



What is Career & Technical Education?



Career and Technical Education (CTE) provides students with hands-on learning experiences that prepare them for success in both college and high-demand careers. Through a wide range of courses, programs, and career academies at the secondary level, students explore fields such as healthcare, finance, information technology, aerospace, engineering, and skilled trades.

As part of their CTE experience, students build:

- **Technical skills** specific to a career pathway
- **Academic knowledge** aligned to college and career expectations
- **Employability skills** that are essential for success in any workplace.

CTE
empowers
students through
high quality
programs and
partnerships

CTE
programs align
education with high-
demand, high-wage
career pathways

94%

The average high
school graduation
rate for students
concentrating in a
CTE program

CTE programs in middle and high schools build career awareness and provide students with technical skills for high-skill, high-wage careers

- **Middle School:** Introductory courses expose students to career fields, often offering digital tools certificates or industry certifications.
- **High School:** Students complete a sequence of three or more job preparatory courses and can earn industry certifications aligned with workforce needs.
- **Career Academies:** Small, focused learning communities combining academics, technical training, and real-world experiences like internships and on-the-job training.

Career academies are CHOICE programs that require an application for admission.

Real-World Experience

Workforce Readiness Experiences

Preparing a skilled workforce is key to U.S. competitiveness. CTE supports this by aligning education with industry needs and providing students hands-on experience through strong business partnerships. These valuable opportunities include:

- Internships
- Externship
- Job Shadowing
- On-the-Job Training (OJT)
- Pre-Apprenticeships
- Mentoring
- Field Studies
- School-Based Enterprises

Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)

CTE students can join CTSOs to develop leadership, teamwork, and hands-on skills. Competitions and events connect them with industry professionals and build employability skills.

Digital Tools & Industry Certifications

Digital Tools Certificates (Grades 6 - 8)

Digital Tools exams are offered to middle school students to support the development of digital skills in areas such as word processing, coding, presentations, and digital citizenship.

Industry Certifications (Grades 8 - 12)

Volusia students can earn over 120 industry certifications, demonstrating mastery of in-demand technical skills. These credentials support college and career acceleration, increase lifetime earnings, and can lead directly to employment opportunities

Articulated College Credit

The Florida State Board of Education has approved 119 industry certifications that allow students to earn college credit for their demonstrated technical skills.

For a list of CTE programs and Career Academies, visit Career and Technical Education at the Volusia County Schools website (vc.edu.org) under "Academics" or visit your school's website.