WHAT IS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION?

8.6 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 middle schools, comprehensive and CTE-dedicated high schools, career academies, 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 – **97%** graduate high school and most enroll directly in college.[2]

Postsecondary credentials in CTE fields—from industry certifications to short-term certificates to degrees—**lead to higher earnings** than credentials in other fields.[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

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

[1] Perkins Collaborative Resource Network, Perkins Data Explorer, customized Consolidated Annual Report data, 2023-24.

[2] Perkins Collaborative Resource Network, Perkins Data Explorer, customized Consolidated Annual Report data, 2023-24; U.S. Department of Education, NCES, HSLS:09, Base-year, 2013 Update, High School Transcript, and Second Follow-Up.

[3] McLeod, E, et al. (2025). *Bridging the middle skills gap: Connecting a diverse workforce to economic opportunity through certificates and associate's degrees.* Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce; Morris, C., Cheah, B., & Strohl, J. (2025). *The major payoff: Evaluating earnings and employment outcomes across bachelor's degrees.* Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.

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

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