

Career Pathways

Career pathways are state-approved career enhancement programs defined as a coherent, articulated sequence of rigorous academic and career related courses usually commencing in the ninth grade and leading to an associate degree, and/or an industry-recognized certificate or licensure, and/or a baccalaureate degree and beyond.

Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) provides all Georgia students with the opportunity to select at least three sequenced electives in a career pathway, along with recommended academic course work, to prepare them to continue their education at any level or enter the world of work.

Selection of a pathway will be based on self-awareness and the investigation of occupations plus related educational levels aligned with the pathway. Most high-demand, high-skilled, high-wage occupations in all concentrations still do require education beyond high school.

Implementation of career pathways is a collaborative effort between the local system, the Technical College System of Georgia and the University System of Georgia.

Program of Study

Program of study is the terminology assigned by federal legislation (Perkins IV) to describe a “state approved program, which may be adopted by local education agencies and post-secondary institutions to be offered as an option to students when planning for and completing future course work, for career and technical content areas.” (Hull, Dan, *Career Pathways Education with a purpose*, CORD Communications, pg. 4, Ap. 2006) According to Perkins, a program of study:

- will incorporate and align secondary and post-secondary education;
- will include academic and CTAE content in a coordinated, non-duplicative progression of courses;
- may include the opportunity for secondary students to acquire post-secondary credits;
- will lead to an industry-recognized credential or certificate at the post-secondary level, or an associate or baccalaureate degree;
- will identify and address current or emerging occupational opportunities.