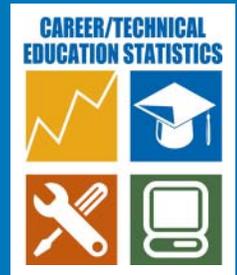


CTES Update

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE NCES TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL ON CAREER/TECHNICAL EDUCATION

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Changes to the Website

Based on suggestions offered at the July Career/Technical Education Statistics (CTES) Technical Review Panel (TRP), the CTES website has been updated with new features and tables. To view these changes, please visit <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/ctes/>.

New Features

Recent changes to improve navigation include:

- Standardizing the format of tables across the Secondary/High School, Postsecondary/College, and Adult Levels;
- Reducing the number of clicks needed to open tables;
- Moving links to the standard error tables to a single entry point; and
- Adding additional keywords to the web pages to improve traffic from the internal NCES search engine and external search engines.

New Tables

New tables have been posted in the Adult section containing data from the National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES:2005). Tables from NHES:2003 have been archived and can still be accessed through a link in the Adult section of the site.

Upcoming Changes

- Interpretive notes explaining the data will be added to all future tables.
- The postsecondary CTE taxonomy will be posted on the Web in a table format, upon completion of review.
- Upon completion of review, new tables will be added at all three education levels.

Publication News

The 2007 Revision of the Career/Technical Education Portion of the Secondary School Taxonomy (Bradby 2007) has been published! The Secondary School Taxonomy (SST) presents a framework for aggregating and analyzing high school transcript data. Initially developed in 1987 and first revised in 1998, the SST was recently revised based on recommendations by the TRP that the taxonomy needed again to be updated to reflect recent developments in the CTE field. The current revision maintains the three major CTE categories of family and consumer sciences education, general labor market preparation, and specific labor market preparation (or occupational education). Within the last category, the 2007 revision designates 21 new occupational programs (in contrast with the 18 previous programs), which can be combined in various ways and linked to the Career Clusters and to the NCES taxonomy for postsecondary CTE. The report specifies courses in each category (using the Classification of Secondary School Courses, or CSSC) and displays an application of the revised SST, using data from the High School Transcript Study of 2005. The report (publication number 2008030) can be found on the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/>).

Career/Technical Education in the United States is in the NCES review process. It is expected to be sent for external review (the last review step) this quarter.

Three other CTE-related publications are in progress.

- *Science Achievement and Career/Technical Education Coursetaking in High School: The Class of 2005* (an NCES Issue Brief). Preliminary findings indicate that some CTE concentrators, particularly those in certain science-related CTE fields, outperform nonconcentrators on the 12th-grade NAEP science test, when holding constant the amount of students' science coursetaking.
- *Recent Trends in the Postsecondary Career/Technical Education Delivery System Among Less-than-4-year Title IV Postsecondary Institutions: 1996-97 to 2005-06* (an NCES Issue Brief).
- *A New Look at Career/Technical Education High School Coursetaking: 2005* (an NCES Stats in Brief).

CTES FAST FACT

ADULT WORK-RELATED COURSETAKING

In 2005, 48 percent of adults reported participating in at least one formal learning activity during the last 12 months. The most common activity was a work-related course: 56 percent of adults who participated in formal learning activities took a work-related course. Among participants in work-related courses, the average number of courses taken over the year was 2.1, while the average number of hours spent in work-related courses during the year was 42.3.

SOURCE: Career/Technical Education Statistics tables A5, A7, and A8 available at <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/ctes/>. Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Adult Education Survey of the 2005 National Household Education Surveys Program.