Is CTE what you think it is?

You’ve probably heard of CTE. It stands for Career and Technical Education. But what does it really mean?

We’ve been told a lot of people — parents, mainly — that it’s just a fancy name for shop class or home economics.

That’s not what it is. At all.

CTE is a rigorous, cutting-edge program that puts an emphasis on career education for middle and high school students. It trains you with hands-on learning that helps you apply what you learn.

Most importantly, CTE opens doors. Yours.

Students at schools with highly integrated CTE programs have significantly higher achievement in reading, math and science.

Source: Southern Regional Education Board, Linking Career/Technical Studies to Broader High School Reform

Did You Know?

More than 70% of CTE students pursue postsecondary education after high school.

Source: www.actsonline.org

Connecting classrooms to careers.

With an emphasis on learning for the real world, it’s like a jump-start on life. That’s because CTE takes an approach that motivates all middle and high school students in South Dakota. It’s student driven, not teacher driven. And because you have to apply what you learn, you don’t just memorize. You actually understand.

It’s a great big world out there. CTE gets you ready to take it on.
16 career clusters. Endless possibilities.

So where exactly can CTE take you? South Dakota recognizes 16 career clusters. All are very much in-demand with amazing possibilities.

- **Business**
  - Management Analyst
  - Accountant
  - Supply Chain Manager

- **Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources**
  - Microbiologist
  - Food Science Technician
  - Mining Engineer

- **Education & Training**
  - Childcare Center Administrator
  - Speech-Language Pathologist
  - Secondary Teacher

- **Architecture & Construction**
  - Architects
  - Crane Operators
  - HVAC Installers

- **Finance**
  - Personal Financial Advisor
  - Credit Analyst
  - Claims Adjuster

- **Arts/AV Communications**
  - Choreographers
  - Telecommunications Technician
  - Graphic Designer

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CTE prepares students to be college and career-ready by providing core academic skills, employability skills and job-related skills that allow you to explore many different careers.

**Try a career on for size. Or two. Or three.**

It's tough to know what you want to be when you don't know what's out there.

CTE lets you explore career options with hands-on technical training while you're still in middle school and high school. Exploring with CTE now is much cheaper than changing majors once you're attending a university or technical institute.

**Did You Know?**

Healthcare occupations make up 8 of the 20 fastest growing occupations.

Source: www.acedensite.org
Government & Public Administration
- Eligibility Interviewer
- Political Science Professor
- Emergency Management Director

Health Science
- Physical Therapist
- Cardiovascular Technician
- Nurse Practitioner

Hospitality & Tourism
- Event Planner
- Chef
- Human Resources Manager

Human Services
- Substance Abuse Counselor
- Massage Therapist
- Interpreter or Translator

Information Technology
- Information Security Analyst
- Software Developer
- Computer Network Architect

Law, Public Safety & Security
- Paralegal
- Transportation Security Screener
- Postsecondary Criminal Justice Instructor

Manufacturing
- CNC Machine Tool Programmer
- Welder
- Logistician

Marketing
- Market Research Analyst
- Marketing Specialist
- Customer Service Representative

STEM
- Statistician
- Survey Technician
- Environmental Engineer

Transportation, Distribution & Logistics
- Recreational Vehicle Service Technicians
- Cargo & Freight Agents
- Industrial Machinery Mechanics

Did You Know?
South Dakota employers have a hard time filling these jobs:
- IT Professionals
- Accountants/Auditors
- STEM Educators
- Engineers
- Rural Physicians
- Rural Nurses
- Skilled Trades (HVAC, Plumbing, Welders & Electricians)

All are programs within CTE!
Get ready to turn some heads.

Because South Dakota employers are involved in shaping course content, being enrolled in CTE means something. It tells future employers you’re well-rounded and have work-ready skills. And many CTE programs give you an opportunity to earn certification at no charge or for a greatly reduced fee.

Think about it. A leg up on others competing for the job you want is huge, don’t you think?

Get Involved
with the many Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs), where you’ll develop your leadership skills, serve your community and gain technical skills and knowledge.

Did You Know?
CTE students are more likely to develop the skills today’s employers demand – research, problem solving, communication, time management and critical thinking.
You have questions. We have answers.

I’m thinking about going to college. Would CTE take me off course for that plan?

Not at all. CTE programs enroll everyone from honor students, students planning on going to two-year schools, the military, and those planning on entering a trade after high school.

How can CTE give me a head start on my career?

Two words: Career Exploration. CTE gives you the option to try things out. Plus, focusing on the benefits of CTSOs, you’ll develop leadership skills, serve your community, and gain technical skills and knowledge.

Isn’t CTE just training for traditional trades?

Check it out. You’ll be surprised. CTE gives you hands-on training to succeed. Sure, there are programs in welding and construction but there are also options in the medical field, business and others, too!

Wouldn’t Advanced Placement courses be a better option for me?

CTE programs incorporate rigorous coursework, including AP, that prepare you for life after high school. Advanced course options can lead to postsecondary credit.

What Now?

Learn about CTE courses on www.sdmylife.com. Update your personal learning plan and visit with your school counselor to get started.