

## Common Definitions for Alaska Career & Technical Education

**Common Definitions for Alaska Career and Technical Education (CTE)** were created to standardize the language used in Alaska's CTE and workforce development systems. The CTE Plan Action Team will review the definitions annually. Public comment is welcome to ensure these definitions are appropriate and applicable for Alaska's CTE community. Submit your comments, questions, or suggestions to Brad Billings, State CTE Director, at [brad.billings@alaska.gov](mailto:brad.billings@alaska.gov).

### Career Cluster

*Career Cluster* - groupings of occupations/career specialties categorized by similar knowledge and skills sets that align to the requirements for Perkins reporting (16 total nationally)

### Career Pathway

*Career Pathway* - a specific sub-set of occupation areas within a career cluster, based on the knowledge and skills statements shared by closely related professions within that career cluster.

### Program Of Study (POS) or Career Technical Education Program of Study (CTEPS)

*Program of Study (POS) or Career Technical Education Program of Study (CTEPS)* - a coordinated sequence of courses **and** academic, professional, and technical educational experiences, which includes both secondary and postsecondary components, and leads to a specific outcome where the learner is qualified for employment in a career.

### Personal Learning and Career Plan (PLCP)

*PLCP* - a learner-driven planning and monitoring tool that provides a mechanism to identify interests and goals, explore college and career options, and plan the steps to develop the skills necessary to be autonomous, self-regulated learners to enter or advance within a career pathway.

### Dual Credit Course, Concurrent Enrollment, Dual Credit Student, Dual Enrollment

*Dual Credit Course* - postsecondary-level courses taken by high school students that allow students to simultaneously earn both postsecondary and high school credit.

*Concurrent Enrollment* - a set of dual enrollment courses taught by a postsecondary-approved high school teacher in which a student earns both postsecondary and high school credit simultaneously on a high school campus

*Dual Credit Student* - a student that participates in a dual credit course

*Dual Enrollment* - process in which a student has the ability to earn postsecondary credit at the high school level in which he or she can earn college and high school credit simultaneously

### Articulation Agreement, Articulated Course, Articulated Credit

*Articulation Agreement* - a formal agreement between secondary and postsecondary entities for a high school course taught by high school staff, which has been evaluated by postsecondary representatives and determined to have the content and rigor to qualify for postsecondary credit as well as high school credit. **OR** – a formal agreement between two postsecondary providers that allows a learner to seamlessly transition from a program of study at one institution to a related, often more advanced, program of study at the other, without having to repeat courses.

*Articulated Course* - course agreed upon between postsecondary and secondary entities in an articulation agreement that qualifies to be offered to high school students for both postsecondary and high school credit. **OR** – course agreed upon between two postsecondary programs that will transfer seamlessly without repetition.

*Articulated Credit* - credit earned by a high school student through an articulation agreement between secondary and postsecondary entities. **OR** – credit earned at one postsecondary program that is recognized at another postsecondary program.

ADDENDUM TO ALASKA CTE COMMON DEFINITIONS:  
PERKINS IV OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS FOR SECONDARY CTE PROGRAMS

*Alaska Department of Education & Early Development*

**Career Cluster**—groupings of occupations/career specialties categorized by similar knowledge and skills sets that align to the requirements for Perkins reporting (16 total nationally)

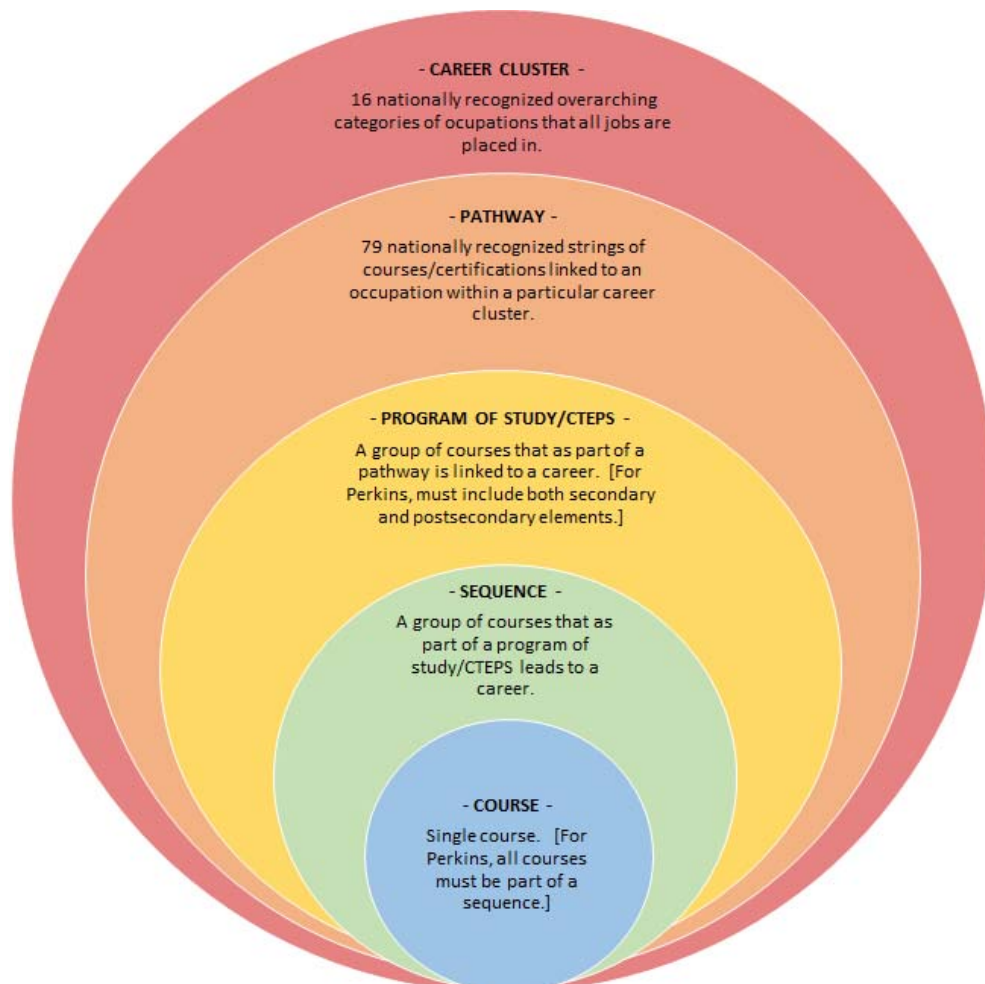
**Career Pathway**—a subset of occupations within a career cluster characterized by similar, shared knowledge and skill requisites required for career success

**CTE Sequence**—series of CTE classes that fall within one of the clusters as required by Perkins that assist a student in acquiring the skills and abilities required to be successful in an occupation within that career pathway

CTE courses within a CTE Sequence include both:

1. Core technical skill courses in the pathway or cluster
2. CTE courses that support foundation skills in the pathway or cluster

*EXAMPLE:* Medical Terminology and Introduction to Pharmacy are two core CTE technical skill courses that prepare students for careers in health sciences. Additionally, CTE courses emphasize skills such as employability, career development and basic technology skills used in the workplace as recommended by employers. The total of these courses give students a skill set that may be transferrable to success in the Alaska workforce.



ADDENDUM TO ALASKA CTE COMMON DEFINITIONS:  
PERKINS IV OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS FOR SECONDARY CTE PROGRAMS

**Secondary Student Earning Postsecondary Credit** - any student that earns credit from a postsecondary institution, either while attending high school or upon successful completion of high school, through a variety of ways that can be transferrable into a degree-granting or career training program. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Dual Credit Courses
2. Concurrent Enrollment Courses
3. Tech Prep Agreements\*

**\*NOTE:** For high school students, this option requires a formal agreement between the secondary and post-secondary partners known as an articulation agreement (defined below) that clearly states courses articulated and credits earned by students successfully completing course requirements.

**Articulation Agreement** – a formal agreement between secondary and postsecondary entities for a high school courses taught to high school students which has been evaluated by postsecondary representatives and determined to have the content and rigor to qualify for college-level credit

**DEED-CTE approved CTE classes** *are eligible for support with Perkins funds.* To be approved by DEED-CTE, the course **must** be:

1. Part of an approved CTE sequence in a district CTE program that is included in the district’s current version of their district’s Perkins 5-Year Plan.
2. Classified either as a Core CTE Technical Skills course in a specific Career Cluster area, or a CTE course that supports a student’s ability to be successfully enter the workforce in the specific Career Cluster area.
3. Based on current industry standards applicable to the selected career pathway.
4. Aligned with Alaska Academic and Cultural Standards, CTE common core standards, career practices/employability standards, and all aspects of industry standards.

DEED-CTE course approval maybe a two-level process:

1. When a new CTE course has the basic information to be successfully entered into the district’s section of the DEED-CTE portal, <https://education.alaska.gov/tls/CTE/perkins/>, the course can be awarded “conditional approval” for current school year, allowing initial eligibility for Perkins support. Conditional approval is valid for a maximum of one year, and cannot be renewed.
2. Upon receipt of a complete DEED-CTE course description and standards alignment crosswalk, DEED-CTE can fully approve a CTE course. Once a CTE course has been fully approved by DEED-CTE, it is eligible for support with Perkins funds for 5 years before a course revision/update is required. CTE Course Description and Standards Crosswalk (DEED Form 05-13-028) can be found under Career and Technical Education at the following link:

<http://education.alaska.gov/forms/home.cfm#CTE>