

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CTE PROGRAMS OF STUDY

### What is a CTE Program of Study?

Each CTE Program of Study includes a state-approved coherent sequence of courses, industry-based certification(s), and work-based learning to ensure students are prepared for in-demand, high-skill, and high-wage careers in Texas.

### What do CTE Programs of Study look like in CFISD?

CFISD offers CTE Programs of Study for around thirty (30) different industry fields. Each includes a recommended sequence of courses, the ability to learn with industry-standard materials/equipment, the opportunity to add at least one industry-based certification to your resume, and options to grow under the guidance of industry professionals.

### What CTE Programs of Study does CFISD offer?

(List is subject to change - see [www.CFISD.net/CTE](http://www.CFISD.net/CTE) for updates. Offered at every CFISD high school.)

Accounting & Financial Services	Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems	Animal Science	Architectural Drafting & Design
Automotive Technician	Business Management	Construction	Cosmetology
Culinary Arts	Cybersecurity	Diagnostic & Therapeutic Services	Digital Communication - Audio
Digital Communication - Video	Early Learning	Engineering Foundations	Entrepreneurship
Environmental & Natural Resources	Fashion Design	Graphic Design & Interactive Media	Interior Design
Manufacturing Technology	Marketing & Sales	Networking Systems	Plant Science
Programming & Software Development	Robotics	Teaching & Training	Web Development
Welding			

### How many courses make up a program of study?

Students are considered to have “completed” a program of study if they have taken at least three courses for at least a total of 4 credits, with at least one course being labeled as advanced. A Performance Acknowledgment is earned if they also have achieved at least one industry-based certification (from the state list).

### Do I have to take the courses in a particular order?

The program of study promotion materials list a recommended order to take the courses within a program of study, paying attention to things like level of rigor and prerequisites. The progression of courses exposes students to general concepts related to that industry in the beginning course(s) and progresses to more advanced concepts that are more specific to those who concentrate in that industry. For example, in Accounting & Financial Services, the beginning courses expose students to concepts such as personal finance and basic spreadsheets. As the courses progress, students delve deeper into the business accounting cycle and learn how to utilize and certify in QuickBooks, an industry-based accounting software. Students in that program of study have the opportunity to complete their time in high school with a course that involves working side-by-side with professionals in that industry.

### **What supports exist to help me learn more about what program of study might be right for me?**

- Information found on [www.CFISD.net/CTE](http://www.CFISD.net/CTE) and this High School Course Description Book
- Middle School Program of Study Parent/Student Information Night
- Career exploration lessons including a career interest survey in 8th grade
- Feeder high school events designed for incoming students to learn about options
- PACE course taken by all 9th grade students with additional career and program of study exploration
- Annual conferences with high school counselors
- 4-year plan reviews in every CTE course
- Contact your counselor or a CTE teacher if you still have questions

### **When do I have to decide on the program of study I want to pursue?**

While conversations may happen before then, students submit their first 4-year plan in 8th grade. The course selections are input into Xello, a software program allowing students and their parents to keep track of their 4-year plan throughout their high school career.

### **Am I able to make changes in later years?**

There is a window of time each year during which 4-year plans are reviewed and adjustments may be made. Because of the way courses fit together in a sequence, making adjustments within a program of study are “easier” to make than changing between programs of study, especially beyond the first year or two of courses. NOTE: While there are windows of time when adjustments to 4-year plans may be requested, there are also deadlines and periods of time when courses for the following and/or current year are locked and may not be changed.

### **Does taking courses to complete a CTE program of study mean I can't take any other offerings?**

No. There are students who complete CTE programs of study who are also very active in areas such as fine arts, athletics, AFJROTC, foreign language, etc. However, this does take planning and could depend upon courses taken in middle school and/or summer school, and there are some limits based on the 7-period day. This is why starting the planning conversation as early as 6th grade is important.

### **When can I take my first CTE course?**

Students can get a jumpstart on a program of study, or do some exploration ahead of time, by choosing from the following high school credit CTE courses offered in 7th and/or 8th grade:

- Principles of Applied Engineering
- Principles of Architecture
- Principles of Business, Marketing, & Finance
- Principles of Hospitality & Tourism
- Principles of Human Services
- Principles of Information Technology
- Principles of Manufacturing
- Business Information Management I

### **Are there other opportunities to take high school credit courses in middle school?**

Yes. In addition to taking advantage of the option to make room for more CTE courses in high school by taking one or more CTE course in middle school, the same is true for taking other high school credit courses such as foreign language in middle school...especially if you are wanting to take a CTE program of study that includes block courses (courses that last 2 or 3 periods each day). See the Middle School Course Description Book (<https://www.cfisd.net/domain/2370>) or your counselor for more information on high school credits available at middle school.