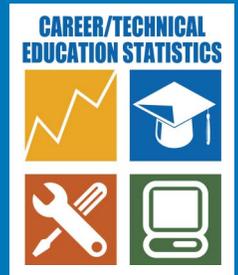


CTES Update

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

VOL. 10, NO. 3 JULY 2008



New Report: CTE in the United States

On July 22, 2008, NCES released *Career and Technical Education in the United States: 1990–2005*, the fourth volume of *Vocational Education in the United States*. This report is issued periodically to describe the overall condition of career and technical education (CTE) in the U.S. The report is available as a PDF or can be ordered online from the CTES website (<http://www.nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubinfo.asp?pubid=2008035>).

CTE in High Schools

According to the report, the number of CTE credits earned by public high school graduates remained steady, despite a national trend of increased academic course taking in high schools. Participation increased in the areas of health care and computer science, while business saw a decrease. Other findings:

- The majority of public high schools offered career and technical education in 2002.
- More than 90 percent of 2005 public high school graduates took at least one occupational course in high school. About one in five graduates took three or more courses within one of the 18 CTE occupational program areas.
- More male than female students participated in CTE in high school, and CTE participants were more likely to be from less-advantaged backgrounds than were nonparticipants.
- Among the high school class of 1992, the more secondary occupational courses students took, the lower their postsecondary enrollments rates were within 8 years of graduation. Nev-

ertheless, 70 percent of those earning four or more occupational credits enrolled in postsecondary education by 2000.

- The percentage of CTE participants who met the New Basics core academic standards increased 17–42 percent and the percentage who completed 4-year college-preparatory coursework increased 14–27 percent between 1990 and 2005. Moreover, the more occupational credits graduates earned in high school, the greater their academic coursetaking gains between 1990 and 2005.

Postsecondary and Adult CTE

The report found that the number of undergraduate students seeking credentials in a CTE field increased by half a million students from 1990 to 2005, although they made up a smaller portion of the overall credential-seeking undergraduate population in 2004 compared with 1990. In 2005, most undergraduate postsecondary institutions offered CTE. Other findings:

- A majority of 2004 undergraduates majored in career fields at every credential level: 81 percent of certificate seekers, 64 percent of associate's degree seekers, and 60 percent of bachelor's degree seekers.
- More female than male students participated in postsecondary and adult CTE, and postsecondary CTE students were also more likely to come from less-advantaged backgrounds than were nonparticipants.
- Postsecondary students earning CTE certificates had a higher employment rate than those who started to earn a certificate, but did not finish. There

was no measurable difference in the employment rates of students with a CTE associate's degree versus those who did not obtain the degree.

- Seventy percent of employed sub-baccalaureate students who completed a CTE major reported that they worked in a job related to their field of study.
- Thirty-nine percent of employed adults participated in work-related courses in 2004–05. The most common subjects were business, health, and computer science.
- The number of postsecondary CTE and academic teaching faculty increased from 1992 to 2003. The percentage of CTE faculty working part-time increased over this period, but there were no measurable changes in part-time status for academic faculty.

Tables on the Web Update

Keep an eye on the CTES website (<http://www.nces.ed.gov/surveys/ctes/>) for new tables on the Web coming soon. Learn about trends in postsecondary offerings and credentials and the coursetaking of 2005 high school graduates (using the new secondary school taxonomy).

2008 TRP Meeting August 14–15

We look forward to seeing many of you at the 2008 CTES Technical Review Panel meeting on August 14–15 at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel in Washington, DC. Please contact Sharon Anderson of MPR Associates, Inc. (sanderson@mprinc.com) if you have any questions.