



Career Technical Education (CTE) is a proven strategy that expands options for learners, empowers them to choose a meaningful and sustainable career, and prepares them with real-world skills for success in college and careers. Through hands-on learning, engagement with industry experts and rigorous academic and career-focused coursework, CTE is learning that works for Montana’s students – and its economy.

CTE Works for Learners in Montana

CTE Enrollment¹

33,891

High School

11,902

Postsecondary

High School Graduation

86%

Montana Average²

97%

CTE Concentrators³

Outcomes for Learners in Montana⁴

77%

high school CTE graduates enrolling in college, enlisting in the military or working within six months

73%

postsecondary CTE students staying enrolled and/or transferring

53%

postsecondary CTE students earning a credential, certificate or degree

77%

postsecondary CTE graduates placed in careers or further training within six months

- Fun fact: Montana's HealthCare MT program draws on input from the state Healthcare Workforce Advisory Council and labor market information to inform and implement regional healthcare career pathways. Recently the state used this delivery structure to align two-year healthcare curricula in 150 programs with National Health Science Foundation Standards.⁵

CTE Works for Montana’s Economy

- Middle-skill jobs – those requiring some postsecondary education and training, but not a Bachelor’s degree – account for 52 percent of Montana’s labor market.
- However, only 47 percent of workers in Montana are qualified to fill these middle-skill jobs,⁷ leading to a skills gap that CTE can help address.
- In total, 3,277 associate’s degrees or certificates were awarded in Montana in 2015 – about 28 percent of all postsecondary degrees and certificates.⁸



In Montana, the top middle-skill occupations with the highest projected job openings are in the Health Science Career Cluster.⁶

¹ U.S. Department of Education, Perkins Data Explorer. <https://perkins.ed.gov/pims/DataExplorer/CTEParticipant>

² U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics.
https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR_RE_and_characteristics_2014-15.asp

³ U.S. Department of Education, Perkins Data Explorer. <https://perkins.ed.gov/pims/DataExplorer/Performance>

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ https://cte.careertech.org/sites/default/files/files/resources/Montana_Phase_One_Snapshot_2017.pdf

⁶ Based on Advance CTE's analysis of fastest-growing occupations by state. This represents occupations with high annual projected job openings that requires an associate's degree and provide an average wage of at least \$34,760. Retrieved from https://www.careerinfonet.org/select_state.asp?id=11&nodeid=12&next=state1

⁷ National Skills Coalition. (2017). *State Middle Skills Fact Sheets*. <http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/state-policy/states>

⁸ U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. Advance CTE's analysis of completions component. Retrieved from <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/>