

Students in Career and Technical Education have the opportunity to participate in Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs), engaging in leadership activities as an integral part of the instructional program.

CTSOs present organized activities for students to gain personal and leadership skills, making them more employable, preparing them to become productive citizens, and assisting them in assuming positive roles in the home and community. They are not after-school clubs where only a few CTE students belong, but a powerful instructional tool integrated into the CTE classroom. CTSOs help students develop leadership skills and positive work values, while reinforcing the Career and Technical Education curriculum.

DECA—An association of marketing students. DECA is a student leadership organization that provides hands-on leadership development. Students learn how to develop, price, place, and promote products in the right business setting. The organization builds self-confidence, positive work attitudes, and communication skills. [Utah has 1,283 members in 62 chapters.](#)

In 2021, DECA student members participated in competitive events at the DECA International Career Development Conference. Three secondary student members placed in the top ten.

Educators Rising—An association for future teachers. Educators Rising cultivates highly skilled educators by guiding young people on a path to becoming accomplished teachers, beginning in high school and extending through college and into the profession. [Utah has 181 members in 24 schools.](#)

Each year, Educator Rising student members compete at the Educators Rising National Leadership Conference in 20 competitive events. Competitions are performance-based competitive events in which aspiring teachers demonstrate their knowledge, teaching skills, and leadership in education.

FBLA—Future Business Leaders of America. FBLA provides students with opportunities for leadership, community involvement, business partnerships, and competition with other students in events ranging from Public Speaking to Job Interview to Parliamentary Procedures. [Utah has 1,955 members in 89 chapters.](#)

In 2021, at the FBLA National Leadership Conference, twenty-three secondary student members placed in the top ten in the nation for their extraordinary achievement in their FBLA events.

Many postsecondary institutions in Utah offer technical programs, including universities, colleges, technical colleges, and other public and private two- and four-year colleges.

FCCLA—Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. FCCLA provides students with opportunities to attain knowledge, skills, and leadership characteristics necessary to succeed in life and careers through Family and Consumer Sciences education. [Utah has 2,014 members in 122 chapters.](#)

In 2021, at the FCCLA National Leadership Conference, student members competed in 30 different STAR Events. Of these students, 36 received gold medals, 49 received silver medals, and 7 received bronze medals.

FFA—The organization for agricultural education students. FFA is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of young people by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. [Utah has 5,576 members in 92 chapters.](#)

In October 2021, at the National FFA Convention and Expo, student members were recognized for individual accomplishments. 72 members received the American FFA degree—the highest recognition an FFA member can receive.

HOSA—Future Health Professionals. HOSA provides students with opportunities to attain the knowledge, skills and leadership characteristics necessary to succeed in a health care profession, through leadership training, career training, and service projects. [Utah has 2,031 members in 83 chapters.](#)

In 2021, at the HOSA National Leadership Conference, student members participated in competitive events. Twenty-six secondary and postsecondary student members placed in the top ten in a variety of healthcare-related competitions.

SkillsUSA—Skilled and Technical Sciences Student Organization. SkillsUSA provides quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship, and character development. The organization builds and reinforces self-confidence, work attitudes, and communication skills. [Utah has 996 members in 78 chapters.](#)

In 2021, at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference, 97 Utah state champions competed in 67 different hands-on skilled and technical competitive events. Thirty-three of these students were medalists, with 16 receiving gold medals. Utah tied eighth in the nation in medals received.

TSA—Technology Student Association. TSA is the only student organization dedicated exclusively to students enrolled in technology and engineering classes in grades 7-12. TSA fosters personal growth, leadership training, career development, teamwork, community service, competitive events, and student recognition to supplement the curriculum in technology and engineering. [Utah has 1,108 members in 47 chapters.](#)

In 2021, at the National TSA Leadership Conference, 40 middle/junior high and high school TSA student members placed in the top ten in the nation for their exceptional achievement in 15 of the 70 technology-based competitive events.

Career and Technical Education makes an impact on youth and adults while preparing them for successful careers. CTE is an essential component of the total educational system in Utah and is critical to the country's ability to compete in a global economy.

Our vision is to see that every student has the opportunity to explore a variety of career areas, throughout high school, that will equip him or her with the academic knowledge, technical and employability skills vital for entry into the evolving workforce.

What Students Are Saying About CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION



Career and Technical Education (CTE) provides all students access to high-quality, rigorous career-focused programs that result in attainment of credentials with labor market value.

 **CTE**® Learning that works for Utah

What Students Are Saying About CTE

CTE provides hands-on learning opportunities for students in a variety of settings and levels, including middle school/junior high career exploration, secondary programs, postsecondary certificates and degrees. Utah CTE has created 35 Career Pathways for every secondary student by providing him or her with the technical skills and academic knowledge needed to prepare for future employment and/or a successful transition to postsecondary education.



"The CTE courses I have taken in high school have helped me create a path to employment and college. They helped me decide what I wanted to take in college and what career I wanted to pursue. They taught me technical skills, how to work hard, and how to collaborate with others."

Kendall Gowans



"I have earned a lot of college credits that will give me a semester in my freshman year. This will save me time and money in the future. I will have an advantage over other students in my college courses since I will already have a good foundation in my field of study."

Bradley Palmer



63.8 percent of students who concentrated in a CTE Career Pathway placed in postsecondary education, advanced training, military service, or employment. (October 1 - December 31, 2018-2019)



Utah Career and Technical Education programs and services are open to all students without regard to students' race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disabilities.

"Taking CTE classes was one of the most valuable decisions I made in high school. The activities I have been involved in, and the leadership positions I have held, have provided me many opportunities to grow and learn."

Abigail Hone

CTE reduces the workforce gap by providing long-term job education and skills training for students, enabling them to reach their full potential.

"CTE courses taught me an abundance of skills relating to preparation for future workplace environments. I learned how to become a better listener, observer, and leader."



CTE uses a hands-on approach that teaching experts believe is more effective with many students than reading or listening to lectures alone.



There are many high-tech jobs in Utah students can perform as a result of taking CTE courses while in high school.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the Career and Technical Education courses I participated in will continue to help me succeed in my life."

Isaac Angulo

In 2019-2020, 45.9 percent* of students concentrated in a CTE Career Pathway. A concentrator is a student who has completed specific requirements in a single CTE program of study.

15.3 percent* of students completed a CTE Career Pathway. A completer is a student who has completed specific course requirements and earned 3.0 credits in a single CTE program of study.

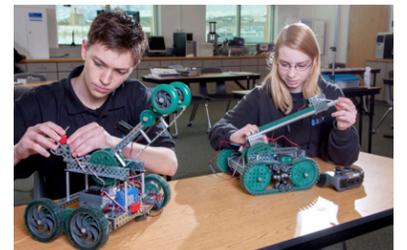
More than 85 percent of CTE students are planning to continue to postsecondary education.

myCollegeOptions.org/ACTE Cooperative Research Program, 2015.

"CTE classes have influenced me on finding what I'm truly passionate about and what I wish to pursue. Without these classes I know I would still be undecided in what I want my future plans to be."



A CTE Career Pathway is a method of searching for a career that fits a students' interests and lifestyle and allows him or her to build academic courses around it. Career Pathways ensure that students will be prepared to take advantage of the full range of postsecondary options, including on-the-job training, certification programs, and two- and four-year college degrees.



"I directly credit my experiences in CTE classes for progressing my interests and instilling a sense of resolve that aerospace engineering is the field I want to advance my education in."

Carter Parkin

Today's best CTE programs do a better job of preparing many students for college and career than traditional academics-only programs.

Harvard Graduate School of Education Pathways to Prosperity Project, 2011.



"I am leaving high school with my certificate as a certified medical assistant. I feel it gave me a head start in life and a feeling of security and assurance, that is something I want to further my education in. I love being able to apply the skills I learned from class and use them in my everyday life."

Miah Anderson

Data represents secondary education
Source of data: Utah State Board of Education

