# Ohio Career-Technical Education/Tech Prep Program of Study General Information

#### **POS Definition**

The Career-Technical Education (CTE) Program of Study (POS) is the framework for "coherent and rigorous content aligned with challenging academic standards and relevant career and technical content in a coordinated, nonduplicative progression of courses that align secondary and postsecondary education to adequately prepare students to succeed in postsecondary education" (Perkins Act of 2006, *The Official Guide*, Association of Career and Technical Education, page 39) and the workplace.

#### **Career Field Definition**

Each Ohio CTE/Tech Prep POS is based on business-validated content standards in one of Ohio's sixteen (16) career fields, which are aligned with the national CTE career clusters that are a "grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities." (*National Career Cluster Initiative*). The Ohio career field concept addresses curriculum, instruction, assessment and program design.

### **Career Pathway Definition**

As a natural next step in the implementation of the career field, career pathways are a series of academic and technical career-focused coursework and other education learning experiences leading to a career specialty, seamless transition from high school to postsecondary education and employment in a career field. Each Career Pathway is developed, implemented and maintained in collaboration with Ohio's stakeholders. This educational opportunity is available to all students, including adult learners; and each is designed to lead to high-wage, high-demand or high-skill employment .Career Pathways and the Ohio Career Technical Education Program of Study are pieces of a systemic, educational transformation framework to connect the needs of students and employers throughout the educational continuum.

### **Program of Study Definition, Requirement**

Career centers and secondary schools offer programs within pathways.

The Ohio CTE/Tech Prep POS is a requirement in the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006. The Federal definition includes four core elements for a Program of Study. (*Carl D. Perkins, Title I, Sec. 122. (C), (1), (A))* 

1. "Incorporate secondary and postsecondary education elements;

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

### The Ohio CTE/Tech Prep POS is a:

- 1. planned pathway that includes "a minimum of two years of secondary education and two years of postsecondary education in a non-duplicative, sequential course of study;" (Carl D. Perkins, Title II, SEC 203. (c)(2)(A), (ii)
- 2. pathway that "integrates academic and career technical education instruction and utilizes work-based and worksite learning experiences where appropriate and available;" (Carl D. Perkins, Title II, SEC 203(c)(2)(B))
- 3. curriculum of challenging technical coursework and high level academics that supports Ohio's graduation requirements while preparing students for postsecondary education and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workplace;
- 4. pathway that "leads to technical skill proficiency, an industry-recognized credential or certificate, or a degree, in a specific career field;" (Carl D. Perkins, Title II, SEC 203. (A), (2));
- 5. pathway that includes articulated credit that facilitates student matriculation to postsecondary education through local bilateral agreements as well as through statewide articulation initiatives(e.g. Career-Technical Credit Transfer(CT2)) and may include dual credit opportunities; and
- 6. pathway that is a response to local employer/economic workforce development needs and aligned with STEM, and "leads to placement in high skill or high wage employment or to further education." (Carl D. Perkins, Title II, SEC 203. (c)(2)(F))

In Ohio, a CTE/Tech Prep POS is required for all approved CTE Workforce Development programs as outlined in Ohio's Five-Year (FY2009-2013) State Plan required through the Carl D. Perkins Act. This is to be accomplished by FY2013. Compliance is required by each Career-Technical Planning District (CTPD), by each postsecondary partner who receives state and federal CTE funds and by all school districts with state-approved CTE programs receiving state CTE funds. The CTE/Tech Prep POS is part of the CTE application process that is required for state approval for all Career Technical Education Workforce Development programs per Ohio Administrative Rule, 3301-61-03, accessible at www.education.ohio.gov with the keyword search: CTE Administrative Rules Update. It is the responsibility of the CTPD to submit the CTE-26 program application form, the CTE/Tech Prep POS and the CTE/Tech Prep POS Assurance page as a package.

The spirit of Ohio 's CTE/Tech Prep POS is based on collaboration among secondary and postsecondary partners, as well as other pertinent stakeholders in the implementation of the CTE/Tech Prep POS.

The benefits for the local CTPD for implementing a CTE/Tech Prep POS for Workforce Development Programs are:

- 1. The CTE/Tech Prep POS shows the criticality of academics supporting Career Technical education.
- 2. The CTE/Tech Prep POS directs students to take the academics appropriate to their chosen career interest.
- 3. The CTE/Tech Prep POS clearly defines the CTE pathway for the student and parents, including the articulated credit opportunities.
- 4. The CTE/Tech Prep POS clearly defines the postsecondary coursework for his/her chosen career interest.
- 5. The CTE/Tech Prep POS is a marketing and communication tool for use with parents and students to indicate educational opportunities in the chosen career field of interest.

Approval of a CTE/Tech Prep POS is contingent on meeting and complying with the following assurances in accordance with Ohio's Perkins IV State Plan:

- The CTE/Tech Prep POS was developed in a collaborative effort between the CTPD and the partner college(s).
- 2. The CTE/Tech Prep POS pathway identified reflects one of Ohio's Career Field Technical Content Standards.
- 3. The CTE/Tech Prep POS pathway identified supports the requirements to earn an Ohio high school graduation diploma as specified in the Ohio CORE.
- 4. The CTE/Tech Prep POS pathway identified reflects the required academic and technical coursework from grade 9 through the associate degree (minimally), listed by course name and sequenced by grade level.
- 5. The CTE/Tech Prep POS pathway indicated recommends academic and technical electives appropriate for the career field.
- 6. The CTE/Tech Prep POS pathway aligns with state academic and technical standards and, where applicable, regulatory business and industry standards.
- 7. The CTE/Tech Prep POS pathway indicates availability of course descriptions for all courses identified in the CTE/Tech Prep POS.
- 8. The CTE/Tech Prep POS pathway identifies articulated and/or dual enrollment/postsecondary credit opportunities as well as matriculation opportunities.
- 9. The CTE/Tech Prep POS pathway identifies appropriate and obtainable industry/state credential opportunities.
- 10. The CTE/Tech Prep POS pathway indicates strategies to assure access and success for special populations.
- 11. The CTE/Tech Prep POS pathway indicates strategies that will be employed to incorporate appropriate adult workforce education transition opportunities.
- 12. The CTE/TechPrep POS pathway indicates strategies that will be employed to facilitate creative, innovative, artistic and/or design-oriented knowledge and skills acquisition.