



NORTH DAKOTA

Career and Technical Education

PREPARING TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE

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About CTE

Career and Technical Education (CTE) prepares students, both youth and adults, for a wide range of careers. These careers require varying levels of education; high school diplomas and postsecondary certificates, apprenticeships, or two and four-year college degrees. Students add value to their overall education by completing CTE programs of study that provide opportunities to earn industry-recognized credentials and college credit while still in high school.

The mission of Career and Technical Education is to work with others to provide all North Dakota citizens with the technical skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for successful performance in a globally competitive workplace.

By meeting the current needs and anticipating the future demands of the economy, CTE is critical to our nation's economic success. CTE is a leader in building collaborative connections among education, economic development, and workforce development to ensure alignment of policies and program delivery. Standards are rigorous, blend academic and technical content, and are internationally benchmarked.

Career and Technical Education is a vital part of the total educational system. It provides equitable opportunities for all students to develop skills they need to:

- Learn through career development while meeting academic standards;
- Earn as productive citizens in a global society, and;
- Live as contributing members of their communities.

More than 11,000 students in North Dakota middle schools, high schools, colleges, and universities take part in career and technical student organizations (CTSOs) with others who share their career interests. CTOSs put students in contact with teachers and business people from their chosen career areas and let them practice the leadership, employability, and technical skills they'll need for success. The experience is fun and can lead to lifetime relationships with future professional colleagues.

Over
25,000
students are
enrolled in a CTE
Career Cluster
related
course.

CTE
Career Cluster
Programs have over
a 97% graduation
rate.

Our Future Workforce

With one of the lowest unemployment rates in the United States and a steady increase in job growth, North Dakota stands as a pinnacle of success for transferring secondary and post-secondary individuals into thriving members of the job force. To continue this path of success, programs must be given adequate support and attention to grow and evolve with technology and workforce needs. CTE is dedicated to providing the tools to administrators and students for advancing and exploring development.



Career Clusters

The Career Clusters serve as an organizational model to group occupations with similar traits. Essential skills and knowledge for each cluster have been identified and provide the foundation for CTE curriculum development and instruction. Students are able to create plans of study which result in a complete range of career options. As such, career clusters help students discover their interests and abilities, and empowers them to choose the educational pathway that can lead to future success.

Cross Cutting Clusters highlight the versatile and interconnected nature of today's workforce.

Program areas are designed to be fluid with the evolving work culture of today's society, making program areas overlap. This requires today's students and young professionals to diversify their soft and hard-skills to remain competitive and successful.

CTE Program Areas

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES EDUCATION

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

HEALTH SCIENCES EDUCATION

TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING EDUCATION

TRADES, INDUSTRY, & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

BUSINESS EDUCATION

MARKETING EDUCATION

Career and Technical Student Organizations

DECA: DECA Prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in high schools and college around the globe in marketing, finance, hospitality and management.

FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America): The mission of FBLA and FBLA Collegiate is to bring business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs.

FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America): Students focus on multiple roles of a family and community member; members develop skills for life through character development, creative and critical thinking, interpersonal communications, practical knowledge and career preparation.

FFA: A program dedicated to developing student potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

SkillsUSA: A partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. Activities in local chapters revolve around preparation for competitions in a broad range of leadership and career skills.

TSA (Technology Student Association): Provides students the ability to gain leadership and opportunities in technology, innovation, design and engineering. TSA members prepare for challenges of a dynamic world by promoting technological literacy, leadership and problem solving resulting in personal growth and opportunities.

HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America): This student-led organization creates a local program of work to engage in community service, explore healthcare workforce opportunities, and experience personal growth.



Career Resources

Work-Based Learning and the Next Step in Career Development



A Message from Wayde Sick, Director of Career and Technical Education:

The North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education (NDCTE) supports CTE programs through several key initiatives:

- Funding:** NDCTE provides financial assistance to schools and institutions to develop and enhance CTE programs. This includes federal Perkins funding and state grants to support equipment purchases, curriculum development, and program expansion.
- Standards Development:** The department collaborates with educators and industry partners to develop industry-based standards, to ensure curriculum provided locally meets the needs of today's workforce.
- Professional Development:** NDCTE offers training and resources for educators, helping them stay current with industry trends and instructional best practices.
- Industry Partnerships:** By fostering relationships with business and industry leaders, NDCTE helps schools provide work-based learning opportunities, internships, and apprenticeships.
- Program Evaluation and Improvement:** The department regularly evaluates CTE programs to ensure quality and effectiveness, providing feedback and support for continuous improvement.

These combined efforts enable NDCTE to strengthen Career and Technical Education statewide, fulfilling its commitment to preparing tomorrow's workforce.

North Dakota Career and Technical Education (NDCTE) provides RUReady.ND.gov to students across the state as part of its commitment to preparing tomorrow's workforce. This dynamic platform is widely used by schools, offering resources for creating 4-year rolling plans, exploring and planning careers, engaging in work-based learning, and preparing for postsecondary pathways.

Work-Based Learning

Aims to prepare students for the emerging job force by giving the unique opportunity of working and developing critical skills.

RUReady.ND.gov empowers students to take control of their future by providing the tools to make informed decisions about their education and career options.

To support the effective use of RUReady.ND.gov, NDCTE offers workshops and resources to help educators integrate the platform into their work with students.

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