



INDIANA COMMISSION *for* HIGHER EDUCATION

CTE Newsletter
December 2024

This update is provided by the Career and Technical Education team at the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (Commission). We welcome your support in encouraging anyone who would benefit from the information to join our listserv. Individuals can sign up [here](#). Questions can be shared with CTE@che.in.gov.

2025-2026 CTE Funding Memo

The CTE funding memo for the 2025-2026 school year was approved at the December State Board of Education meeting and can be [found here](#). The memo is developed annually by the Department of Workforce Development in consultation with the CTE team at the Commission for Higher Education.

A summary of changes from the 2024-2025 memo to this year's memo can be [accessed here](#).

New High School Diploma Requirements Approved

The State Board of Education (SBOE) approved Indiana's new high school diploma requirements during the December SBOE meeting. The press release can be [found here](#) and a comparison of current requirements to new requirements can be [found here](#).

Throughout 2025, a number of implementation resources and supports will be developed. The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is encouraging educators, parents, and other stakeholders to submit any questions and feedback regarding the implementation process [here](#).

2025-2026 Course Titles and Descriptions

The annual High School Course Titles and Descriptions (CTD) were released in November by IDOE. The 2025-2026 CTD can be [found here](#).

IDOE is finalizing a separate companion document for the 2025-2026 school year which will include information such as course codes and titles, course durations, available credits, recommended and required course prerequisites, dual credit designations, and which course(s) support a variety of Graduation Pathways.

Prior to the release of the companion document, supplemental information related to CTE courses can be [found here](#). This information will also be included in the companion document when released by IDOE. All changes to the CTE section from last year are outlined at the beginning of the document and in the change log at the end.

New National Career Cluster Framework: Earlier this fall, [Advance CTE](#) released a modernized career cluster framework. Career clusters are primarily utilized as a tool for organizing CTE programs of study. The newly released national framework led Indiana to make some adjustments to ensure alignment.



Some CTE programs of study have moved to different clusters, become part of a newly created career cluster, or had a cluster name change. These changes are described in the Course Titles and Descriptions (linked above) and reflected throughout the document.

The new framework and additional information can be found on *Advance CTE's* website [here](#).

Master Pathways List

The CTE Master Pathways List has been updated to reflect the career cluster adjustments for the 2025-2026 school year in addition to changes made in the course titles and descriptions. The updated document can be [found here](#).

Changes within the course titles and descriptions that are now reflected in this document include:

- The addition of an Informatics program of study in the Digital Technology cluster
- The addition of 7279 Social and Community Service Capstone to the Social and Community Services program of study
- Updates to course names, including 5274 Healthcare Fundamentals (previously Medical Terminology), 7201 Small Business Operations Capstone (previously Business Management Capstone), and 7147 Entrepreneurial Operations (previously Small Business Operations)

Additionally, the document notes a course sequencing requirement for three advanced manufacturing pathways (noted with a bold orange box). In these three pathways, students may take 7220 Principles of Industry 4.0 - Smart Manufacturing as the Principles course for the pathway (rather than 7108 Principles of Advanced Manufacturing). However, to use this option, the student must then take 4728 Robotics Design and Innovation as the Concentrator A course.

CTE Awards for Excellence

The CTE team annually spotlights excellence in both secondary and postsecondary Career and Technical Education through the Awards for Excellence (AFE). The 2025 ceremony will be held on May 8 in Indianapolis. More details will be provided in the coming months.

AFE Nomination Forms are now open and may be accessed below or on the CTE website. The deadline for nominations is Monday, March 3, 2025.

Nominations are accepted in four categories for both secondary and postsecondary, including students, programs of study, partnerships, and career advising. The Commission for Higher Education's CTE team invites postsecondary institutions (each individual campus/branch can apply), high schools, and career centers to submit nominations. Additional information and each category's nomination form are included in the links below:

- [Secondary Nomination Information](#)
- [Postsecondary Nomination Information](#)



Individuals are encouraged to share the nomination information with school faculty and staff at the secondary and postsecondary levels who may have nominations to submit.

Nontraditional Occupations Grant

The Commission's CTE team is currently seeking proposals from organizations who work to increase participation of students in nontraditional fields within CTE programs. This grant is funded through the federal Perkins Act, which requires states to utilize a portion of funding in support of nontraditional occupations.

\$120,000 has been allocated for this grant and applications are being received through January 17. **For additional information, access the RFP [here](#).**

Education Readiness Grants

The Commission in partnership with [Conexus Indiana](#) and [TechPoint](#), has opened applications for Education Readiness Grants, which provide funding for high schools to implement Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in high-demand career fields. The grant is run through the Commission's CTE team and aims to strengthen partnerships between industry and local schools, while increasing student access to opportunities in these career fields.

Grant applications are currently being accepted for three advanced manufacturing programs of study – Industry 4.0 Smart Manufacturing, Industrial Automation and Robotics, and Biotechnology – and two digital technology programs of study – Cybersecurity and Software Development. **Find more information in the press release [here](#).** Applications are open through January 24.

External Opportunity: Indiana Work-Based Learning Conference

Registration is open for the Indiana [Work-Based Learning Conference](#). This event will be on February 13 in Noblesville and is hosted by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce's Institute of Workforce Excellence. It includes the annual IMPACT Awards where Hoosier students engaged in WBL, employers, innovative programs and more are celebrated. To learn more about the event and register, [click here](#).

Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship

The Commission is currently accepting applications for the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship, which provides up to \$40,000 of financial aid to aspiring teachers. High-achieving high school and college students who plan to teach in Indiana for at least five years can receive up to \$10,000 per year of college (up to \$40,000 total) from the scholarship. Students must apply by January 31, 2025, at [ScholarTrack.IN.gov](#).

More information can be found in [this press release](#) or online [here](#). Handouts are available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Questions can be directed to NextTeacher@che.in.gov.



2025-2026 FAFSA

The 2025-2026 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now open. Students are encouraged to file before the April 15 deadline. The Commission has announced a statewide completion goal to have at least 60 percent of high school seniors complete the FAFSA in advance of the April deadline.

Additional information and resources to support students in completing the FAFSA can be [found here](#).

