



INDIANA COMMISSION *for* HIGHER EDUCATION

CTE Newsletter February 2025

This update is provided by the Career and Technical Education team at the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (Commission). We welcome your support in encouraging anyone who would benefit from the information to join our listserv. Individuals can sign up [here](#). Questions can be shared with CTE@che.in.gov.

National CTE Month

A note from State Director Anthony Harl: As we wrap up National CTE month, I want to thank everyone who has helped us recognize successes within CTE and raise awareness of the opportunities CTE provides Hoosier students.

Earlier this month, Governor Braun [signed a proclamation](#) officially declaring February as CTE Month here in Indiana, and last week Secretary Jenner [highlighted](#) some of the great work happening in CTE around the state in her weekly message. The strong support CTE has at both the state and federal levels is crucial to helping make the opportunities and outcomes that occur through CTE possible. I encourage you to check out the linked items above to read some highlights of the outcomes happening through CTE programming.



Thank you to schools, CTE districts, and postsecondary partners around the state who took the time to highlight their CTE programs this month. Whether it was attending CTE Day at the Statehouse to share about the impact of CTE programming and Career and Technical Student Organizations or sharing your #WhyCTE throughout the month on social media, your stories showcase the real impact CTE programming has on students. You can check out the [Learn More Indiana site](#) for pictures/video from CTE day and follow @learnmorein social media accounts to see past and future updates related to CTE and other postsecondary opportunities for students.

Lastly, please check out the information directly below about nominating individuals for our annual CTE Awards for Excellence (AFE) ceremony later this spring. AFE celebrates excellence in both secondary and postsecondary CTE in a variety of different categories and is a tangible way to highlight students, programs, partnerships, and others who represent the best in CTE.

Thanks again for all you do and happy National CTE Month!

CTE Awards for Excellence

The Commission for Higher Education's CTE team annually spotlights excellence in both secondary and postsecondary Career and Technical Education through the Awards for Excellence (AFE). The 2025 ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 8 in Indianapolis.

AFE Nomination Forms are open through this upcoming Wednesday, March 5. Nominations can be accessed below or on the CTE website.

Nominations are accepted in four categories for both secondary and postsecondary, including students, programs of study, partnerships, and career advising. The CTE team invites postsecondary institutions (each individual campus/branch can apply), high schools, and career centers to submit nominations. Additional information and each category's nomination form are included in the links below:

- [Secondary Nomination Information](#)
- [Postsecondary Nomination Information](#)

Individuals are encouraged to share the nomination information with school faculty and staff at the secondary and postsecondary levels who may have nominations to submit.

CTE Non-Traditional Delivery Options

As interest in CTE continues to grow and Indiana prioritizes expanding access to career-related education, more schools are exploring opportunities to deliver CTE courses outside of a traditional classroom or career center setting. Whether utilizing dual enrollment to complete a credential, offering a youth apprenticeship through an employer-led program, or partnering with a training provider to expand program offerings, offering CTE in non-traditional ways can be a great way to maximize student outcomes.

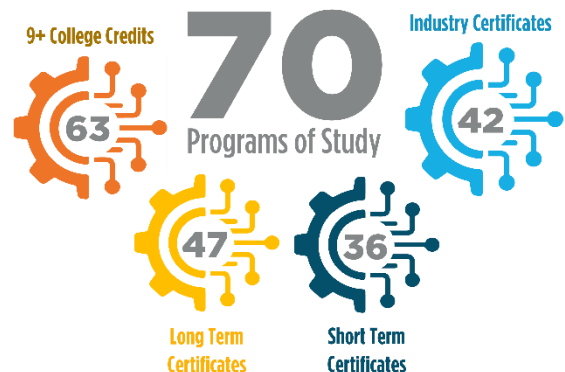
These options are further enabled by Indiana's newly passed [high school graduation requirements](#), which expand flexibility and provide students with additional opportunities to focus on key outcomes prioritized within CTE. **New guidance on non-traditional delivery models when utilizing CTE courses can be [found here](#).**

CTE Program of Study Alignment

Indiana's 70 available secondary programs of study were redesigned in recent years with a focus on improving the intentionality of CTE programming through direct alignment to valuable postsecondary credentials and industry certifications. Programs of study are most commonly aligned to Certificates (15 credit hours), Technical Certificates or Certificates of Graduation (30 credit hours), or relevant industry certifications.

A summary of these postsecondary outcomes available through CTE programs is shared here:

- 63 are aligned to 9+ dual credits
- 47 provide the opportunity for a long-term certificate (30+ credit hours)
- 36 provide the opportunity for short-term certificate (15+ credit hours)
- 42 provide the opportunity to earn industry certifications, many with multiple certifications available



The CTE team has [created a new resource](#) to allow for quick identification of the postsecondary outcomes aligned to each CTE Program of Study. The resource lists all 70 CTE Programs of Study currently available and identifies the industry-recognized certification, Certificate (CT) or Certificate of Program Completion (CPC), and/or Technical Certificate (TC) or Certificate of Graduation (CG) to which the program of study is aligned.

Additional details on postsecondary credential alignment, dual credit opportunities, and embedded industry certifications can be found in our CTE Review Document on our [Career Pathways/Programs of Study webpage](#).

Career Scholarship Account 2025-2026 Student Applications

The Treasurer of State (TOS) will open the 2025-26 student application for the [Career Scholarship Account](#) (CSA) program on Saturday, March 1. All 10th through 12th graders may apply, and the application deadline is October 1. However, current CSA students who apply by Tuesday, April 1 will be prioritized for funding.

CSAs expand the number of career preparation opportunities for students by providing a \$5,000 annual scholarship to pursue work-based learning and credentials of value. Additional information about the application process can be [found here](#), and questions can be shared with CSA@tos.in.gov.

2025-2026 FAFSA

The 2025-2026 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now open. Students are encouraged to file before the April 15 deadline. The Commission has announced a statewide completion goal to have at least 60 percent of high school seniors complete the FAFSA in advance of the April deadline. You can monitor your school's and county's completion rates on the Commission's FAFSA Completion Dashboard [here](#).

CTE students interested in pursuing education beyond high school are encouraged to complete the FAFSA. A new CTE-focused flyer to share with students and families regarding the benefits of filling out the FAFSA can be [found here](#).

By completing the FAFSA, students gain access to aid that can assist in paying for various types of postsecondary education, from associate and bachelor's degrees or certificates to training programs at community colleges, technical school, or other certification programs. The FAFSA can help a student discover they are eligible for more financial aid than anticipated, which can in turn potentially reduce student debt and open up more options for postsecondary education. One specific program the FAFSA can help unlock is Indiana's [Next Level Jobs](#) program, which allows individuals with a high school degree to pursue eligible certificate programs in high-demand fields tuition-free.

Additional information and resources to support students in completing the FAFSA can be [found here](#).

CTE Resources

REMINDER: CTE Funding Memo - The CTE funding memo for the 2025-2026 school year was approved at the December State Board of Education meeting and can be [found here](#). The memo is developed annually by the Department of Workforce Development in consultation with the CTE team at the Commission for Higher Education.

A summary of changes from the 2024-2025 memo to this year's memo can be [accessed here](#).

REMINDER: High School CTE Course Titles and Descriptions – Course titles and descriptions for all CTE courses available for the 2025-2026 school year can be [found here](#). All changes to the CTE section from last year are outlined at the beginning of the document and in the change log at the end.

IDOE is finalizing a companion document for the 2025-2026 school year which will include information such as course codes and titles, course durations, available credits, recommended and required course prerequisites, dual credit designations, and which course(s) support a variety of Graduation Pathways.

REMINDER: CTE Master Pathways List - The CTE Master Pathways List has been updated to reflect the career cluster adjustments for the 2025-2026 school year in addition to changes made in the course titles and descriptions. The updated document can be [found here](#). Details on changes to the 2025-2026 CTE Master Pathways List can be found in our [December Newsletter here](#).