

OTHS CTE

High-Demand Career Pathways

A parent & student guide to connecting high school courses with future careers

START WITH ONE QUESTION: *What do I think I may want to do next, and what can I do in high school to begin preparing for it?*

WHAT THIS GUIDE DOES

This guide connects current OTHS Career and Technical Education (CTE) offerings to high-demand career pathways using the latest **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics** (BLS) 2025-2035 projections, **OTHS CTE course descriptions** and **Career Pathway Academies**, and **National Career Clusters Framework**.

HOW "HIGH DEMAND" IS USED

Careers were selected based on projected growth, job openings, wages, education requirements, and alignment with OTHS courses. BLS projects overall U.S. employment growth of 3.5% from 2025–35.

WHAT FAMILIES SHOULD KNOW

National career projections are a starting point. Local opportunities, wages, licensing requirements and college or apprenticeship options can vary.

OTHS opportunities that can strengthen many pathways:

Dual credit courses across business, programming/networking/cybersecurity, medical terminology, engineering design/CAD, carpentry, construction and welding.

Career Pathway Academies in Business & Finance, Computer Networking Design & Cybersecurity, Health Science, Public Service/Education & Leadership, Culinary 2, Construction & Engineering Design, Electrical and Manufacturing.

CTE Work Based Learning for seniors to gain focused field experience with employer training plans.

Silver Creek Area CEO for seniors to gain field experience with mentorships and community exposure.

Teacher/industry job shadowing or apprenticeship opportunities.

Career-ready certification opportunities through course-specific opportunities could include Adobe, Professional Bookkeeping, Microsoft Office Specialist, cybersecurity certification, and OSHA 10.

CAVC partner options listed in OTHS academy materials, including Cybersecurity 2, Clinical Health Occupations, Dental Assistant, Teaching as a Profession, Food Service 1, Building Trades and Welding.

How to read the following tables:

- Outlook shows projected employment growth % (2025-35), average annual openings, and 2025 median annual wage. Annual openings include both new jobs and replacement needs.
- "DC" means dual credit.
- "CAVC" means a Collinsville Area Vocational Center partner course.
- Supporting courses are useful complements but are not necessarily CTE courses.

1. Business CAREER CLUSTER Management & Entrepreneurship • Financial Services • Marketing & Sales • Supply Chain & Transportation

Suggested OTHS route: start with Microsoft Office Apps./Technology Essentials as needed; add Acctg 1/Business Ownership/Foundations in Multimedia, Excel, and/or Marketing; then specialize with Acctg 2, Advanced Digital Marketing, Video Prod., Personal Finance, CEO and Work Based Learning.

CAREER PATHWAYS	OUTLOOK (2026-2035) growth % avg ann openings avg median wages	TYPICAL NEXT STEP	OTHS COURSES TO HELP PREPARE FOR THIS CAREER DC = dual credit • CAVC = Collinsville Area Vocational Center • Supporting = complementary non-CTE course	WHY IT HELPS / WHAT COMES NEXT
Logistician/Supply Chain Mgmt.	17.6% 26,600 \$82,320	Bachelor's degree	Business Ownership and/or Accounting 1 (Honors option); Adv Applications - Excel (DC); Microsoft Office Apps.; Marketing; CEO Business Leadership (DC); Work Based Learning	<i>Builds spreadsheet/data skills, budgeting, operations thinking, communication and real employer exposure. College study in supply chain/logistics is normally the next step.</i>
Training & Development Specialist	10.8% 46,000 \$69,280	Bachelor's degree	Business Ownership and/or Accounting 1 (Honors option); Adv Applications - Word/PPT (DC); Microsoft Office Apps.; Marketing; Work Based Learning; CEO Business Leadership (DC); <i>Public Speaking (supporting)</i>	<i>Develop presentation, leadership, workplace communication and project skills. Most specialist roles still require a bachelor's degree and often related work experience.</i>
Management Analyst	10.1% 94,100 \$101,860	Bachelor's degree (MBA/CMA for higher salary)	Business Ownership and/or Accounting 1 (Honors option); Adv Applications - Excel (DC); Accounting 2; Introduction to Artificial Intelligence; CEO Business Leadership (DC); Work Based Learning	<i>Gives students data-analysis, finance, process-improvement, communication and decision-making foundations. Analyst roles typically follow college and some professional experience.</i>
Financial Manager	9.7% 65,600 \$166,570	Bachelor's degree and 5+ years related experience	Accounting 1 (Honors option) and Accounting 2; Adv Applications - Excel (DC); Personal Finance (DC); CEO Business Leadership (DC); <i>Economics (supporting)</i>	<i>Strong finance/Acctg foundation, but this is not an entry-level career. Students generally enter Acctg/finance first, then advance after college and experience.</i>
Market Research Analyst / Marketing Specialist	7.0% 82,000 \$78,760	Bachelor's degree	Marketing and Adv Digital Marketing & Social Media (DC); Adv Applications - Excel (DC); Introduction to Artificial Intelligence; Foundations of Multimedia Production & Communication (DC); Video Production (DC); Adv Video Production (DC)	<i>Combines consumer behavior, campaign creation, data interpretation, content development and digital tools. A bachelor's degree is typical for entry.</i>
Project Management Specialist	6.7% 76,500 \$102,320	Bachelor's degree (MBA/CMA for higher salary)	Business Ownership and/or Accounting 1 (Honors option); Adv Applications - Excel (DC); Adv Applications - Word/PPT (DC); Cybersecurity (DC); Marketing; CEO Business Leadership (DC); Work Based Learning	<i>Builds planning, budgeting, documentation, teamwork and deadline-management skills. workplace experiences is especially relevant.</i>
Human Resources Specialist	6.4% 73,700 \$75,940	Bachelor's degree	Business Ownership and/or Accounting 1 (Honors option); CEO Business Leadership (DC); Microsoft Office Apps. or Adv Applications - Word/PPT (DC); Work Based Learning; <i>Psychology/Public Speaking (supporting)</i>	<i>Prepares students for professional communication, personnel issues, documentation and workplace expectations. College HR/business study is generally needed.</i>
Accountant / Auditor	5.0% 115,300 \$83,680	Bachelor's degree (MBA/CPA for higher salary)	Accounting 1 (Honors option); Accounting 2; Adv Applications - Excel (DC); Adv Applications - Word/PPT (DC); Personal Finance (DC); Microsoft Office Apps.; <i>Economics (supporting)</i>	<i>OTHS offers one of its strongest direct business sequences here. Acctg includes computerized records and financial statements; bookkeeping certification is available. CPA licensure requires additional postsecondary requirements.</i>
Public Relations Specialist	2% 23,000 \$74,750	Bachelor's degree	Foundations of Multimedia Production & Communication (DC); Marketing; Adv Digital Marketing & Social Media (DC); Video Production (DC); Adv Applications - Word/PPT (DC); Yearbook; CEO Business Leadership (DC); Work Based Learning; <i>Public Speaking (supporting)</i>	<i>Strong fit for students interested in brand messaging, public image, media releases, social media communication, and campaign support. Students can build writing, presentation, branding, and digital-communication skills before college study in PR, communications, or marketing.</i>
Digital Video Producer / Content Producer / Directors	4% 12,100 \$90,360	Bachelor's degree is typical; experience is commonly needed	Foundations of Multimedia Production & Comm. (DC); Video Production (DC); Adv Video Production (DC); Adv Apps - Word/PPT (DC); Marketing; Adv. Digital Marketing & Social Media (DC); Yearbook; Work Based Learning; <i>Public Speaking (supporting)</i>	<i>Students develop planning, storytelling, camera, audio, editing, post-Prod., live-event Prod., deadline-management skills. Skills transfer to film/media, to business marketing, social/ school media, live streaming, corporate communications, and branded content creation. Building a digital portfolio.</i>

2. Computer Science & Digital Technology **CAREER CLUSTER** Digital Technology

OTHS computer-science preparation is primarily focused in the CTE Business area. Programming is a foundational skill, but Bureau Labor Statistics projects the occupation "computer programmers" to decline 7.3% from 2025-35; students should use programming as a pathway into software development, cybersecurity, data, systems and architecture rather than treating "programmer" as the only career target.

Suggested OTHS route: Computer Programming + Computer Networking + Cybersecurity, supported by Introduction to Artificial Intelligence and Excel. Students focused on security/networking should consider the Computer Networking Design & Cybersecurity Academy and CAVC Cybersecurity 2 where appropriate.

CAREER PATHWAYS	OUTLOOK (2026-2035) growth % avg ann openings avg median wages	TYPICAL NEXT STEP	OTHS COURSES TO HELP PREPARE FOR THIS CAREER DC = dual credit • CAVC = Collinsville Area Vocational Center • Supporting = complementary non-CTE course	WHY IT HELPS / WHAT COMES NEXT
Data Scientist	34.6% 24,800 \$120,230	Bachelor's degree	Introduction to Artificial Intelligence; Computer Programming (DC); Adv Applications - Excel (DC); Computer Networking (DC); Calculus and statistics (supporting)	Programming, data analysis and AI concepts create a strong launch point. College-level statistics, calculus and computer/data science are important next steps.
Computer & Information Research Scientist	21.8% 2,900 \$140,300	Master's degree	Introduction to Artificial Intelligence; Computer Programming (DC); Computer Networking (DC); Cybersecurity (DC); Adv Applications - Excel (DC)	OTHS can build foundational computational thinking and systems knowledge. BLS lists a master's degree as typical entry education, so this is an advanced postsecondary pathway.
Information Security Analyst	21.0% 14,100 \$129,180	Bachelor's degree; often related experience	Cybersecurity (DC); Computer Networking (DC); Computer Programming (DC); Introduction to Artificial Intelligence; Adv Applications - Excel (DC); Cybersecurity 2 (CAVC)	One of the clearest OTHS-to-career alignments: networking, endpoint security, network defense and threat management are taught directly. Postsecondary education/certifications and experience are commonly needed.
Software Developer	10.2% 95,300 \$135,980	Bachelor's degree	Computer Programming (DC); Introduction to Artificial Intelligence; Cybersecurity (DC); Computer Networking (DC)	Programming in languages including Python, Java and SQL, plus systems-development concepts, directly supports software-development readiness. A bachelor's degree is typical.
Database Architect	9.4% 3,900 \$139,500	Bachelor's degree; often related experience	Computer Programming (DC); Adv Applications - Excel (DC); Computer Networking (DC); Cybersecurity (DC)	SQL, data storage/retrieval, networks and security are relevant foundations. Database architect is normally an experienced professional role rather than a first job after high school.
Computer Systems Analyst	7.9% 32,900 \$105,850	Bachelor's degree	Computer Programming (DC); Computer Networking (DC); Cybersecurity (DC); Adv Applications - Excel (DC); Introduction to Artificial Intelligence	OTHS builds system-analysis, programming, data, networking and business problem-solving skills that map well to systems analysis.
Computer Network Architect	7.7% 9,600 \$134,050	Bachelor's degree + 5+ years related experience	Computer Networking (DC); Cybersecurity (DC); Computer Programming (DC); Cybersecurity 2 (CAVC)	Networking fundamentals, LAN/WAN architecture, OSI/TCP-IP and network security directly support the pathway. Architect roles usually come after several years in networking.
Web & Digital Interface Designer	6.0% 8,300 \$104,000	Bachelor's degree	Foundations of Multimedia Production & Comm. (DC); 3D Modeling/Animation; Computer Programming (DC); Marketing; Adv Digital Marketing & Social Media (DC)	Combines coding with design, digital media, usability and audience awareness. Portfolio development is valuable alongside postsecondary training.

3. Industrial Tech & Engineering CAREER CLUSTER Adv Manufacturing • Construction • Energy & Natural Resources

OTHS offers unusually direct, hands-on sequences in engineering design/CAD, construction, electrical Apps. and welding. These pathways support both college engineering routes and earn-while-you-learn apprenticeship/trade routes.

Suggested OTHS route: Technical Drawing & Engineering Design is the strongest common foundation. Then branch into CAD/engineering, construction/carpentry, electrical, or welding. Use CAVC partner programs and Work Based Learning when they fit the student's goal.

CAREER PATHWAYS	OUTLOOK (2026-2035) growth % avg ann openings avg median wages	TYPICAL NEXT STEP	OTHS COURSES TO HELP PREPARE FOR THIS CAREER DC = dual credit • CAVC = Collinsville Area Vocational Center • Supporting = complementary non-CTE course	WHY IT HELPS / WHAT COMES NEXT
Industrial Machinery Mechanic	17.8% 44,400 \$64,520	High school diploma + long-term on-the-job training	Technical Drawing & Engineering Design (DC); Small Engine Repair; Beginning Welding; Welding Technology 1 (DC); Electrical Applications	<i>Hands-on mechanical systems, diagnostics, electrical fundamentals, technical manuals, measurement and welding provide strong entry foundations. Employers typically provide substantial on-the-job training.</i>
Industrial Engineer	12.4% 23,100 \$102,440	Bachelor's degree	Technical Drawing & Engineering Design (DC); Drafting & Engineering Design (DC); Engineering Design (CAD) 1 (DC); CAD 2; 3D Modeling/3D Printing; <i>Physics 1 (supporting)</i>	<i>CAD, technical communication, design and manufacturing exposure are excellent high-school preparation. A four-year engineering degree is typically required.</i>
Mechanical Engineer	11.2% 17,800 \$104,110	Bachelor's degree	Technical Drawing & Engineering Design (DC); Drafting & Engineering Design (DC); CAD 1/2; 3D Modeling/3D Printing; Small Engine Repair; <i>Physics 1 (supporting)</i>	<i>Students gain visualization, drafting, design and mechanical-system experience. Calculus, physics and an accredited engineering degree are the normal next steps.</i>
HVAC Mechanic / Installer Plumber/Pipefitter	10.9% 40,600 \$61,010 7% 42,000 \$63,800	Postsecondary nondegree award + long-term on-the-job training	Technical Drawing & Engineering Design (DC); Electrical Applications; Construction 1 (DC); Construction 2 - Advanced Building Trades; Carpentry (DC)	<i>Electrical theory, wiring, tools, construction and blueprint skills transfer well to HVAC. Students will still need HVAC/Plumbing/Pipefitting - specific postsecondary training, apprenticeship or employer training.</i>
Electrician	9.2% 72,700 \$63,190	High school diploma + apprenticeship	Technical Drawing & Engineering Design (DC); Electrical Applications; Construction 1 (DC); Construction 2; Carpentry (DC); <i>Physics 1 (supporting)</i>	<i>Electrical Apps. includes Ohm's Law, AC/DC circuits, residential wiring and National Electrical Code concepts. Licensed work requires the appropriate apprenticeship/licensing route after high school.</i>
Construction Manager	9.1% 49,700 \$114,990	Bachelor's degree + moderate on-the-job training	Technical Drawing & Engineering Design (DC); Construction 1 (DC); Construction 2; Carpentry (DC); Engineering Design CAD; Advanced Applications - Excel (DC); Accounting 1 (Honors option)	<i>Students gain blueprint reading, estimating, structural calculations, construction methods and OSHA 10 through Construction 2. Management roles typically require college and/or substantial industry experience.</i>
Carpenter	3.9% 62,800 \$60,580	High school diploma + apprenticeship	Technical Drawing & Engineering Design (DC); Electrical Applications; Construction 1 (DC); Construction 2 - Advanced Building Trades; Carpentry (DC)	<i>This is a direct skills pathway with tools, materials, framing, finish carpentry and safety. Apprenticeship is the typical BLS training route.</i>
Welder / Cutter / Solderer / Brazer	2.4% 40,300 \$53,750	High school diploma + moderate on-the-job training	Technical Drawing & Engineering Design (DC); Beginning Welding; Welding Technology 1 (DC); Welding Technology 2; Welding Tech 1/2 (CAVC)	<i>National growth is below the 3.5% all-occupation average, but annual openings remain substantial and OTHS has a strong sequenced welding pathway. Students build practical SMAW/GMAW/flux-core skills.</i>

4. Health Science **CAREER CLUSTER** Healthcare & Human Services

OTHS Health Occupations and Medical Terminology provide a foundation. They are preparation and exploration courses. Not substitutes for nursing, allied-health, graduate-professional education, certification or licensure.

Suggested OTHS route: Health Occupations + Medical Terminology (often junior year); follow OTHS guidance to take Honors Human Anatomy & Physiology after Medical Terminology when appropriate. Consider Community Health Worker, CAVC Clinical Health Occupations or Dental Assistant.

CAREER PATHWAYS	OUTLOOK (2026-2035) growth % avg ann openings avg median wages	TYPICAL NEXT STEP	OTHS COURSES TO HELP PREPARE FOR THIS CAREER DC = dual credit • CAVC = Collinsville Area Vocational Center • Supporting = complementary non-CTE course	WHY IT HELPS / WHAT COMES NEXT
Nurse Practitioner	41.0% 29,400 \$132,300	Master's degree	Health Occupations; Medical Terminology (DC); Clinical Health Occupations (CAVC); <i>Anatomy & Physiology (supporting)</i>	<i>Build healthcare vocabulary, patient-care basics, vital signs, ethics and career exposure. Students must first become registered nurses and then complete graduate-level advanced-practice education/licensure.</i>
Physician Assistant	21.1% 11,500 \$135,880	Master's degree	Health Occupations; Medical Terminology (DC); Clinical Health Occupations (CAVC); <i>Anatomy & Physiology (supporting)</i>	<i>Strong exploration and science/medical-language foundation, but PA preparation requires undergraduate prerequisites, graduate PA education and licensure.</i>
Registered Nurse	5.6% 180,800 \$97,550	Bachelor's degree typical entry (BSN, ADN, and approved diploma pathways; all RNs must be licensed.)	Health Occupations; Foundations of Community Health and Advocacy; Medical Terminology (DC); Clinical Health Occupations (CAVC); <i>Anatomy & Physiology (supporting)</i>	<i>Students build terminology, vital-sign/patient-care concepts, ethics, communication, health-system navigation, advocacy, and field experience. Post-secondary nursing education & RN licensure still required.</i>
Community Health Worker	12.7% 7,000 \$51,850	High school diploma/equivalent + short-term on-the-job training	Health Occupations; Foundations of Community Health and Advocacy; Medical Terminology (DC); Work Based Learning; <i>Psychology/Public Speaking (supporting)</i>	<i>One of OTHS's most direct Health Science school-to-career pathways. The course develops health education, outreach, advocacy, social support, healthcare navigation, communication, professionalism and public-health knowledge. The approved curriculum also calls for substantial field experience.</i>
Diagnostic Medical Sonographer	13.9% 6,000 \$96,590	Associate's degree	Health Occupations; Medical Terminology (DC); <i>Anatomy & Physiology (supporting)</i>	<i>Medical language, anatomy and patient-care basics are directly useful before an accredited sonography program. OTHS does not confer a sonography credential.</i>
Occupational Therapist	14.8% 10,000 \$100,330	Master's degree	Health Occupations; Medical Terminology (DC); <i>Anatomy & Physiology and Psychology (supporting)</i>	<i>Health Occupations provides patient-care and healthcare-system context; psychology/anatomy add relevant academic background. Graduate professional education and licensure are required.</i>
Physician / Surgeon	4% 22,100 \$275,930	Bachelor's degree + medical school + 3–9 years of internship/residency; fellowship for some specialties.	Health Occupations; Foundations of Community Health and Advocacy; Medical Terminology (DC); Clinical Health Occupations (CAVC); <i>Anatomy & Physiology, Biology, Chemistry, Physics (supporting)</i>	<i>Build healthcare vocabulary, patient-care awareness, anatomy/physiology knowledge, professionalism, communication, public/community-health perspective, and field experience. Students still need undergraduate pre-med preparation, medical school, residency, and state licensure.</i>
Physical Therapist	11.9% 13,400 \$102,760	Doctoral or professional degree	Health Occupations; Medical Terminology (DC); <i>Anatomy & Physiology and Physics (supporting)</i>	<i>Builds anatomy, patient-care, communication and healthcare foundations. Physical therapists need a DPT and state licensure.</i>
Respiratory Therapist	8.5% 8,600 \$82,280	Associate's degree	Health Occupations; Medical Terminology (DC); Clinical Health Occupations (CAVC); <i>Anatomy & Physiology (supporting)</i>	<i>The healthcare and patient-care foundation is valuable before an accredited respiratory-therapy program and required credentialing/licensure.</i>

5. Public Service, Education & Human Services **CAREER CLUSTER** Education • Healthcare & Human Services

OTHS's current Public Service Academy is specifically an Education & Leadership pathway built around Early Childhood Education, Growth and Development of Children and Family Health Maintenance. Under the modernized National Career Clusters framework, many of these occupations fit Education or Healthcare & Human Services rather than the national Public Service & Safety cluster.

Suggested OTHS route: Growth and Development of Children + Early Childhood Education + Family Health Maintenance, with Psychology and Public Speaking as supporting courses and Teaching as a Profession at CAVC when appropriate.

CAREER PATHWAYS	OUTLOOK (2026-2035) growth % avg ann openings avg median wages	TYPICAL NEXT STEP	OTHS COURSES TO HELP PREPARE FOR THIS CAREER DC = dual credit • CAVC = Collinsville Area Vocational Center • Supporting = complementary non-CTE course	WHY IT HELPS / WHAT COMES NEXT
Substance Abuse / Behavioral Disorder / Mental Health Counselor	18.4% 50,500 \$59,350	Master's degree	Family Health Maintenance; Growth and Development of Children; Early Childhood Education; Work Based Learning; <i>Psychology (supporting); Public Speaking (supporting)</i>	<i>Support human development, family/social-emotional issues and communication. Counseling practice generally requires graduate education, supervised experience and state credentials.</i>
Mental Health & Substance Abuse Social Worker	10.3% 12,500 \$60,280	Master's degree	Family Health Maintenance; Growth and Development of Children; Early Childhood Education; <i>Psychology (supporting); Public Speaking (supporting)</i>	<i>Builds understanding of families, development and social/emotional issues. Clinical/social-work roles typically require college/graduate education and licensure.</i>
Social & Human Service Assistant	7.4% 48,900 \$45,930	High school diploma + short-term on-the-job training	Family Health Maintenance; Growth and Development of Children; Early Childhood Education; Work Based Learning; <i>Psychology/Public Speaking (supporting)</i>	<i>OTHS can prepare students for entry-support roles through human-development content, communication and real-work experience; some employers prefer additional college coursework.</i>
Social & Community Service Manager	7.2% 18,500 \$80,390	Bachelor's degree + related experience	Family Health Maintenance; Business Ownership; Work Based Learning; CEO Business Leadership (DC); <i>Public Speaking/Psychology (supporting)</i>	<i>This is an experienced leadership role. OTHS can combine service-focused coursework with business/leadership skills, then students build college and field experience.</i>
Preschool Teacher	4.5% 66,700 \$38,140	Associate's degree (BLS typical entry)	Early Childhood Education; Growth and Development of Children; Family Health Maintenance; Teaching as a Profession (CAVC); Work Based Learning; <i>Public Speaking/Psychology (supporting); school-based field experience when available</i>	<i>One of OTHS's most direct Public Service Academy pathways: child development, classroom management, lesson planning and actual teaching practice are built into the coursework.</i>
K-12 Teacher (Elementary, Middle or High School)	0% 201,700 \$67,360	Bachelor's degree + state-issued teacher license/certification.	Growth & Development of Children; Early Childhood Education; Family Health Maintenance; Teaching as a Profession (CAVC); Work Based Learning; <i>Public Speaking/Psychology (supporting); school-based field experience when available</i>	<i>Students can develop child/adolescent development, lesson planning, classroom-management, communication, observation, and instructional-practice skills. After OTHS, students complete an approved educator-preparation program and Illinois licensure requirements.</i>
Child, Family & School Social Worker	4.4% 33,900 \$59,550	Bachelor's degree	Family Health Maintenance; Growth and Development of Children; Early Childhood Education; <i>Psychology/Public Speaking (supporting)</i>	<i>Directly aligned to family systems, child development and social-service exploration. State requirements vary; many social-work positions require licensure and some require graduate education.</i>
School / Career Counselor & Advisor	2.9% 27,800 \$64,330	Master's degree	Early Childhood Education; Growth and Development of Children; Family Health Maintenance; Work Based Learning; <i>Psychology/Public Speaking (supporting)</i>	<i>OTHS can provide education, human-development and communication foundations. School counseling normally requires a master's degree and state credential.</i>

6. Culinary & Hospitality CAREER CLUSTER Hospitality, Events & Tourism • Healthcare & Human Services (nutrition crossover)

OTHS's Culinary 2 Academy and FACS offerings directly build food preparation, quantity Prod., safety/sanitation, hospitality and management awareness. Business courses can strengthen students' interest in restaurant ownership or management.

Suggested OTHS route: Culinary 1 > Culinary 2 > Culinary 3, with Food Service 1 at CAVC where appropriate. Add Business Ownership, Accounting, Excel, Marketing or CEO for students interested in restaurant ownership/management.

CAREER PATHWAYS	OUTLOOK (2026-2035) growth % avg ann openings avg median wages	TYPICAL NEXT STEP	OTHS COURSES TO HELP PREPARE FOR THIS CAREER DC = dual credit • CAVC = Collinsville Area Vocational Center • Supporting = complementary non-CTE course	WHY IT HELPS / WHAT COMES NEXT
Restaurant Cook	12.1% 218,600 \$37,390	No formal credential + moderate on-the-job training	Culinary 1; Culinary 2; Culinary 3; Food Service 1 (CAVC); Work Based Learning	OTHS offers highly relevant hands-on preparation in quantity food Prod., commercial-style equipment, sanitation, hospitality and international cuisine.
Dietitian / Nutritionist	7.7% 5,700 \$76,400	Bachelor's degree + internship/residency	Culinary 1; Culinary 2; Health Occupations; Medical Terminology (DC); Honors Human Anatomy & Physiology (supporting)	Culinary 1 provides a meaningful nutrition foundation, but dietitian credentialing requires substantial postsecondary science, supervised training and professional requirements.
Chef / Head Cook	6.6% 25,200 \$62,470	High school diploma + 5+ years related experience	Culinary 1; Culinary 2; Culinary 3; Food Service 1 (CAVC); Business Ownership; Accounting (Honors option); Microsoft Office; CEO Business Leadership (DC)	Culinary skills plus business/leadership courses support advancement. BLS identifies significant related experience as typical, so students generally progress from line-cook and supervisory work.
Food Scientist / Technologist	6.2% 1,000 \$88,720	Bachelor's degree	Culinary 1; Culinary 2; Advanced Applications - Excel (DC); Chemistry/Biology (supporting)	OTHS can spark food-science interest through nutrition, food preparation and data skills. A bachelor's degree in food science or a related science is typically required.
Meeting / Convention / Event Planner	5.8% 16,800 \$61,160	Bachelor's degree	Culinary 1; Culinary 2; Marketing; CEO Business Leadership (DC); Advanced Applications - Excel (DC); Advanced Word/PowerPoint (DC)	Hospitality, food-service awareness, budgeting, promotion and project-management skills transfer well to event planning.
Food Service Manager	5.8% 38,800 \$69,390	High school diploma + related experience	Culinary 1; Culinary 2; Culinary 3; Business Ownership; Accounting 1 (Honors option); Advanced Applications - Excel (DC); CEO Business Leadership (DC)	OTHS can combine food Prod./sanitation with business, finance and management. BLS indicates prior related work experience is typically needed.
Baker	5.5% 36,500 \$37,160	No formal credential + moderate on-the-job training	Culinary 1; Culinary 2; Culinary 3; Work Based Learning; Business Ownership/Accounting 1 (for entrepreneurship)	Hands-on measurement, recipe execution, food safety and Prod. skills are directly useful. Specialized pastry/baking training may further strengthen employability.
Food Preparation / Service Supervisor	5.4% 171,500 \$44,080	High school diploma + related experience	Culinary 1; Culinary 2; Culinary 3; Food Service 1 (CAVC); CEO Business Leadership (DC); Work Based Learning	OTHS provides food-service skills plus leadership and work habits; supervisory roles are typically earned after successful frontline experience.

Quick Pathway Map

Use this page as a starting point for course-selection conversations.

START WITH ONE QUESTION: *What do I think I want to do next, and what can I do in high school to begin preparing for it?*

OTHS FOCUS	CAREER CLUSTER	BEST OTHS STARTING POINTS	TYPICAL POST-HIGH-SCHOOL ROUTE
Business	Management & Entrepreneurship; Financial Services; Marketing & Sales; Supply Chain	Acctg, Excel, Marketing, Business Ownership, CEO, WBL	Bachelor's; entry business roles; advancement with experience
Computer Science	Digital Technology	Programming, Networking, Cybersecurity, AI, Excel	Bachelor's/associate/certifications; experience-driven advancement
Industrial Tech	Advanced Manufacturing; Construction; Energy/Plumbing/Pipefitter	Technical Drawing, CAD, Construction, Electrical, Welding	Apprenticeship/trade school OR engineering/construction degree
Health Science	Healthcare & Human Services	Health Occupations, Medical Terminology, anatomy/physiology support	Certificate/associate/bachelor/graduate professional programs + licensure
Public Service	Education; Healthcare & Human Services	Early Childhood Ed, Child Development, Family Health, Psychology/Public Speaking	Entry human-service roles OR college/graduate education/licensure
Culinary	Hospitality, Events & Tourism	Culinary 1, Culinary 2, Culinary 3, CAVC Food Service	Direct employment, culinary school, hospitality/business degree, advancement by experience

Turn career interest into an OTHS plan:

1 Choose a career family Start broad: business, digital technology, skilled trades/engineering, health, education/human services, or culinary/hospitality.	2 Build a course sequence Use the suggested route in this guide rather than treating CTE courses as isolated electives.	3 Add an experience Look for dual credit, certification opportunities, Work Based Learning, CAVC options, employer exposure, projects and portfolios.	4 Know the next step Identify whether the career typically requires direct employment, apprenticeship, certificate/associate degree, bachelor's degree, or graduate/professional education.
---	--	--	--

Sources & Important Notes

How careers were selected. Careers in this guide were chosen using national BLS 2025-2035 projections, annual openings, education/wage context, and a meaningful connection to current OTHS CTE courses. The careers are examples of strong pathway connections, not an official BLS ranking.

Important note. BLS wages and projections are national and can vary by region and employer. Some careers show many annual openings because workers retire or change occupations, not only because the field is growing. OTHS courses, prerequisites, dual-credit status, CAVC options and academy requirements can change. Students should confirm current options with OTHS counseling/CTE staff. Licensure and credential requirements may also vary by state and profession.

Primary Sources

- O'Fallon Township High School District 203. Career and Technical Education Department. <https://www.oths.us/academics/career-and-technical-education> Mission and CTE department overview.
- O'Fallon Township High School District 203. CTE Courses Offered / Course Descriptions. <https://www.oths.us/academics/career-and-technical-education/courses-offered> Current course names, dual-credit markers and descriptions used for course-to-career mapping.
- O'Fallon Township High School District 203. Career & Technical Education Department - Career Pathways Project (CCPP). <https://www.oths.us/fs/resource-manager/view/119d9a11-ff24-4337-8c54-49af1ab00f55> Three-page academy/pathway document used for required courses and CAVC partner options.
- O'Fallon Township High School District 203. Curriculum Guide & Course Selection Materials 2027-2028. <https://www.oths.us/academics/schoolcounseling/curriculum-guide-course-selection-materials> Confirms current 2027-2028 curriculum materials and CAVC program guide access.
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Table 1.2: Occupational projections, 2025-35, and worker characteristics, 2025. <https://www.bls.gov/emp/tables/occupational-projections-and-characteristics.htm> Primary source for every career's projected growth, annual openings, 2025 median wage and typical entry education/training.
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Table 1.1: Employment by major occupational group, 2025 and projected 2035. <https://www.bls.gov/emp/tables/emp-by-major-occupational-group.htm> Used for the 3.5% all-occupation growth benchmark and major-group context.
- Advance CTE. National Career Clusters Framework. <https://careertech.org/career-clusters/> Modernized national framework used to describe cluster alignment.

Important: Prepared for career-planning and program-alignment discussion. This report is informational and should be updated as OTHS course offerings, BLS projections, local labor-market conditions and credential requirements change.