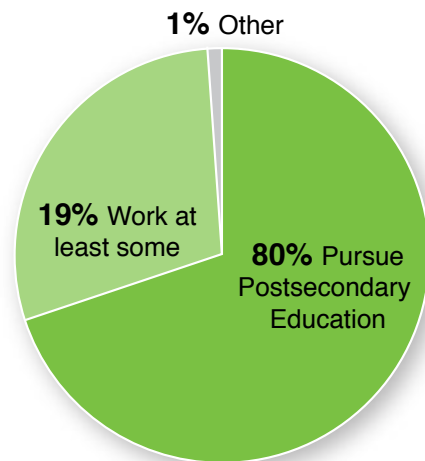


Career Technical Education (CTE) High Expectations, High Outcomes

What Do CTE Students Do After High School?



- Secondary CTE graduates who enrolled in postsecondary education within 2 years of graduating high school
- Secondary CTE graduates who have never enrolled in postsecondary education but worked within 2 years of graduating high school
- Secondary CTE graduates who never enrolled in postsecondary education or worked within 2 years of graduating high school

College-going CTE graduates:

- 4 out of 5 secondary CTE graduates pursued postsecondary education immediately after high school.ⁱ
- More than one-quarter of secondary CTE graduates worked full-time while enrolled in postsecondary education.ⁱⁱ
- 4 out of 5 secondary CTE graduates who entered postsecondary education immediately after high school either attained a credential or were still enrolled two years later.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Students who earned a CTE-related associate degree or certificate make an average of \$9,000 more per year than an associate degree-holder with a humanities or social science focus. Those with credentials in high-demand fields, such as healthcare, can average almost \$20,000 more per year.^{iv}

Secondary CTE Graduates Entering the Workforce:

- Of secondary CTE graduates who did not pursue postsecondary education within two years of graduating high school, 95 percent worked for pay for some time after graduating.^v

CTE as a Dropout Prevention Strategy:

- A student who takes a ratio of one CTE class for every two academic classes is less likely to drop out of high school than a non-CTE student.^{vi}
- CTE students, to a much greater extent than their non-CTE counterparts, report that they developed problem-solving, project completion, research, math, college preparedness, work-related, communication, time management and critical thinking skills during high school.^{vii}
- CTE high school students are more motivated and interested in their hands-on, relevant coursework and, as a result, are less likely to drop out than non-CTE students.^{viii}
- A Gates Foundation study reports that over 80 percent of respondents said more classroom learning activities relevant to the real world would have helped them to finish high school.^{ix}

*For more information, please contact Kara Herbertson, Education Policy Analyst,
at the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium.
8484 Georgia Avenue Suite 320, Silver Spring, MD 20910 | 301-588-9630 |
www.careertech.org | kherbertson@careertech.org*

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