

CTE-Frequently Asked Questions



What is CTE? Career Technical Education (CTE) is a program developed around industry sectors that integrate core academic and technical knowledge to provide students with a pathway to post-secondary education and careers. With California's investment in career pathways, it is a great time to build a bridge to the future

through CTE. Students can explore careers in a variety of industries and begin to build technical and professional "soft skills" that prepare them to be both college and career ready. In these hands-on, project-based learning programs, students will build skills that are transferable to any career. Students in CTE courses have opportunities to connect with industry through guest speakers, field trips, competitions, and showcase events.



What is a CTE Pathway?

A CTE pathway is a sequence of 2 or more courses in the same industry sector. Students completing the pathway are equipped with technical and professional skills for career entry, or for continued education in a university/ college after high school. Some singleton CTE courses are offered that are not in a pathway.



Why should I be a CTE pathway completer?

Graduates have more real-world opportunities in CTE courses. High school students who participate in CTE courses enter college and careers with the ability to be innovative, critical thinkers because they have learned to connect their core academic courses with transferable, professional skills.



Can 9th grade students enroll in a CTE course?

Yes. CTE courses are available to ninth graders. Enrollment is dependent on whether there is room in your schedule during the period in which the course is taught.



Are CTE pathway courses UC A-G?

Many EHS CTE courses are approved for the UC A-G designation. Check with your counselors for details when formulating your four year plan.



Is CTE for ALL students?

Yes, CTE is a great way to prepare for college as well as a career by distinguishing yourself with skills that will transfer to any career. CTE pathway completers are also prepared for life after college because pathways connect academic learning to real-world applications.



Can I get college credit for some CTE courses?

Some CTE courses have an articulation agreement with a community college that recognizes the high school course as being equivalent to the college course. Graduates who enroll in community college may receive college credit for the high school articulated CTE course. Ask your counselor which colleges offer credit for articulated courses and how you can earn college credit when you enroll in the community college.



Can I change Pathways?

Once a student starts a pathway, it is recommended that they continue the sequence, but this is not required. To be a pathway completer, students need to finish at least two CTE courses in the same pathway, including the final capstone course. Students have the freedom to change pathways and take stand-alone electives for enrichment.



How do CTE courses prepare students for college?

CTE courses integrate rigorous academic skills, especially in English and Math, with practical application, making learning more relevant. This hands-on, project-based approach helps students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills valued in college and beyond.



How do CTE pathways lead to job-ready skills?

CTE programs are developed with input from local industry professionals to ensure the curriculum is current and teaches in-demand technical and soft skills (like teamwork, communication, and critical thinking). Students practice these skills through hands-on, project-based learning.



Can I take just the 1st year course?

Year 1 and Year 2 CTE courses can be taken as singleton courses. Some students find they want to explore multiple careers and take the year 1 course in different pathways, or often times there is no room in their schedule to take the advanced, completer course.



Can a student complete more than one pathway?

Yes. Careful four-year planning with your counselor can help you complete more than one pathway. Taking connected pathways will bolster the number of opportunities beyond high school in a chosen field.

