



Promoting and Evaluating Rigorous Programs of Study

The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV) envisions that all students will achieve challenging academic and technical standards and be prepared for high-skill, high-wage, or high-demand occupations in current or emerging professions in the 21st century global economy. To this end, Perkins IV requires states to offer programs of study (POS) comprised of academic and career and technical content that prepares students to make successful transitions to postsecondary education and the workplace.

OCTAE launched the Promoting Rigorous Career and Technical Education Programs of Study (RPOS) discretionary grant program to facilitate the implementation of career and technical education POS at the state level. Six states were awarded RPOS grants to promote and improve implementation and assessment of career and technical education programs that integrate academic and career and technical education in a structured sequence of courses that link secondary and postsecondary education. The programs offer students opportunities to earn college credit for courses taken in high school and lead to a postsecondary credential, certificate, or degree as outlined in OCTAE's Programs of Study Design Framework.

Six grantees are implementing and evaluating programs of study in the following career pathways:

- Arizona – Education and Training
- Kansas – Advanced Manufacturing
- Maryland – Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics
- Montana – Architecture and Construction
- Utah – Health Science
- Wisconsin – Advanced Manufacturing

Program of Study Framework Components

- Legislation and policies
- Partnerships
- Professional development
- Accountability and evaluation systems
- College and career readiness standards
- Course sequences
- Credit transfer agreements
- Guidance counseling and academic advisement
- Teaching and learning strategies
- Technical skill assessments

Resources and Tools That You Can Use

- A Web site that offers information on OCTAE's Programs of Study Design Framework is located on the Perkins Collaborative Resource Network (PCRN) at: <http://cte.ed.gov/nationalinitiatives/rpos.cfm>.
- A Web site with more information on the 16 career cluster areas and program of study templates hosted by NASDCTEc is located at <http://www.careertech.org>.

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Web Site *Perkins Collaborative Resource Network (PCRN)* – <http://cte.ed.gov>