High-Quality CTE Initiative directly support the school's strategic plan.
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> **- DeAnna Little, Ph.D., Director of Instruction, Meridian Technology Center**

Ways to Use the Framework

Educator Preparation
Teacher educators can use the Framework to identify key topics to address within CTE educator preparation programs.

New Instructor Support
New CTE instructors can use the Framework to reflect on the components of a high-quality CTE program and set goals for implementing quality elements in their classrooms.

Professional Development
CTE administrators and educators can use the Framework and self-evaluation to identify professional development activities that will support program growth and improvement.

Perkins V CLNA
CTE leaders can use the Framework self-evaluation to inform responses to questions in a state's CLNA template and target resources where most needed.

Awards and Recognition
CTE leaders can use the Framework to recognize CTE programs that demonstrate quality characteristics or have improved their quality.

Impact by the Numbers

The online Framework self-evaluation has been used **over 4,000** times to support CTE program of study quality across programs in secondary schools and districts, area career and technical centers, and community and technical colleges and spanning all 16 Career Clusters®.

> The *ACTE Quality CTE Program of Study Framework* is such a beneficial tool for CTE programs that are dedicated to continuous improvement. Each element provides measurable outcomes that can be implemented at a program and institutional level. These results provide direction in which institutional leaders and business and industry partners can further guide programs to continued success.
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> **- Julie Simms, Workforce Development Manager, DPR Construction**

> The *ACTE Quality CTE Program of Study Framework* is a foundation that establishes an environment of growth and transparency. In an age where time restrictions often sacrifice growth in the name of compliance, the Framework provides an opportunity for all stakeholders to reflect on a comprehensive view of what CTE education entails with the 12 elements. We should be engaged in the work of the Framework with fidelity and integrity if we're truly seeking to get back to the heart of what we strive to do: provide life-changing opportunities that are embedded into high-quality CTE programs.
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> **- Amanda McGhee, Director of Curriculum & Assessment, Warren County Career Center**