

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs of Study Frequently Asked Questions



Programs of Study Background

1. What is a program of study?

Programs of study are course sequences that prepare students with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in their chosen career. These sequences embed relevant, real-world experiences and culminate in a postsecondary credential that will prepare students for a high-wage, high-skill, in-demand career. The courses contained within statewide and regional programs of study are determined by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) per the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V).

Programs of Study and Funding

2. How are programs of study related to state funding?

CTE courses for high school credit receive additional tiered weighted funding for students in grades 7-12. Tiered weighted funding is as follows:

- 1.1 for a CTE course that is not part of a program of study
- 1.28 for a CTE course that is part of a program of study and defined as a level 1 or level 2 course
- 1.47 for a CTE course that is part of a program of study and defined as a level 3 or level 4 course

The CTE Look-Up Tables provide a list of CTE courses within programs of study as well as those not in a program of study. The CTE Look-Up Tables, by school year, are located here: [PEIMS Calculations - Tech Tips | TSDS \(texasstudentdatasystem.org\)](https://www.tea.texas.gov/peims-calculations-tech-tips-tsdg).

3. How are programs of study related to federal funding?

Perkins funding may be used to support approved statewide and approved regional programs of study. Perkins funding may not be used to support courses that are not included in approved programs of study.

Program of Study and Accountability

4. How will programs of study affect A-F state accountability?

Completion of a program of study is among the indicators used for evaluating the performance of high school campuses and districts that include high school campuses. To allow districts time to implement industry-based certification aligned to programs of study, the following transition timeline provides guidance on how the alignment will be phased in over the next three years. The requirement to earn an IBC plus an aligned level two or higher course applies for the Class of 2024, the Concentrator requirement applies for the Class of 2025, and the Completer requirement applies for the Class of 2026.

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CCMR Credit Requirements for Annual Graduates by Accountability Year

Annual Graduates	Accountability Year	CCMR Credit Requirement
Class of 2022	2023	Earn IBC (2019–2022 list with sunseting limit)
Class of 2023	2024	Earn IBC (2019–2022 & 2022–2025 lists with sunseting limit)
Class of 2024	2025	Earn IBC (2019–2022 & 2022–2025 lists with sunseting limit) plus 1 course in aligned program of study ¹
Class of 2025	2026	Earn IBC (2022–2025) plus Concentrator in aligned program of study ²
Class of 2026	2027	Earn IBC (2022–2025 & 2025–2030 lists with sunseting limit) plus Completer in aligned program of study ³

¹ One course that is level two or higher (excludes Career Prep I, Extended Career Prep I, Project Based Research, and/or Scientific Research and Design)

² Two or more courses for at least two credits in the same program of study

³ Three or more courses for four or more credits, including one level three or level four course in the same program of study

5. How is a concentrator determined? How is a completer determined?

Concentrator: A student served by an LEA who completes, passes, and receives credit for two or more high school CTE courses for a total of at least 2 credits within the same program of study and who is not a completer.

Completer: A student served by an LEA who completes, passes, and receives credit for three or more high school CTE courses for four or more credits, including at least one level 3 or level 4 course, from within the same program of study.

6. How many programs of study should a local education agency offer?

Perkins V legislation requires an LEA receiving Perkins funds to offer a minimum of one program of study. Please see the chart below for the program of study requirements based on student enrollment. Districts are encouraged to offer multiple high-quality CTE programs of study that align with the current programs of study course sequences based on statewide and local labor market data.

Fewer than 500 students	1 program of study
501-1,000 students	2 programs of study
1,001-2,000 students	3 programs of study
2,001-5,000 students	4 programs of study
5,001-10,000 students	5 programs of study
10,001 + students	6 programs of study

Programs of Study Course Sequences

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7. Do the courses in a program of study need to be offered in a certain order?

Course order will be determined by recommended and required prerequisites in the TEKS. Courses should progress in content specificity and rigor.

8. What does level 1 – 4 indicate?

Levels indicate the rigor of the course and may influence the order in which students complete courses within a program of study. Flexibility in course sequence exists if prerequisites are followed. LEAs should implement their programs of study to ensure students master foundational concepts before enrolling in higher level courses.

9. What courses, if any, are anticipated to be eliminated due to the 2024-2025 programs of study refresh?

No courses have been eliminated from programs of study.

Programs of Study and Endorsements

10. Do programs of study replace endorsements?

Programs of study do not replace endorsements. Programs of study support the completion of an endorsement.

11. Do programs of study completers meet endorsements?

Yes. Students who complete a program of study are eligible to earn an endorsement, dependent upon which programs of study an LEA chooses to offer.

Programs of Study Implementation

12. What is the timeline for implementing changes in programs of study?

Programs of study were implemented in 2020-2021. The programs of study were refreshed for implementation in the 2024-2025 school year.

17. May an LEA only offer the statewide programs of study?

An LEA may offer any statewide program of study. An LEA may also offer a regional program of study that has been approved for the region in which the LEA is physically located. However, an LEA is not required to offer a regional program of study.

18. What should an LEA do if interested in proposing a new regional program of study?

If an LEA wishes to offer a regional program of study that is not currently approved for the region, the LEA should collaborate with the regional Education Service Center (ESC) CTE Specialist to submit an application.

19. Will teacher certification requirements be updated to match the new programs of study?

The State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) determines teacher certification requirements for each CTE course. Districts should refer to [19 TAC Chapter 231](#). As new courses are adopted by the State Board of Education (SBOE) for certain programs of study the SBEC will make appropriate adjustments to teacher assignment rules.

19. Will there be new TEKS for courses? Will programs of study have new courses or consist of currently available courses?

CTE courses are revised on an ongoing basis. Some new courses were proposed by advisory committees during the programs of study refresh process. New courses will be developed by SBOE appointed work groups and adopted by the SBOE.