

CAREER EDUCATION

FACT SHEET AND RESOURCE GUIDE

Learning by Collaborating, Exploring, Doing

Career Education (CE) programs at California Community Colleges offer accessible and practical routes to skilled professions with advancing career paths. The short-term nature of these programs that lead to good-paying jobs make them great options for foster youth who want to start making money quickly or who are reluctant to embark on a longer-term degree path.

The California Community College system launched a major initiative in 2016 to coordinate with local industries to revamp and expand career education curricula to better prepare students for well-paying jobs that meet industry pleas for more skilled workers. Programs are designed to support students while coordinating with employers to provide real world experience in professions ranging from advanced manufacturing, health care, renewable energy, information technologies and more.

Old ideas about career technical education as a second-class option for students fly out the window as students leave school with high-paying jobs such as:

- Radiologic technologist, median annual wage of \$90,000
- Advanced manufacturing, median annual wage of \$40,000 - \$70,000
- Telecommunications equipment installer, median annual wage of \$62,000
- Web developer, annual wage \$75,000
- Biotech careers starting at \$44,000 with a certificate

To learn more about career education options visit <https://careered.cccco.edu> or view the California Community College Career Education Programs video at <https://vimeo.com/225629508>.

CAREER LADDERS

CE certificate programs are designed to align with job skills needed at entry level, mid-level and advanced level jobs. Each step allows the participant to gain a marketable skillset and credential, preparing them for the next job on the career path. Programs range from one to four semesters.

Advantages

- Hands-on training means credibility in the job market
- Suits students who like working with their hands and being active
- It's a short term to real jobs
- Financial aid is available for 1-year certificates or longer

- Career ladders mean a student can get started quickly, begin earning money quickly while building skill in a career path, and return to college for a higher level certificate whenever it suits them.

PAID APPRENTICESHIPS

Some Career Education programs are coordinated with the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) Apprenticeship programs which allows students to earn while they learn. These programs provide individualized mentoring while learning on the job and in the classroom. Beyond the traditional fields with apprenticeships such as building trades, DAS apprenticeships are expanding into areas such as information technology and careers in the health and medical industry.

Learn more at their website: www.dir.ca.gov/databases/das/descOfAppr.html

RESOURCES

- www.cccmypath.org

This one stop shop hosted by the California Community College system allows users to take career assessments, explore careers and learn about applying and paying for college.

- salarysurfer.cccco.edu
Provides detailed information about salaries for hundreds of jobs and career paths in hundreds of industries and careers based on real employment outcomes for community college graduates.
- Access this information on your phone with the *Here to Career* mobile app. (www.heretocareer.org).

- careered.cccco.edu

Explore career, salaries and community college program options. Includes links to short videos that describe jobs in a wide range of industries and careers.

- livingwage.mit.edu

This “Living Wage Calculator” provides actual estimates of living wages and minimum wages in specific cities and regions across the U.S.

- www.doingwhatmatters.cccco.edu

Find California regional industry sector experts, workforce resources, research data, labor market reports, and more.

- www.cacareerzone.org

Explore industry sectors and take assessments to determine the best career options for you.