

SD CTE Certification Rules FAQs

Updated: April 18, 2016

Rationale for Change:

Based on feedback from the field, administrative rules related to CTE teacher certification were revised during the 2015-16 school year. The newly revised rules provide school districts and educators with additional flexibility in how they become certified to teach CTE courses while still ensuring educators have a strong knowledge base in both pedagogy and their specific content area.

Educators may choose to become certified under the old administrative rules related to CTE Teacher Certification until June 30, 2018. On July 1, 2018, candidates must become certified under the new administrative rules related to CTE Teacher Certification.

The State Board of Education approved the revised rules in November 2015.

Helpful Definitions:

Career Cluster: A Career Cluster is a grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities and on the fact that they require a set of common knowledge and skills for career success. The 16 Federal Career Clusters (www.careerclusters.org) provide an organizing framework for Programs of Study, a recommended sequence of coursework for college and career preparation based on a student's interest or career goal.

Pathway: Small groups of occupations within a career cluster that share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathway helps to organize academic and technical knowledge and skills into a coherent sequence.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q1: Why is there a change in CTE certification options?

A1: In the last two to three years, more and more districts have indicated they are interested in having CTE programs, but in many cases the biggest road block to implementing these programs has been finding teachers who are certified to provide the coursework. The former certification process also lacked consistency between career clusters. In some instances, teachers in one career cluster could become certified with only 4,000 hours of work experience, while in other instances, teachers in different career clusters had to complete 26 credits of coursework and pass a state certification exam. As districts shared this information with our office, our primary concern was making sure a high quality teacher is in the classroom regardless of the path that got them to the classroom. As a result, our office gathered a work group of postsecondary faculty, school administrators, and teachers who had gone through the alternative certification process to make recommendations for changes. From those recommendations, our office developed a framework and made changes to all of the administrative rules related to CTE teacher certification to ensure there was consistency between career clusters and flexibility for school districts and teachers. The State Board of Education approved the revised rules in November 2015.

Q2: What changed?

A2: The new CTE certification options can be found here:

<https://doe.sd.gov/board/packets/documents/092115/Item6doc3.pdf>

Here is a summary of the major changes:

- We no longer require both coursework and passing of the state designated test for a cluster endorsement; only one is required.
- Certification can be obtained in individual pathways rather than an entire career cluster.
- Validated work experience (within the last 5 years) can be used to obtain a pathway endorsement (cannot be used to obtain a cluster endorsement).
- For individuals with a non-CTE education degree, they must complete a 2-credit CTE Methods course.
- For individuals with a non-education degree or postsecondary diploma, they must complete a 2-credit CTE Methods course as well as a 4-credit Mentored Internship.

Q3: When will the new rules go into effect?

A3. Teachers must meet the requirements of the new rules by June 30, 2018. The newly approved rules will fully go into effect July 1, 2018. Until then, teachers may become certified under the former certification rules or the new certification rules.

Q4: I have already started my alternative certification on the old rules. Do I have to switch to the new rules?

A4: You will be able to continue pursuing your alternative certification under the current rules or you can choose to switch to the new rules. We will work with teachers on an individual basis to ensure coursework does not have to be duplicated.

Q5: If I choose to stay on the old rules to finish my alternative certification, do I need to finish by a certain date?

A5: Yes. You must finish up your certification within the three years allowed or by June 30, 2018, whichever comes first.

Q6: Do I need to do anything if I choose to finish my alternative certification with the current rules?

A6: Prior to getting the alternative certification, you must pass the content praxis exam, participate in a formal mentoring program, and take a series of coursework. Your school district will need to sign off before you receive the full certificate. You will need to wrap up your certification by June 30, 2018. After that, everyone will need to follow the new rules.

Q7: Who do I contact if I want to switch to the new rules?

A7: Contact Jane Gubrud, NE Region Career Specialist at 605.295-1892 or jane.gubrud@state.sd.us. You may also contact regional CTE cluster specialist for assistance. You can find contact information for your cluster specialist here: <http://doe.sd.gov/octe/documents/DCTECon15.pdf>

Q8: What is different if I choose to switch to the new rules?

A8: This depends on several things. Here are the most common situations:

- The new rules require a 2-credit CTE Methods course. If you are already certified in another CTE area, you will not be required to take this. If you hold non-CTE education degree or a non-education degree, you will need to complete the CTE Methods course.
- If you hold a non-education degree, you will also be required to complete a 4-credit Mentored Internship in addition to the 2-credit CTE Methods course.
- If you have already passed the state designated test in your area that you are seeking endorsement, you will not need to finish any remaining coursework. If you have finished the coursework you will not need to take the state designated test.
- If you have a non-education degree, the 2-credit CTE Methods course and 4-credit Mentored Internship replace the six credits of pedagogy required for the general alternative certification. You will still need to take the Human Relations and South Dakota Indian Studies courses.

Q9: How do I sign up for the CTE Methods course and what does it entail?

A9: DCTE is currently working with postsecondary institutions in the state to develop the CTE Methods course.

- We anticipate a pilot CTE Methods course will be available for summer 2016.
- The CTE methods course will include information related to CTSO management, lab safety, advisory boards, CTE program management, academic integration, work-based learning, and instructional best practices.
- As additional details about the course are finalized and registration becomes available, we will pass them along.

Q10: How do I sign up for the Mentored Internship and what does it entail?

A10: DCTE is currently working with postsecondary institutions in the state to develop the Mentored Internship.

- We anticipate the Mentored Internship will be available for spring 2017.
- The Mentored Internship will include information related to classroom management, differentiating instruction, curriculum development, and assessment.
- As additional details about the course are finalized and registration becomes available, we will pass them along.

Q11: Who pays for the expenses I incur while seeking alternative certification?

A11: All costs related to the college and university credits required and/or the state licensure exam are the responsibility of the individual seeking alternative certification.

Q12: How long do I have to complete the alternative certification program?

A12: You will have two years to complete the requirements for your CTE cluster or pathway endorsement.

Q13: Do I still need to take the Principles of Learning and Teaching 7-12 Praxis?

A13: Yes. You will still need to pass the PLT 7-12 Praxis unless you are seeking a CTE Specialist Permit.

Q14: I've already started teaching. Can I substitute a year of teaching for the mentored internship?

A14: No. If you do not have an education degree, you must complete the mentored internship.

Q15: I've already taken CTE 101. Do I still need to take the CTE Methods course?

A15: Yes. CTE 101 is different from the CTE Methods course. All teachers in their first three years of teaching are required to take CTE 101, whether they have gone through traditional certification or alternative certification.

Q16: What is required to validate my work experience for the CTE Specialist Permit?

A16: You will need to validate work experience of 4,000 Hours. Work Experience requires employer validation (job description, hours worked, duties, DOLR labor records, etc.) or self-employment validation. Applicable work experience will have been within the last five years. The application is located here:

<http://doe.sd.gov/octe/documents/WorkVerif.pdf>

Q17: I have completed training in PTLW or CASE, but I do not have an education degree, how should I proceed?

A17: You would need to obtain a CTE Specialist Permit. This can be done by completing the 2 credit CTE methods course and the 4 credit mentored internship within the first two years of teaching along with the PLTW or CASE training.