

Career & Technical Education FAQs

Arlington ISD Career and Technical Education (CTE) has implemented many programs of study within the 16 federally defined career clusters. You may choose courses from one or several of the clusters during high school; however, concentrated study in one area gives you the advantage of developing higher-level workplace skills and knowledge for a particular career field.

Does career and technical education help students finish high school?

Statistics show that students who take two or three related courses in career-tech education are more likely to graduate from high school on time than students in general.

If career and technical education students stop with only a certification or associate degree, can they earn as much money as they could with a bachelor's degree?

Yes. But it is important to note that it depends on the student's field of study. In some jobs, earnings are limited without a four-year degree. But in others, students with a certification or two-year degree can expect to earn as much or more than those with bachelor's degrees.

Where are career and technical education courses offered?

All of the traditional high school campuses, the Dan Dipert Career & Technical Center, and the Agricultural Science Center (ASC) offer career & technical education courses.

How do I enroll in CTE classes?

All students will register at their assigned campus during the spring registration period then they will request the elective classes they desire (including all Career Tech Center courses and Agricultural Science Center courses) with their school counselor. Please note: some CTC and ASC classes may not be available due to a course being at maximum seat capacity. Some upper level courses and programs require an application. Please check the district's course description handbook for more details or speak with your counselor.

How do I know if the class I want to take is offered at the CTC, my high school or the Agricultural Science Center?

The district's course description handbook contains recommended programs of study. Each course description contains the location of each course, and the four-year plan shows each sequence. The courses are color-coded so that students will know if the course is offered on their home campus, CTC, Agricultural Science Center, or, in a few cases, multiple locations.

How will I get to the CTC or Agricultural Science Center?

Students are able to take their own transportation to these facilities or utilize district-provided bus transportation. Please refer to the side-by-side bell schedule comparisons for more details.

What is a CTE certification or Industry-Based Certification?

An Industry-Based Certification is an independent third-party credential that is industry-accepted and results from a process whereby an individual's knowledge and/or skill in a particular area is verified against a set of pre-determined standards.

How can I earn a certification?

Arlington ISD offers more than 40 certification opportunities within the programs of study. Check the course description handbook for more details or speak with your counselor.