

Industry Certificate Guidebook

Industry Certificate Work Group, January 2015

The information for industry certifications was created by the Graduation Guidelines Industry Certificate Work Group. For a list of the members of the work group or for a copy of [Industry Certification: Implementation Recommendations, Resources, and Tools](#), please click [here](#).

The Role of CTE

Career and Technical Education programs are organized educational programs offering sequences of courses directly related to preparing individuals for paid or unpaid employment in current or emerging occupations requiring less than a baccalaureate degree. (Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act, Public Law 105-332)

The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 provides federal career and technical education funds to states. The Act urges states to use technical skill assessments aligned with industry-recognized standards to measure CTE students' technical achievement. While there are many ways to demonstrate this technical achievement, industry certifications offer a vetted method of signaling that students have acquired a defined set of skills and knowledge. See the Colorado Community College System website for more information on Technical Skills Attainment: <http://www.coloradostateplan.com/strategy4.htm>

CTE programs offer a unique opportunity for the implementation of industry certifications into the curriculum. Programs often have an appropriate sequence of courses that seamlessly lead to an industry certification. Note that while there are community/technical college certificates signifying completion of a series of courses, this is not the same as an industry recognized certification. Completion of a community/technical college series of courses can prepare a student to take the assessment to earn an industry recognized certification. CTE Plans of Study and Individual Career and Academic Plans (ICAP) can be used to guide students to develop and maintain a personalized plan that will ensure program and workforce success. These plans of study can often lead to identified industry certifications, providing a guided pathway toward earning these certifications. Examples of these types of plans of study can be found in [Promising Practices](#). More information on plans of study can be found here: <http://www.coloradostateplan.com>.