



Career and Technical Education

CTE DIRECTIONS

Career and Technical Education (CTE) News and Information

December 2025

Career and Technical Education provides all students access to high-quality, rigorous career-focused programs that result in attainment of credentials with labor market value.

Utah Durable Skills

In today's rapidly evolving job market technical skills alone are often not enough. Employers consistently emphasize the need for graduates who can lead teams, solve complex problems, communicate effectively, and adapt to new technologies and work environments. Utah CTE wants to ensure that students are not only technically proficient but also possess the invaluable durable skills that will set them apart from their competition in the workforce.

As Utah CTE continues to share a durable skill each month, this month we highlight the skill of communication. Communication is the ability to exchange information in a variety of contexts, media, and terminology between individuals and groups. Employers consistently cite strong communication as a top need. To support student success, we encourage you to effectively integrate communication into your CTE programs.

Below are some specific, hands-on ways teachers can integrate and teach communication within their CTE programs:



- "Pitch" Presentations:** Have students present a project plan, design, or business idea to a "client" (you, another teacher, or advisory board member). The goal is to articulate complex technical information in a clear, persuasive, and non-technical way.
Example: In a welding class, have students "sell" a custom fabrication project, explaining the design choices and costs to a hypothetical customer.
- Structured Technical Documentation:** Beyond just completing a task, require students to create clear, concise written instructions or user manuals for another student to follow. This emphasizes writing for a specific audience.
Example: In an IT/computer science class, students write a step-by-step troubleshooting guide for a common software or hardware issue.
- Feedback Loops and Role-Playing:** Incorporate dedicated time for students to practice giving and receiving peer feedback on a project. You can use role-playing scenarios to practice professional conversations, such as asking a supervisor for a raise or managing a conflict with a teammate.
Example: In a health science class, students practice patient-provider communication, focusing on empathetic and clear explanations of care.
- Utilize Industry Advisory Boards:** When industry partners visit, have them specifically comment on the communication skills demonstrated by students during their presentations or shop tours. Invite them to share real-world examples of communication failures or successes in their workplace.
- Simulate "Communication Breakdown" Scenarios:** Introduce an intentional miscommunication in a team project (e.g., giving one team member slightly different project requirements). The students' task is to identify the communication failure and resolve the issue as a team.
Example: In an automotive class, two team members could be given different repair instructions for the same vehicle, requiring them to use effective communication to realize the discrepancy and align on the correct procedure.

Advice to Students

Utah high school seniors were asked, “What advice would you offer to future students about taking CTE courses during high school? Jack gives this advice.

Jack: Future Marketing Professional



“My advice to future students is simple: you can’t go wrong by completing CTE courses in high school! These courses will confidently prepare you for both higher education and your future career. They have profoundly impacted my life by equipping me with knowledge and skills that I wouldn’t have gained otherwise, while also giving me the chance to explore different fields, such as business, marketing, and audio/visual technology.

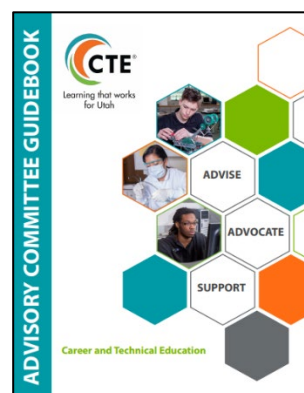
For example, in marketing I have learned how to analyze online data, create content and marketing campaigns, and utilize search engine optimization (SEO) and online channels to reach potential customers. Additionally, I’ve experienced hands-on learning by creating my own professional website as a musical artist. I’ve also benefited from standards-based education, earning certificates in video production, photography, digital media, and digital marketing. The training and tools provided by CTE have instilled in me discipline, diligence, and a strong desire to continue developing my skills and education.”

Atalie: Future Elementary Teacher

“Taking CTE courses in high school prepared me to take college courses that will allow me to teach students. CTE courses helped me learn about developmentally appropriate practices and how to create strong lesson plans that teach children concepts in core subjects and life. As a [CTE Secondary] Pathway Completer, I have applied my knowledge of early childhood education to other aspects of family and consumer sciences. Throughout my internship I saw the amazing benefits of education and how it affects people’s lives. My internship allowed me to interact in a real classroom and learn how to teach children. CTE classes increased my teaching skills and were an incredibly beneficial experience. I am excited to teach and learn from children as an elementary teacher.”

Advisory Committee Guidebook

The Utah State Board of Education established Board Rule R277-911 to guide the statewide development and implementation of CTE programs. Within this rule, section R277-911-3.6-7 specifically requires each LEA offering an approved CTE program to establish an advisory committee. This committee must include both education and industry stakeholders and is responsible for reviewing the program and providing recommendations to support its continuous improvement. Utah CTE has developed an [Advisory Committee Guidebook](#) designed to support LEAs in strengthening advisory committees and ensuring alignment with best practices.



@UtahCTE Social Media Highlights

- UEN offers an AI toolkit to help teachers explore innovative ways to incorporate AI into the classroom. Explore the toolkit and discover new ways to engage your students and enhance learning <https://www.uen.org/aitoolkit/>.
- In celebration of the 250th anniversary of the United States, the Utah STEM Action Center and UMAKE invites you to design a 3D printable coin representing one of Utah’s 29 counties. From kindergarten to adults, this contest is open to all Utah residents. Learn about the contest at <https://stem.utah.gov/coin-contest/>.
- The Utah CTE Scholarships and Tuition Awards application is open. Utah high school seniors can apply for one of 84 scholarships/tuition awards to a Utah postsecondary institution at <https://bit.ly/3syFuKz>.
- Each Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) helps students build real-world skills. Learn about the eight CTOS at <https://www.schools.utah.gov/cte/ctso>.

Calendar:

December 4: [Utah State Board of Education Meeting](#) – 250 East 500 South – Salt Lake City, UT

December 11: [Utah State Charter School Board Meeting](#) – 250 East 500 South – Salt Lake City, UT

[Utah CTE Calendar](#) | [ACTE Calendar](#)

Utah CTE classes are open to all qualified students without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age.

