

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has an updated Graduation Handbook as of September 2017. The following is an addition to the handbook that applies to this year's freshman class. This addition allows students an opportunity to achieve a certificate at graduation relating to their career and technical education course of study they will take while in high school. There is a link at the bottom of this document to the Graduation Requirements for Students in Missouri Public Schools on the DESE website where this information has been taken.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Certificate

The State Board of Education, in consultation with the CTE Advisory Council, has established minimum requirements for a career and technical education (CTE) certificate that a student can earn in addition to his or her high school graduation diploma. Students entering high school in school year 2017-2018 and thereafter will be eligible to earn a career and technical education (CTE) certificate.

The requirements are intended to provide students with the necessary technical and employability skills to be prepared for an entry-level career or additional training in a technical field. Students must meet all requirements in order to receive the CTE certificate. It is intended that schools support student efforts to accomplish these requirements through the development and monitoring of the individual personal plan of study based on a career pathway.

Students who wish to earn the CTE Certificate must:

1. Meet all requirements set forth in State and local Board of Education policies related to earning a high school diploma.
2. Qualify as a Career and Technical Education (CTE) concentrator. A CTE concentrator is defined as a student who has earned three or more credits in a sequence in any Department-approved career education program area as defined on the student's personal plan of study.
3. Maintain a minimum Grade Point Average of 3.0 on a 4.0 point scale in the CTE area of concentration as defined on the student's personal plan of study.
4. Pass an approved Technical Skill Assessment (TSA) and/or earn an approved Industry Recognized Credential or Certificate (IRC) aligned with the student's CTE area of concentration.
5. Complete a minimum of 50 hours of appropriate work-based learning experiences aligned with their CTE area of concentration. Work-based learning experiences may include Internships, Registered Apprenticeships, Cooperative Career Education programs, clinical settings, job shadowing, entrepreneurial experiences, school-based enterprises, structured

business/industry field trips, service learning, or other opportunities that provide students with real-time, authentic work experiences. This 50 hour requirement would be consistent with the 50 hour unpaid tutoring or mentoring requirement of A+ schools.

6. Maintain at least a 95% attendance record overall for grades 9-12.

7. Demonstrate attainment of soft-skills/business skills. The requirement can be met in one of three ways:

- Active participation in a Career and Technical Student Organization such as FFA, FBLA, Skills USA, etc. during the junior or senior year;
- Score at proficient or advanced level on a district-developed or adopted soft skill/ethics assessment during the junior and/or senior year; or
- Three or more letters of recommendation, from at least three different business or industry employers or other individuals who have knowledge of the student and can assure that the student has a high level of soft-skill efficacy and is career ready. Letters may not be from a relative or student.

8. Achieve a score at or above the state standard on any department-approved measure(s) of college and career readiness, for example, the ACT®, SAT®, ACT® WorkKeys, or the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery as determined in the most current MSIP performance standards.

You can read more about these requirements in the new graduation handbook: https://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/Graduation_Handbook.pdf

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