

WHAT IS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION?



7.8 million high school students and **3.3 million** college and adult students participate in CTE, learning skills in the classroom and on the job.¹

CTE is delivered at comprehensive and CTE-dedicated high schools, magnet schools, area technical centers, community and technical colleges and some four-year universities.

CTE students earn industry certifications and licenses, postsecondary certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees and higher.

CTE is good for students, good for businesses and good for communities.

CTE high school students are college and career ready – **96%** graduate high school and most enroll directly in college.²

Associate degrees in CTE fields can pay **up to \$2.8 million** in lifetime earnings - and pay more than bachelor's degrees in other fields - while limiting student debt.³

CTE is the answer to the nation's projected deficit of **6 million** skilled workers through 2032.⁴

LEARN MORE ABOUT CTE AT [ACTEONLINE.ORG](https://acteonline.org)

¹ Perkins Collaborative Resource Network, Perkins Data Explorer, customized Consolidated Annual Report data, 2022-23.

² Perkins Collaborative Resource Network, Perkins Data Explorer, customized Consolidated Annual Report data, 2021-22; U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Consolidated State Performance Report, 2010-11 through 2017-18; U.S. Department of Education, NCES, HSL:09, Base-year, 2013 Update, High School Transcript, and Second Follow-Up.

³ Carnevale, A. P., Cheah, B., & Wenzinger, E. (2021). *The college payoff: More education doesn't always mean more earnings*. Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce; College Board, Annual Survey of Colleges; NCES, IPEDS Fall 2021 Enrollment data and IPEDS 2022 Institutional Characteristics data.

⁴ Lightcast. (2024). *The rising storm: Building a future-ready workforce to withstand the looming labor shortage*.

CTE PREPARES THE WORKFORCE ACROSS A WIDE RANGE OF INDUSTRIES AND OCCUPATIONS.



Agriculture

Construction



Arts, Entertainment & Design

Management & Entrepreneurship



Education

Energy & Natural Resources



Financial Services



Hospitality, Events & Tourism

Healthcare & Human Services



Digital Technology

Public Service & Safety



Advanced Manufacturing

Marketing & Sales



Supply Chain & Transportation

