



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Working Together for Student Success

Indiana CTE Concentrator Pathways

Frequently Asked Questions

Indiana Department of Education
Office of Innovation
Office of Career and Technical Education



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CONTENTS

General Information

Q1: What criteria were used to determine the course sequences?

Q2: Where can I find the Perkins IV and Perkins V CTE Pathway Courses?

Q3: Are students required to complete one course from each Concentrator column when multiple courses are listed?

Q4: Are students required to take the prerequisites as listed in the state-approved Course Titles and Descriptions?

Q5: Is there a possibility that prerequisites for CTE concentrator courses will be changed to allow more flexibility for scheduling?

Q6: Will the course count if a student only takes one semester or only earns half the credits?

Q7: If students earn a state approved industry certification, do they also have to complete the CTE Concentrator courses in order to meet the Postsecondary Ready Competencies for Graduation Pathways purposes?

Q8: Can the Work Based Learning Capstone Course or Special Topics Courses be used as a substitute for one of the Concentrator Courses?

Q9: Do AP Computer Science courses count as concentrator courses?

Q10: How is concentrator status affected for students who transfer from other schools/states and who have missed a semester of an A or B course?

Q11: What are the recommendations to schools for the 2019-2020 School Year?

Q12: Is there an opportunity for schools to provide suggestions or additions to the Perkins V Concentrator list?

General Information:

On December 12, 2018, the Indiana State Board of Education (SBOE) approved Career and Technical Education (CTE) course sequences that will meet the CTE Concentrator option to fulfill postsecondary-ready competencies for graduation requirements. A total of 64 CTE pathways were realigned to the new two-course definition of a CTE Concentrator in Perkins V. The new Perkins V definition for a CTE Concentrator was approved at the November SBOE Meeting.

Perkins V Concentrator Definition

A CTE Concentrator must earn a C average after completing at least two non-duplicative, advanced courses (courses beyond introductory level) within a single program or program of study.

The Indiana Department of Education designated these concentrator course sequences as a means to help schools transition from a focus on offering foundational and introductory courses to more specific and occupationally aligned coursework that leads to a credential of value.

The CTE pathway options and the Perkins IV six-credit CTE Concentrator definition will remain in effect for all graduation cohorts through the Class of 2022 or when a school opts students into the Perkins V definition. The Class of 2023 and beyond are required to use the Perkins V definition.

Q1: What criteria were used to determine the course sequences?

Answer: The goal was to develop course sequences that encourage persistence in a program of study and that lead to credentials of value to make CTE Concentrators more employable and/or enrollable. In order to meet the goal, only advanced courses, those above an introductory level, were selected. Whenever possible, only courses eligible for dual credits were included as Concentrator courses. If more than two courses were available, we considered how well the courses met postsecondary requirements.

Q2: Where can I find the Perkins IV and Perkins V CTE Pathway Courses?

Answer: Follow the link to the [CTE Pathways](#) page and click on the links for Perkins IV (2019-2022 cohorts) and Perkins V (2023 cohort) at the top of the page.

Q3: Are students required to complete one course from each Concentrator column when multiple courses are listed?

Answer: Students will only need to complete one course from the Concentrator A column and one course from the Concentrator B column.

Q4: Are students required to take the prerequisites as listed in the state-approved Course Titles and Descriptions?

Answer: The prerequisites for each course were considered when developing the course sequences. Students must meet all **required** prerequisites listed in the 2019-2020 Course Titles and Descriptions (CTD) when completing a Perkins V Concentrator sequence. If there is a discrepancy between the CTD and other documents, the CTD takes precedence. A grace period has been

provided for students in the 2019-2022 cohorts who are working to complete Perkins IV pathways. Please follow the link to the [guidance document](#) for complete details.

Prerequisites also help determine whether a student must take Concentrator A before they take Concentrator B. If the Concentrator A course is listed in the CTD as a required prerequisite for the Concentrator B course, then the Concentrator A course must be taken first. If the Concentrator A course is not listed as a prerequisite then the two courses may be taken in either order.

Q5: Is there a possibility that prerequisites for CTE concentrator courses will be changed to allow more flexibility for scheduling?

Answer: We will continue to review the concentrator courses and will accept suggestions for course additions, prerequisites and sequences through June 30.

Q6: Will the course count if a student only takes one semester or only earns half the credits?

Answer: In order to count toward Concentrator Status, a student must complete the course by meeting the credit requirements as they are listed in the Course Titles and Descriptions. If the course is designated a year-long course then the student would need to complete and earn credits for both semesters of the course.

Q7: If students earn a state approved industry certification, do they also have to complete the CTE Concentrator courses in order to meet the Postsecondary Ready Competencies for Graduation Pathways purposes?

Answer: There is no requirement for students to be enrolled in or to complete a CTE course if a student can earn a certification without doing so. Earning either concentrator status or earning an industry certification will meet the Postsecondary-Readiness competency for Graduation Pathways.

Q8: Can the Work Based Learning Capstone Course or a Special Topics Courses be used as a substitute for one of the concentrator courses?

Answer: The Work Based Learning Capstone and Special Topics courses were not approved as advanced courses and cannot be used to replace either the Concentrator A or the Concentrator B course. Schools are highly encouraged to embed work based learning opportunities into Level II or other advanced CTE courses. Per requests from some schools, Special Topic courses have been added to the list of ideas to review this summer.

Q9: Do AP Computer Science courses count as concentrator courses?

Answer: *AP Computer Science Principles* and *AP Computer Science A* were both added to the Perkins IV CTE Pathways as equivalent courses to Computer Science I and Computer Science II. We will continue to review the concentrator courses and will accept suggestions for course additions and sequences through June 30.

Q10: How is concentrator status affected for students who transfer from other schools/states and who have missed a semester of an A or B course?

Answer: Students in the 2023 Cohort may be eligible for a waiver from the postsecondary-readiness competencies. This is especially true for students who transferred during senior year. Please refer to page 16 of the [Graduation Pathways Policy Guidance document](#) for the requirements for a postsecondary-readiness competency [waiver](#).

Q11: What are the recommendations to schools for the 2019-2020 School Year?

Answer: The Office of Career and Technical Education recommends schools use the 2019-2020 school year as a transition year to examine their CTE course inventory and determine where gaps may exist. Taking this time will allow you to help current high school students complete their Perkins IV pathways and provide you with additional time to decide which Perkins V programs to offer for the 2023 cohort. We also recommend that schools focus on scheduling the 2023 cohort into either *Preparing for College and Careers* or an introductory level CTE course.

Q12: Is there an opportunity for schools to provide suggestions or additions to the Perkins V Concentrator list?

Answer: Schools can offer suggestions regarding prerequisite requirements, course additions, or alternative sequences for a pathway by emailing Tony Harl at aharl@doe.in.gov. The Office of Career and Technical Education will review and consider all suggestions submitted before July 1.