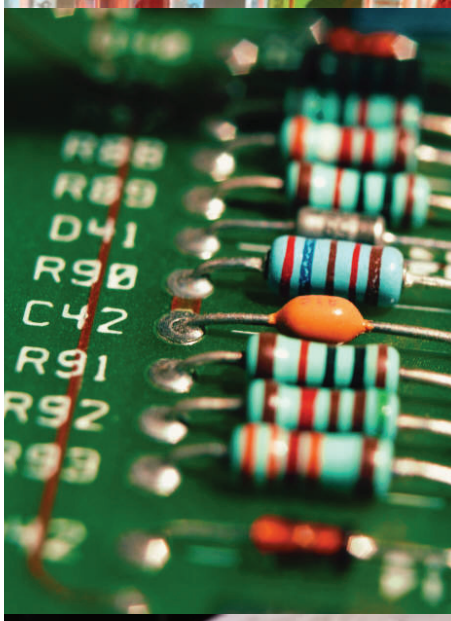
YOUR FUTURE IS HERE...

CAREER & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION



Career & Technology Education (CTE) in Maryland has evolved into a broad system of programs spanning a variety of challenging fields. Each CTE program is designed so students are able to gain skills and knowledge that will give them a jump start on future career and/or college success.

Today's CTE prepares students for the 21st Century by offering:

- Programs of study that allow them to earn college credit while in high school
- Opportunities to earn industry-recognized credentials, certificates, and licenses
- Academic subject matter and employability skills taught by solving real-world problems
- College and career readiness skills, preparing them for employment and further education

Career Clusters

Maryland educators and employers have partnered to develop ten career clusters based on Maryland's unique employment needs. A Career Cluster represents a segment of the economy where industries and occupations share similar skill requirements.

- Arts, Media, & Communication
- Business Management & Finance
- Construction & Development
- Consumer Services, Hospitality, & Tourism
- Environmental, Agricultural, & Natural Resources Systems
- Health and Biosciences
- Human Resource Services
- Information Technology
- Manufacturing, Engineering, & Technology
- Transportation Technologies

Maryland's CTE system has long been recognized as a national model that provides a diverse array of programs organized within 10 career clusters. The clusters help connect education to employment and provide a framework to make the high school experience more meaningful to students. Not unlike choosing a major in college, the career clusters provide students an opportunity to select a field of interest to focus on while still in high school.

CTE programs typically begin at the 10th grade or later, and virtually all allow students to participate in internships and other forms of work-based learning, adding value to their education and giving them a head-start on college and careers. Through career development and exploration activities, students have access to resources to help them move along their college and/or career plan.

For more information about the specific programs and resources available in your area, contact your school principal or your local school system's CTE director.

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Preparing World-Class Students

YOUR FUTURE IS HERE...

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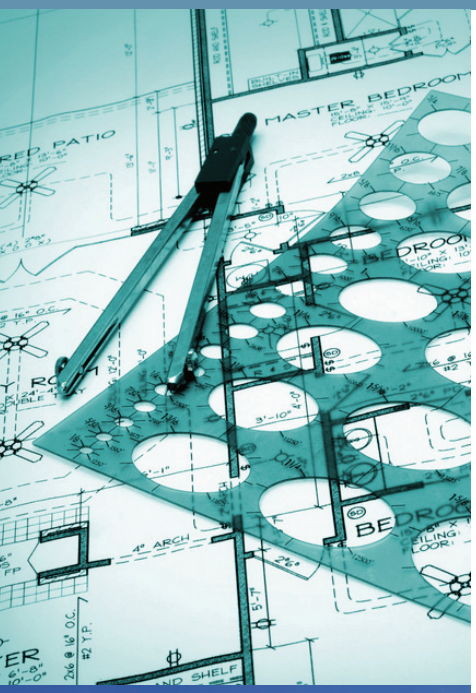

Since MSDE collaborates with school systems, businesses, and industry leaders to create CTE programs, the process ensures that high school students can readily transition to two-year colleges, four-year colleges, and other postsecondary educational options to help them reach their goals. Students can also join local chapters of national student organizations such as DECA, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), FFA, and Skills/USA, adding a level of leadership and interpersonal skill development that will help students increase their knowledge and expand their career networks.

Today's economy demands continuous learning and innovation. It calls for a highly skilled and flexible workforce with the ability to work in teams with people from diverse cultural and educational backgrounds. By enrolling in and completing a CTE program of study, students are more likely to be successful in college and the workplace.

For more information about the specific programs and resources available in your area, contact your school principal or your local school system's CTE director.

To read more about CTE programs, go to MSDE's publication, ***Maryland Classroom,*** April 2008, Vol. 13, No. 2 at

MarylandPublicSchools.org/MSDE/newsroom/publications/pubs_md_classroom.

Additional information can be found on the Division of Career and College Readiness website at

MarylandPublicSchools.org/MSDE/divisions/careertech.

Making the transition from high school to college or a career

- Students completing the **Information Technology Networking Academy** can earn college credit and a host of sought-after certifications prior to graduating.
- High school students completing **The Teacher Academy of Maryland** who pass the ParaPro test can begin their career as instructional paraprofessionals and go on to college having already earned college credit toward a teaching degree.
- Those who enroll in the **Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Engineering or Biomedical Sciences Programs** have a head start in preparing for careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields by meeting the requirements to earn college credit through the PLTW end of course assessments.

Bernard Sadusky
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MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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