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## Introduction to The Common Career Technical Core

The Common Career Technical Core (CCTC) is an important step forward for the Career Technical Education (CTE) community. For the first time in the history of CTE, states throughout the nation have a common benchmark for what students should know and be able to do after completing a program of study.

The CCTC is a state-led initiative, with 42 states, the District of Columbia and Palau participating in the development stage. Business and industry representatives, educators and others helped guide the development of the CCTC from beginning to end to ensure CTE students will have the knowledge and skills to thrive in a global economy.

The resulting CCTC is a set of rigorous, high-quality standards for CTE that states can adopt voluntarily. The CCTC includes a set of standards for each of the 16 Career Clusters™ and their corresponding Career Pathways that define what students should know and be able to do after completing instruction in a program of study (pages 3-18 of this document).

The CCTC also includes an overarching set of Career Ready Practices that apply to all programs of study. The Career Ready Practices include 12 statements that address the knowledge, skills and dispositions that are important to becoming career ready (pages 1-3 of this document).

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### Career Ready Practices

Career Ready Practices describe the career-ready skills that educators should seek to develop in their students. These practices are not exclusive to a Career Pathway, program of study, discipline or level of education. Career Ready Practices should be taught and reinforced in all career exploration and preparation programs with increasingly higher levels of complexity and expectation as a student advances through a program of study.

#### **1. Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.**

Career-ready individuals understand the obligations and responsibilities of being a member of a community, and they demonstrate this understanding every day through their interactions with others. They are conscientious of the impacts of their decisions on others and the environment around them. They think about the near-term and long-term consequences of their actions and seek to act in ways that contribute to the betterment of their teams, families, community and workplace. They are reliable and consistent in going beyond the minimum expectation and in participating in activities that serve the greater good.

#### **2. Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.**

Career-ready individuals readily access and use the knowledge and skills acquired through experience and education

to be more productive. They make connections between abstract concepts with real-world applications and they make correct insights about when it is appropriate to apply the use of an academic skill in a workplace situation.

### **3. Attend to personal health and financial well-being.**

Career-ready individuals understand the relationship between personal health, workplace performance and personal well-being; they act on that understanding to regularly practice healthy diet, exercise and mental health activities. Career-ready individuals also take regular action to contribute to their personal financial well-being, understanding that personal financial security provides the peace of mind required to contribute more fully to their own career success.

### **4. Communicate clearly, effectively and with reason.**

Career-ready individuals communicate thoughts, ideas and action plans with clarity, whether using written, verbal and/or visual methods. They communicate in the workplace with clarity and purpose to make maximum use of their own and others' time. They are excellent writers; they master conventions, word choice and organization and use effective tone and presentation skills to articulate ideas. They are skilled at interacting with others; they are active listeners and speak clearly and with purpose. Career-ready individuals think about the audience for their communication and prepare accordingly to ensure the desired outcome.

### **5. Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions.**

Career-ready individuals understand the interrelated nature of their actions and regularly make decisions that positively impact and/or mitigate negative impact on other people, organizations and the environment. They are aware of and utilize new technologies, understandings, procedures, materials and regulations affecting the nature of their work as it relates to the impact on the social condition, the environment and profitability of the organization.

### **6. Demonstrate creativity and innovation.**

Career-ready individuals regularly think of ideas that solve problems in new and different ways, and they contribute those ideas in a useful and productive manner to improve their organization. They can consider unconventional ideas and suggestions as solutions to issues, tasks or problems, and they discern which ideas and suggestions will add greatest value. They seek new methods, practices and ideas from a variety of sources and seek to apply those ideas to their own workplace. They take action on their ideas and understand how to bring innovation to an organization.

### **7. Employ valid and reliable research strategies.**

Career-ready individuals are discerning in accepting and using new information to make decisions, change practices or inform strategies. They use a reliable research process to search for new information. They evaluate the validity of sources when considering the use and adoption of external information or practices. They use an informed process to test new ideas, information and practices in their workplace situation.

### **8. Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.**

Career-ready individuals readily recognize problems in the workplace, understand the nature of the problem, and devise effective plans to solve the problem. They are aware of problems when they occur and take action quickly to address the problem. They thoughtfully investigate the root cause of the problem prior to introducing solutions. They carefully consider the options to solve the problem. Once a solution is agreed upon, they follow through to ensure the problem is solved, whether through their own actions or the actions of others.

### **9. Model integrity, ethical leadership and effective management.**

Career-ready individuals consistently act in ways that align to personal and community-held ideals and principles while employing strategies to positively influence others in the workplace. They have a clear understanding of integrity and act on this understanding in every decision. They use a variety of means to positively impact the direction and actions of a team or organization, and they apply insights into human behavior to change others' actions, attitudes and/or beliefs. They recognize the near-term and long-term effects that management's actions and attitudes can have on productivity, morale and organizational culture.

### **10. Plan education and career path aligned to personal goals.**

Career-ready individuals take personal ownership of their own educational and career goals, and they regularly act on a plan to attain these goals. They understand their own career interests, preferences, goals and requirements. They have perspective regarding the pathways available to them and the time, effort, experience and other requirements to pursue each, including a path of entrepreneurship. They recognize the value of each step in the educational and experiential process, and they recognize that nearly all career paths require ongoing education and experience. They seek counselors, mentors and other experts to assist in the planning and execution of career and personal goals.

## 11. Use technology to enhance productivity.

Career-ready individuals find and maximize the productive value of existing and new technology to accomplish workplace tasks and solve workplace problems. They are flexible and adaptive in acquiring and using new technology. They are proficient with ubiquitous technology applications. They understand the inherent risks -- personal and organizational -- of technology applications, and they take actions to prevent or mitigate these risks.

## 12. Work productively in teams while using cultural/global competence.

Career-ready individuals positively contribute to every team whether formal or informal. They apply an awareness of cultural differences to avoid barriers to productive and positive interaction. They find ways to increase the engagement and contribution of all team members. They plan and facilitate effective team meetings.

## Standards

### The Common Career Technical Core

#### Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources Career Cluster™ (AG)

1. Analyze how issues, trends, technologies and public policies impact systems in the Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources Career Cluster™.
2. Evaluate the nature and scope of the Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources Career Cluster™ and the role of agriculture, food and natural resources (AFNR) in society and the economy.
3. Examine and summarize the importance of health, safety and environmental management systems in AFNR businesses.
4. Demonstrate stewardship of natural resources in AFNR activities.
5. Describe career opportunities and means to achieve those opportunities in each of the Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources Career Pathways.
6. Analyze the interaction among AFNR systems in the production, processing and management of food, fiber and fuel and the sustainable use of natural resources.

#### Agribusiness Systems Career Pathway (AG-BIZ)

1. Apply management planning principles in AFNR businesses.
2. Use record keeping to accomplish AFNR business objectives, manage budgets, and comply with laws and regulations.
3. Manage cash budgets, credit budgets and credit for an AFNR business using generally accepted accounting principles.
4. Develop a business plan for an AFNR business.
5. Use sales and marketing principles to accomplish AFNR business objectives.

#### Animal Systems Career Pathway (AG-ANI)

1. Analyze historic and current trends impacting the animal systems industry.
2. Utilize best-practice protocols based upon animal behaviors for animal husbandry and welfare.
3. Design and provide proper animal nutrition to achieve desired outcomes for performance, development, reproduction and/or economic production.
4. Apply principles of animal reproduction to achieve desired outcomes for performance, development and/or economic production.
5. Evaluate environmental factors affecting animal performance and implement procedures for enhancing performance and animal health.
6. Classify, evaluate and select animals based on anatomical and physiological characteristics.
7. Apply principles of effective animal health care.

#### Environmental Service Systems Career Pathway (AG-ENV)

1. Use analytical procedures and instruments to manage environmental service systems.
2. Evaluate the impact of public policies and regulations on environmental service system operations.
3. Develop proposed solutions to environmental issues, problems and applications using scientific principles of meteorology, soil science, hydrology, microbiology, chemistry and ecology.
4. Demonstrate the operation of environmental service systems (e.g., pollution control, water treatment, wastewater

3. Apply inventory tracking systems to facilitate operational controls.
4. Plan, monitor and manage day-to-day business activities to maintain and improve operational functions.

### **Education & Training Career Cluster™ (ED)**

1. Apply communication skills with students, parents and other groups to enhance learning and a commitment to learning.
2. Demonstrate effective oral, written and multimedia communication in multiple formats and contexts.
3. Use critical thinking to process educational communications, perspectives, policies and/or procedures.
4. Evaluate and manage risks to safety, health and the environment in education and training settings.
5. Demonstrate group collaboration skills to enhance professional education and training practice.
6. Analyze ethical and legal policies of professional education and training practice.
7. Explain legal rights that apply to individuals and practitioners within education and training settings.
8. Demonstrate ethical and legal behavior within and outside of education and training settings.
9. Describe state-specific professional development requirements to maintain employment and to advance in an education and training career.
10. Apply organizational skills and logic to enhance professional education and training practice.
11. Demonstrate group management skills that enhance professional education and training practice.

### **Administration & Administration Support Career Pathway (ED-ADM)**

1. Use research-based practices to develop, communicate and enlist support for a vision of success for all learners.
2. Identify behaviors necessary for developing and sustaining a positive learning culture.
3. Create instructional programs to meet the learning organization's objectives.
4. Identify instructional practices that meet the learning organization's objectives.
5. Model leadership skills for personnel in order to improve the performance of the learning organization.
6. Identify operations to meet the learning organization's objectives.
7. Plan strategically to meet the learning organization's objectives.
8. Apply internal and external resources to meet the learning organization's objectives and learner needs.
9. Describe advocacy strategies to promote the learning organization's needs.

### **Professional Support Services Career Pathway (ED-PS)**

1. Identify strategies, techniques and tools used to determine the needs of diverse learners.
2. Implement methods to enhance learner success.
3. Identify resources and support services to meet learners' needs.
4. Identify resources and support services available in the learning organization to enhance the learning environment.

### **Teaching/Training Career Pathway (ED-TT)**

1. Use foundational knowledge of subject matter to plan and prepare effective instruction and design courses or programs.
2. Employ knowledge of learning and developmental theory to describe individual learners.
3. Use content knowledge and skills of instruction to develop standards-based goals and assessments.
4. Identify materials and resources needed to support instructional plans.
5. Establish a positive climate to promote learning.
6. Identify motivational, social and psychological practices that guide personal conduct.
7. Demonstrate organizational and relationship building skills used to manage instructional activities and related procedures.
8. Demonstrate flexibility and adaptability in instructional planning.
9. Utilize assessment and evaluation tools and data to advance learner achievement and adjust instructional plans.
10. Evaluate teaching and training performance indicators to determine and improve effectiveness of instructional practices and professional development.
11. Implement strategies to maintain relationships with others to increase support for the organization.

### **Finance Career Cluster™ (FN)**

1. Utilize mathematical concepts, skills and problem solving to obtain necessary information for decision making in the finance industry.
2. Utilize tools, strategies and systems to plan, monitor, manage and maintain the use of financial resources.
3. Plan, staff, lead and organize human resources in finance to enhance employee productivity and job satisfaction.
4. Determine effective tools, techniques and systems to communicate and deliver value to finance customers.
5. Create and maintain positive, ongoing relationships with finance customers.

11. Compare and contrast various types of recreation, amusement and attraction venues.

### **Restaurants & Food/ Beverage Services Career Pathway (HT-RFB)**

1. Describe ethical and legal responsibilities in food and beverage service facilities.
2. Demonstrate safety and sanitation procedures in food and beverage service facilities.
3. Use information from cultural and geographical studies to guide customer service decisions in food and beverage service facilities.
4. Demonstrate leadership qualities and collaboration with others.
5. Research costs, pricing, market demands and marketing strategies to manage profitability in food and beverage service facilities.
6. Explain the benefits of the use of computerized systems to manage food service operations and guest service.
7. Utilize technical resources for food services and beverage operations to update or enhance present practice.
8. Implement standard operating procedures related to food and beverage production and guest service.
9. Describe career opportunities and qualifications in the restaurant and food service industry.
10. Apply listening, reading, writing and speaking skills to enhance operations and customer service in food and beverage service facilities.

### **Travel & Tourism Career Pathway (HT-TT)**

1. Apply information about time zones, seasons and domestic and international maps to create or enhance travel.
2. Apply unit and time conversion skills to develop travel schedules and compute cost, distance and time (including travel time) factors.
3. Analyze cultural diversity factors to enhance travel planning.
4. Assess the potential (real and perceived) hazards related to multiple environments, and recommend appropriate safety, health and security measures for travelers.
5. Develop a safety and security plan containing proactive and reactive solutions to manage emergency situations for travelers and staff.
6. Use common travel and tourism terminology used to communicate within the industry.
7. Customize travel with diverse transportation, lodging, cruise and food options.
8. Compare and contrast services and products from related industries to understand and evaluate how they impact the delivery of travel and tourism products and services to customers.
9. Identify the community elements necessary to maintain cooperative tourism development efforts.
10. Develop a travel product that matches customer needs, wants and expectations.
11. Design promotional packages to effectively market travel and tourism.
12. Select the most effective communication technique and media venue to convey travel marketing information to a target audience.

### **Human Services Career Cluster™ (HU)**

1. Evaluate principles of planning, development, implementation and evaluation to accomplish long-range goals in the human services.
2. Evaluate the role of the family, community and human services in society and the economy.
3. Use effective communication with human services clients and their families.
4. Demonstrate ethical and legal conduct in human services settings.
5. Evaluate career opportunities in each of the Human Services Career Pathways.
6. Explain how human development principles enhance the wellbeing of individuals and families.

### **Consumer Services Career Pathway (HU-CSM)**

1. Summarize necessary credentials, licensures or state-specific requirements to prepare for a career in consumer services.
2. Communicate product or equipment features that meet the needs of clients and consumers.
3. Make consumer services recommendations meeting the needs of clients or customers.
4. Analyze financial/economic situations when making recommendations about consumer services.
5. Use standard business processes or procedures to create consumer service information and facilitate client interactions.
6. Use a variety of methods to educate audiences about consumer services.
7. Demonstrate knowledge of ethical and legal responsibilities associated with providing consumer services.
8. Apply business procedures and utilize equipment and facilities to produce satisfying client outcomes.

### **Counseling & Mental Health Services Career Pathway (HU-CMH)**

1. Use clear written, spoken and nonverbal messages when communicating with clients about mental health services and the counseling process.
2. Utilize functional and specialized assessments to evaluate needs and solutions for counseling and mental health.
3. Evaluate client motivation, strengths and weaknesses to develop a client treatment program.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of an operational mental health or counseling program that meets organizational goals.
5. Demonstrate the ethical and legal responsibilities of counseling and mental health services.
6. Choose appropriate counseling and therapy techniques to serve identified needs.

### **Early Childhood Development & Services Career Pathway (HU-EC)**

1. Demonstrate communication techniques with children to facilitate ongoing development and enhance learning.
2. Communicate effectively with fellow staff members to facilitate child development activities.
3. Maintain working knowledge of child development licensing and certification organizations to keep abreast of current procedures and changes.
4. Create and maintain relationships between staff and parents/family members to encourage involvement and facilitate child development and learning.
5. Evaluate safety and sanitation procedures associated with the early childhood education environment to assure compliance and prevent potential hazards.
6. Adhere to ethical and legal responsibilities, laws and regulations to protect children and families.
7. Apply principles of child growth and development, including social, emotional, physical and cognitive milestones, to provide comprehensive program offerings.
8. Evaluate curriculum for inclusiveness of children with special needs.

### **Family & Community Services Career Pathway (HU-FAM)**

1. Use formal and informal assessment practices to create and evaluate a prevention and/or treatment plan.
2. Identify community resources to provide family and community services.
3. Communicate effectively to gain support from the client's family and other support groups.
4. Comply with laws and procedures that govern abuse, neglect, confidentiality and other health and safety situations.
5. Evaluate crisis prevention, intervention and resolution techniques to formulate emergency plans.

### **Personal Care Services Career Pathway (HU-PC)**

1. Analyze basic principles of biology, chemistry and human anatomy for safe and effective utilization and selection of personal care products and services.
2. Evaluate an individualized personal care plan that reflects client preferences, needs and interests for a course of treatment/action.
3. Utilize data and information to maintain electronic records of client services and make recommendations for personal care services.
4. Demonstrate policies and procedures to achieve a safe and healthy environment for personal care services.
5. Develop organizational policies, procedures and regulations that establish personal care organization priorities, accomplish the mission, and provide high-quality service to a diverse set of clients and families.
6. Identify personal care business opportunities enhanced by community involvement, self-improvement and current trends.
7. Apply methods of obtaining feedback to understand expectations and promote high-quality personal care services standards.

### **Information Technology Career Cluster™ (IT)**

1. Demonstrate effective professional communication skills and practices that enable positive customer relationships.
2. Use product or service design processes and guidelines to produce a quality information technology (IT) product or service.
3. Demonstrate the use of cross-functional teams in achieving IT project goals.
4. Demonstrate positive cyber citizenry by applying industry accepted ethical practices and behaviors.
5. Explain the implications of IT on business development.
6. Describe trends in emerging and evolving computer technologies and their influence on IT practices.
7. Perform standard computer backup and restore procedures to protect IT information.
8. Recognize and analyze potential IT security threats to develop and maintain security requirements.
9. Describe quality assurance practices and methods employed in producing and providing quality IT products and services.
10. Describe the use of computer forensics to prevent and solve information technology crimes and security breaches.