

# Career and Technical Education in MINNESOTA

Career and technical education (CTE) includes classes that focus on the skills and knowledge students need to be employed in specific jobs or fields of work.<sup>1</sup> CTE is delivered in high schools, community colleges, regional technology centers, and in collaboration with local institutions.<sup>2</sup>

CTE programs may include job shadowing, internships, or paid work experiences.<sup>2</sup> Some programs may allow students to receive stackable credentials.



**Stackable credentials are certificates and degrees** that students can utilize to advance in careers while continuing to pursue further education<sup>4</sup>



Concentrating in CTE courses can lead to rewarding and well-paid job opportunities after high school.

**CTE concentrators,**<sup>5</sup> students who take multiple courses in the same area, such as a series of agriculture classes, **are more likely to be employed during the first 5–8 years after graduation**<sup>1,3</sup> compared to students who are not CTE concentrators.

**Students who concentrate in CTE are more likely to enroll in a 2-year college and attain an associate degree than similar students who did not concentrate in CTE.**<sup>3</sup>

For students who have taken CTE courses in high school and enrolled in college, the probability of graduating with a college degree increases by almost 2% for each advanced CTE course credit they earn in high school.<sup>6</sup>



**CTE concentrators earn 12–40% more** than their peers in the first five years following high school graduation<sup>3</sup>



1 U.S. Department of Education, 2019.

2 CCRS Center, 2013.

3 Lindsay et al., 2021.

4 Center for Occupational Research and Development, 2021.

5 The definition of CTE concentrator varies by state. In Minnesota, a CTE concentrator is any student who completes at least 150 hours of instruction (about two semester credits) in a career and technical education field (Lindsay et al., 2021).

6 Kreisman & Stange, 2019.

# CTE Careers in Minnesota

In Minnesota, careers in **maintenance**, **construction**, and **health care** are in high demand. CTE concentrators in high school are prepared to enter the workforce and 2-year programs that lead to well-paid careers.

## Plumber, Pipefitter, and Steamfitter

Median salary: **\$80,439** 

10-year growth: **10%** 

Education: **High school**



## Electrician

Median salary: **\$69,394** 

10-year growth: **9.5%** 

Education: **High school + vocational training**

## Registered Nurse

Median salary: **\$81,154** 

10-year growth: **12.4%** 

Education: **Associate degree**

