**Career and technical education**

According to Howard Gordon, from his book titled, “The History and Growth of Career and Technical Education in America,” Career and Technical Education is defined as, “Organized educational programs offering a sequence of courses directly related to the preparation of individuals in paid or unpaid employment and in current or emerging occupations requiring other than a baccalaureate or advanced degree. Such programs should include competency-based applied learning that contributes to an individual's academic knowledge, higher-order reasoning, problem-solving skills, work attitudes, general employ-ability skills, and the occupational specific skills necessary for economic independence, as a productive and contributing member of society. This term also includes applied technology education” (Gordon). In my opinion CTE is an excellent way for students to gain real-world skills that will enable them to attain employment right after high school if need be.

*CTE career clusters provided direct employment avenues (ACTE, 2016). These clusters include:*

* Business management and Administration
* Information Technology
* Manufacturing
* Arts, A/V, and Technology
* Marketing Sales, and Service
* Information Technology
* Hospitality and Tourism
* Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
* Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
* Human Services
* Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics
* Finance
* Architecture and Construction
* Health

According to the ACTE website, Career and technical education as we know it today has its roots in the founding of the United States. From the start, a strong knowledge base and skill set for citizens were considered important. The following four articles from the old AVA Journal in 1976 show how career and technical education has adapted over time to stay at the forefront of American society.

* [**The Awakening**](https://www.acteonline.org/uploadedFiles/Assets_and_Documents/Global/files/CTE_Info/Research/The-Awakening_1776-1826.pdf)**, 1776-1826**  
  The right to a free public education for children was stressed early in the United States as there was a need to educate future leaders. Apprenticeships were giving way to formal schooling in certain trades. During the first 50 years of the United States, public education was largely limited to boys, although in the early-1800s, girls began to enter schools to prepare for teaching.
* [**Independent Action**](https://www.acteonline.org/uploadedFiles/Assets_and_Documents/Global/files/CTE_Info/Research/Independent-Action_1826-1876.pdf)**, 1826-1876**  
  In the early 19th century, the workforce and the public education system started to work together to create a continuous stream of workers for different jobs. Schools specializing in training students to enter a certain area of the workforce started to open their doors, creating the basic framework for career and technical education. The idea started to spread to women’s colleges in the 1840s. The beginning of public high schools is explored to continue to educate citizens.
* [**The Vocational Education Age Emerges**](https://www.acteonline.org/uploadedFiles/Assets_and_Documents/Global/files/CTE_Info/Research/Vocational-Age-Emerges_1876-1926.pdf)**, 1876-1926**  
  The first manual training school, established in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1879, set the foundation for modern career and technical education. The school combined hands-on learning with classroom learning. The article describes the first trade school, which opened in New York in 1881. Near the turn of the 20th century, agricultural education started to thrive with agriculture schools starting to open their doors. Bills passed to support career and technical education are explored.
* [**Coming of Age**](https://www.acteonline.org/uploadedFiles/Assets_and_Documents/Global/files/CTE_Info/Research/Coming_of_Age_1926-1976.pdf)**, 1926-1976**  
  The first mass acceptance of career and technical education came after World War I and the movement spread in the years that followed. Career and technical education expanded to include adult education and retraining citizens to re-enter the workforce. World War II caused a surge in career and technical education as technical skills were needed for defense purposes.

References

Gordon, Howard R. D. *The History And Growth Of Career And Technical Education In America*. 1st ed. Long Grove, Ill.: Waveland Press, 2014. Print.

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