

Career Technical Education (CTE)

Specialization is the Key Element

Reasons Students Choose CTE Programs:

- 1) *Testing the waters* to see if the particular program is what they are interested in and want to pursue further.
- 2) *Gain certification for specific area of study* to gain employment in desired profession.
- 3) *Alternative to achieving a degree.*
- 4) *Complete certificate to gain employment*, in related field, similar to individual's academic goals for achieving a degree.
- 5) *Career transitions* for those wanting to pursue another profession.
- 6) *Additional education* (continuing education units) to maintain certificates and /or licenses required for some professions.
- 7) *Hone in current skill sets* to increase economic sustainability.
- 8) *Alternative route and/or to bide time for waiting to get into impacted degree programs.* Many students will pay double to triple the cost to go to private vocational schools in order to complete their degree rather than be on a waiting list trying to get accepted into a traditional academic degree granting institutions.
- 9) *Lifelong learning* taking courses due to interest.

CTE Program Nuances:

Known Variables Taken Into Account:

1. Some have demanding external standards that must be met.
2. Some have very high unit loads.
3. Most are expensive to operate.
4. Some lead to transfer as well as associate degrees beyond certificates of achievement.
5. Information should be obtained directly from the respective programs discipline experts.
6. All CTE courses or programs with prerequisites must have the prerequisites reviewed every two years.
7. Many are accelerated and "content full" and must accommodate underprepared students. Many of these programs are already on-board with being "student ready" implementing contextualized teaching pedagogy.
8. Need to have a robust curriculum to withstand the test of time, allows for adaption and sustainability.
9. Programs tend to be lab intensive.
10. Limitations involving enrollment, class size restrictions, as well as facilities associated with critical safety issues.
11. Mandatory advisory groups.
12. Some programs can implement Cooperative Work Experience that provides elective instruction to all students. These are approved courses with CORs meeting the same rigor of any other course.

- CTE (Career Technical Education) – historically this is considered non-traditional education for students choosing not to pursue traditional academics towards a degree. Unfortunately, there are a number of stigmas and associated challenges with CTE programs that need to be overcome:
- 1) In general it's a tough sell
 - 2) Lack of trust with CTE programs credibility due to private post-secondary school closures seen in the media over the past decade
 - 3) Marketing
 - 4) Lack of knowledge
 - 5) Awareness is high lack of understanding about CTE is low
 - 6) Public and academic perception and stigmas associated with CTE
 - 7) Not enough currency with students and parents

The pendulum is now swinging in favor of CTE programs because community colleges are implementing a "rebranding" campaign to compete with for-profit colleges on marketing and "eliminate the lingering stigma" associated with CTE. There is an economic imperative to close the education and skills gap to ensure that all populations have equal access. Projections indicate people of color will represent half of the consumers and working population. Reality if African American and Hispanic/Latino children "educational achievement rose to that of white children born in the United States, the economy would be nearly 6 percent, or \$2.3 trillion, larger by 2050". These economic projections are also identifying that the US will remain competitive in the global economy and our economy will continue to grow. California has infused \$6 million into community colleges, in 2017, specifically to promote CTE programs. The goal is to train skills, requiring a credential rather than a degree, and place one million workers in middle skill jobs. In response to projections it was identified that two thirds of the jobs by 2020 will be from this pipeline. As a result this significantly deregulated CTE curriculum approvals from the state to local levels to meet these demands. Many colleges and universities are now implementing applied learning styles, integrative and contextualized pedagogy. Historically, the irony, these teaching styles have been implemented for years in vocational education (CTE programs) which was the very thing these schools were chastised for, in academics, is now adopted in higher education. Currently, this movement is reflected in adopting the "student ready" model.

Skyline College CTE Programs:

CTE Programs - 15

Degrees offered - 21

Certificates Offered (53):

- Certificate of Achievement (generally 12-30 units) - **27**
 - Certificate of Specialization (generally 12-17.5 units) - **6**
 - Skills or Career Certificate (fewer than 12 units) – **20**
1. *Certificates/Degrees – no program oversight or state oversight implementing uniform standards.*
(47/74 = **64%**)
 2. *Certificate/Degrees – program oversight accreditation/approval, no required exam for licensure/certification to practice. May have National certification that is optional.*
(15/74 = **20%**)
 3. *Certificate/Degrees – programs requiring licensure or certification with passing associated exam. These programs have state oversight governing laws that dictate what these professions can and cannot do - limited to specific education, experience and demonstrated competency to which the laws allow. To practice and/or implement beyond those parameters is considered illegal.*
(11/74 = **15%**)