

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Secondary Education – Between elementary and college, i.e. high school, offering academic, vocational, technical or college preparatory curricula.

Post Secondary Education – Higher Education; i.e. community colleges (2-year), undergraduate colleges (4-year), graduate schools, vocational schools and technical institutes.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) – Formerly referred to as “vocational education,” CTE has a long history in the U.S. and is supported by federal (Perkins Act) funding. Today’s Career and Technical Education (CTE) system in Pennsylvania is focused on preparing our young people with the academic foundation, career direction, and workplace skills that will help them succeed personally, and contribute to an innovative and competitive Pennsylvania economy. In the past, some students who were not planning to attend college were encouraged to participate in vocational education programs designed to prepare them for entering the workforce immediately after high school. But the economy for which old vocational education was built to serve no longer exists. That economy of the past offered plentiful low-skilled jobs to Pennsylvanians that allowed them to enter the middle class and work for one employer for several decades. In contrast, the modern economy is more dynamic and fast paced, and it demands a workforce that can constantly adapt and learn new skills. Today’s workers need to have much stronger communication, critical thinking, collaboration, and creative skills than ever before.

Perkins Act – The Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act (1984) aims to improve the quality of CTE and provides approximately \$1.3 billion in support for CTE programs in all 50 states. The 1998 reauthorization act stipulated that the term “career and technical education” replace “vocational education,” and outlined new requirements for “programs of study” (see below).

Program of Study – A structured approach to delivering academic and CTE content. The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 requires the development and implementation of career and technical programs of study (POS). Programs of Study:

- Incorporate secondary education and postsecondary education elements,
- Include coherent and rigorous content aligned with challenging academic standards and relevant career and technical content in a coordinated, non-duplicative progression of courses,
- Align secondary education with postsecondary education to adequately prepare students to succeed in postsecondary education; (may include the opportunity for secondary education students to participate in dual or concurrent enrollment programs or other ways to acquire postsecondary education credits.); and
- Lead to an industry-recognized credential or certificate at the postsecondary level or an associate or baccalaureate degree.

Each local recipient receiving Perkins funds under the Act will be required to offer the relevant courses of at least one POS . POS are similar to PA initiatives such as Tech Prep, career pathways, career academies and career clusters. The development of statewide POS is underway

and will continue through the requirements of the 2006-2013 Perkins IV Act related to the Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) Codes that align to the PA Department of Labor and Industry's High Priority Occupations list.

Early College Credit – Program administered by collaborating high schools and colleges whereby high school students who meet certain eligibility requirements (i.e. minimum GPA) can take college courses, and earn college credit, prior to graduating from high school or matriculating.

Dual Enrollment - The commonwealth's Dual Enrollment Program allows qualified high school juniors and seniors to enroll in college-level courses and receive both college and high school credit. The college credits are widely accepted and transferable to colleges and universities nationwide. Students should contact their high school guidance counselor to find out what Dual Enrollment Program opportunities may be available.

Portable Credits – Credits that are transferable between institutions.

Articulation Agreement – An agreement written between two institutions allows course credit at one college/university to be accepted or transferred and applied toward a degree or certificate at another college/university. Admission into a particular major could have a GPA requirement higher than admission to the college.

Credit/NonCredit – Credit courses can be applied toward the completion of a degree or certificate program; non-credit courses are taken for general enrichment or for professional development purposes and do not count toward a degree or certification.

CIP Codes – Classification of Instructional Programs i.e. CIP 2000

BCTE CIP Codes –

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/career_technical_education/7335/cip_codes/516471

Federal CIP Codes – http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2002/2002165_2.pdf

The purpose of the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) is to provide a taxonomic scheme that will support the accurate tracking, assessment, and reporting of fields of study and program completion activity. CIP Codes were originally developed by the US Dept of Education's National Center for Education Statistics in 1980, with revisions occurring in 1985 and 1990. The 2000 edition (CIP 2000) is the third revision of the taxonomy and presents an updated taxonomy of instructional program classifications and descriptions.

Dual or Concurrent Enrollment

This articulated program allows students to earn college credit and attend high school at the same time. Dual enrollment is a locally administered program that allows a secondary student to concurrently enroll in postsecondary courses and to receive **both** secondary and postsecondary credit for the coursework. Local programs are run through partnerships between school entities and eligible postsecondary institutions.

High Priority Occupations

These occupations include job categories that are in demand by employers, have higher skill needs, and are most likely to provide family sustaining wages. Category is used as a strategic process to identify training programs and dollars spent. A High Priority Occupations SOC/CIP Crosswalk search is located on the PDE website.

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=575374&mode=2>

SOC Code - Six-digit numerical code assigned to the occupation under the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. The SOC system classifies all occupations found in the economy, including private, public, and military, and allows data to be compared across all governmental agencies. **Occupation** - Occupational title assigned under the SOC system for the given occupational code. In some instances, this may be abbreviated from the official SOC title.