

STRANDS AND STANDARDS

COLLEGE AND CAREER AWARENESS

College & Career Awareness

Course Description

A course designed to increase awareness of college and career pathways through simulations and project-based experiences. The College and Career Awareness course explores high school, college, and career options based on individual student interests, abilities, and skills. Students will investigate high-skill and/or in-demand jobs in the Utah labor market while developing workplace skills.

Intended Grade Level	7
Units of Credit	1.0
Core Code	39.01.00.00.001
License Type	
License 1	Career and Technical Education
License 2	Elementary Education (1-8)
License 3	Middle Education (5-9)
License 4	Secondary Education (6-12)
Required Endorsement(s)	<i>Must have one of the following endorsements:</i>
	Agriculture (CTE/General) or
	Business and Marketing (CTE/General) or
	Business and Marketing 6-8 or
	Family and Consumer Sciences Education (CTE/General) or
	Family and Consumer Sciences 6-8 or
	Intro to Health Sciences or
	Medical Anatomy and Physiology or
	Technology or
	Technology 6-8 or
	Technology and Engineering

STRAND 1

Students will assess their interest and aptitudes and explore related career options based on current [Career and Technical Education \(CTE\) Career Clusters and Pathways](#). (*This strand will be incorporated throughout the course.*)

Standard 1

Assess and apply personal interests, skills, aptitudes, and abilities to education planning and future career decisions.

- Compare and contrast the relationship between career options, education, and training.
- Investigate career choices in relation to aspirations and lifestyle choices (e.g., identify lifestyle goals, identify careers, salaries, and required education/training, explore how lifestyles expectations, values, and attitudes affect career decision-making.)
- Discuss academic content knowledge related to career pathways.
- Complete and utilize career assessments (e.g., *Interest Profiler** and/or *Career Cluster Inventory** on UtahFutures; *Explore Careers Welcome Assessment* on UtahFutures) to identify career options.
- Understand opportunities for traditional and nontraditional career choices.
- Integrate job-seeking skills (e.g., evaluate/revise a resume, complete job applications, evaluate career networks, and participate in interviews.)

Standard 2

Investigate the changing nature of the workplace.

- Locate career outlook information (UtahFutures, www.bls.gov, etc.)
- Participate in a variety of Work-Based Learning experiences (e.g., guest speakers, field studies, job shadows, and career fairs.)

Standard 3

Explore the current Utah career clusters and pathways associated with each cluster and analyze the overlapping academic content and skills.

- Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- Architecture & Construction
- Arts, Audio/Visual Technology & Communication
- Business, Finance & Marketing
- Education Training
- Engineering & Technology
- Health Science
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
- Manufacturing
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

Standard 4

Differentiate between a career cluster and career pathway.

- Define **career cluster** as a group of careers and industries that are related by skills or products.
- Define **career pathway** as a collection of corresponding courses that prepare students for a given career.

Standard 5

Differentiate between a CTE pathway concentrator and a CTE pathway completer, and identify the benefits of both.

- Define a **CTE pathway concentrator** as a student who completes 1.5 credits in a single CTE pathway, including at least one foundation course.
- Define a **CTE pathway completer** as a student who completes 3.0 credits in a single CTE pathway, including required foundation courses.
- Examine the career cluster(s) and pathway(s) available at local high school(s) (e.g., foundation and elective courses offered in each pathway.)

Standard 6

Identify postsecondary education and training opportunities through Utah technical colleges, community colleges, universities, and industries.

- Identify the postsecondary and industry education requirements for careers explored. (e.g., apprenticeships, certifications, college degrees, etc.).
- Discuss career choice challenges associated with stereotype, gender, and race.

STRAND 2

Students will develop, practice, and demonstrate academic content and workplace skills within the current career clusters. (This strand will be incorporated throughout the course.)

Standard 1

Relate how developing workplace skills impacts academic and career success.

- Discuss the benefits of strong workplace skills.
- Discuss the negative consequences of underdeveloped workplace skills.

Standard 2

Develop personal characteristics that promote responsibility, dependability, productivity, high-quality work, and self-initiative.

- Demonstrate regular and on-time attendance; complete tasks on-time.
- Exhibit self-motivation and self-discipline (e.g., can work and think independently).
- Show respect for others (e.g., time, property, opinions, etc.).
- Be responsible for own actions.
- Demonstrate strong work ethic (e.g., grit, determination, dedication, perseverance, etc.).

Standard 3

Explore different methods of communication.

- Identify the different types of communication that happen within the workplace.
 - Verbal (oral and written).
 - Nonverbal (body language and personal appearance).
 - Visual (e.g., charts, graphics, images, etc.).
- Differentiate between personal and professional communication.
- Discuss how technology is used to communicate in the workplace (e.g., web conferencing, email, social media, networking, etc.).
- Practice technical reading and technical writing (e.g., diagrams, blueprints, how-to instructions, documentation, etc.).

Standard 4

Apply critical thinking and problem-solving techniques.

- Practice critical thinking skills (e.g., consider multiple points of view that lead to a solution to a problem).
- Discern between relevant and credible sources.
- Utilize a problem-solving model (e.g., engineering design process, decision matrix, pros and cons, Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve and Control (DMAIC), etc.).
- Design unique solutions to problems.

Standard 5

Identify and demonstrate effective collaboration and teamwork skills.

- Investigate and practice different roles within a team.
- Discuss the positives and negatives of working in a team.
- Demonstrate collaboration skills. (e.g., brainstorming, listening, constructive feedback, etc.).

STRAND 3

Students will explore a variety of Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) and the benefits of CTSO membership.

Standard 1

Students will identify and explore CTSOs.

- DECA
- Educators Rising
- FBLA
- FCCLA
- FFA
- HOSA
- SkillsUSA
- TSA

Standard 2

Students will identify the benefits of CTSO membership.

- Career self-efficacy
- College aspirations
- Community service
- Employability skills
- Leadership development
- Raises students' academic motivation and engagement

Standard 3

Students will participate in a simulated CTSO category event.

- [DECA](#)
- [Educators Rising](#)
- [FBLA](#) (Middle Level Competitive Events)
- [FCCLA](#) (Star Events)
- [FFA](#) (Career and Leadership Development Events)
- [HOSA](#)
- [SkillsUSA](#) (Championships)
- [TSA](#) (Middle School Competitions)

STRAND 4

Students will create a plan of study that leads to rigorous course taking patterns and develop, practice, and demonstrate stress management, and general financial literacy skills to achieve future academic, life, and career goals. (This strand aligns to Board Rule [R277-462-4](#) and would be appropriate for teacher/counselor collaboration.)

Standard 1

Students will participate in multiple College and Career Awareness opportunities to develop a plan of study which aligns to personal education and career interests.

- Evaluate individual performance measures and analyze how results impact individual college and career readiness.
- Create a rigorous program of study that promotes one, two, or four-year post-secondary opportunities.
- Explore post-secondary admissions processes based on training needed for future academic and career goals.

Standard 2

Students will develop stress management strategies related to reducing risk factors and enhancing factors that promote positive mental and emotional health.

- Identify triggers and personal pressure that increase individual stress (e.g., media and technology, school work, extracurricular activities, etc.)
- Explore a variety of stress management techniques and choices that will manage and reduce individual stress.
- Explore relevant facts about mental health and suicide, including warning signs, and where to turn for help.

Standard 3

Students will explore various financial needs and risks associated with the costs of different education programs.

- Discuss the key terms and processes related to college post-secondary education affordability, scholarships, and financial aid. (Strand 1, Standard 7)
- Explore ways to avoid student loan debt including opportunities to obtain course credits or program skills while in high school.
- Discuss the long-term impact of student loan debt on future earning potential, self-sufficiency and personal relationships.