



# Opening Doors



## 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 by 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.



**Did You Know?**

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

Source: [www.acteonline.org](http://www.acteonline.org)

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?**

## 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.**



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.

**Did You Know?**

## 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.



### 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.



#### Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources

Microbiologist  
Food Science Technician  
Mining Engineer



#### Architecture & Construction

Architects  
Crane Operators  
HVAC Installers



#### Arts/AV Communications

Choreographers  
Telecommunications Technician  
Graphic Designer



#### Business

Management Analyst  
Accountant  
Supply Chain Manager



#### Education & Training

Childcare Center Administrator  
Speech-Language Pathologist  
Secondary Teacher



#### Finance

Personal Financial Advisor  
Credit Analyst  
Claims Adjuster

**Did You Know?**

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

Source: [www.acteonline.org](http://www.acteonline.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 Analysts  
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 Analysts  
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.



## Get Involved

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



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

### 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.

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

**A** 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.

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

**A** 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.

**Q** Isn't CTE just training for traditional trades?

**A** 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!

**Q** Wouldn't Advanced Placement courses be a better option for me?

**A** 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](http://www.sdmylife.com). Update your personal learning plan and visit with your school counselor to get started.





## Learning that works for South Dakota

800 Governors Drive | Pierre, SD 57501-2291  
P: 605.773.3423 | F: 605.773.4236 | W: [www.doe.sd.gov](http://www.doe.sd.gov)



south dakota  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Learning. Leadership. Service.