

## 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 4-21 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 2-3 of this document).

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Career Ready Practices (CRP) 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 (PoS), discipline or level of education. CRP 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 PoS.

### **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.

## The Common Career Technical Core

### Hospitality & Tourism Career Cluster® (HT)

1. Describe the key components of marketing and promoting hospitality and tourism products and services.
2. Evaluate the nature and scope of the Hospitality & Tourism Career Cluster and the role of hospitality and tourism in society and the economy.
3. Demonstrate hospitality and tourism customer service skills that meet customers' needs.
4. Describe employee rights and responsibilities and employers' obligations concerning occupational health and safety in the hospitality and tourism workplace.
5. Identify potential, real and perceived hazards and emergency situations and determine the appropriate safety and security measures in the hospitality and tourism workplace.
6. Describe career opportunities and means to attain those opportunities in each of the Hospitality & Tourism Career Pathways.

#### Lodging Career Pathway (HT-LOD)

1. Use various communication technologies to accomplish work tasks in lodging facilities.
2. Explain the role and importance of housekeeping operations to lodging facility.
3. Allocate staff positions to meet the needs of various lodging departments.
4. Describe the role and responsibilities of lodging managers.
5. Compare the advantages and disadvantages of independently owned and chain-affiliated lodging facilities.
6. Analyze the departmental interrelationships of a lodging facility.
7. Explain various check-in and check-out procedures used in the lodging industry.
8. Understand reservation procedures used in the lodging industry.
9. Explain how room access policies and procedures ensure guest safety and minimize risks to the lodging facility.
10. Explain how cash control procedures are used in the lodging industry.
11. Explain how guests and property are protected to minimize losses or liabilities in the lodging facility.
12. Explain the basic legal issues in lodging management.

#### Recreation, Amusements & Attractions Career Pathway (HT-REC)

1. Describe career opportunities in the Recreation, Amusements & Attractions Career Pathway.
2. Explain admission and traffic control procedures used to manage and control individuals, groups and vehicles in recreation, amusement and attraction venues.
3. Determine the maintenance and technology needs for various recreation, amusement and attraction venues.
4. Describe safety and security issues unique to the Recreation, Amusements & Attractions Career Pathway.
5. Compile a resource base to manage emergency situations in recreation, amusement and attraction venues.
6. Identify safety and security issues for recreation, amusement and attraction venues that might require customer education.
7. Compare different ticket sales options to maximize revenue for recreation, amusement and attraction venues.
8. Describe the types of information and directions a guest would need at a recreation, amusement and attraction entry point.
9. Develop marketing strategies for recreation, amusement and attractions venues.
10. Analyze the merchandising, program and product potential for different recreation, amusement and attraction venues.
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.