

Minnesota Pathway Opportunities

Pathway Opportunities: Minnesota offers high school students multiple pathways to earn college credit and industry skills, including Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO), Concurrent Enrollment (CE), and secondary career and technical education (CTE) programs.

- **Concurrent Enrollment:** CE allows **juniors and seniors** to earn both high school and college credit at their high school through partnerships between high schools and local colleges and universities.
- **Postsecondary Enrollment Options:** PSEO allows students in **grades 10–12** to enroll in college courses at Minnesota colleges and universities and **earn both high school and college credit**.

Dual Enrollment



College Credit

Minnesota students can participate in **CE or PSEO at no cost** and without a statewide limit on the total number of college credits they can earn.



Statewide Credit Transfer Policy

The Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) consists of general education courses totaling a minimum of **40 credits** that are guaranteed to transfer among all Minnesota public institutions.



Participation

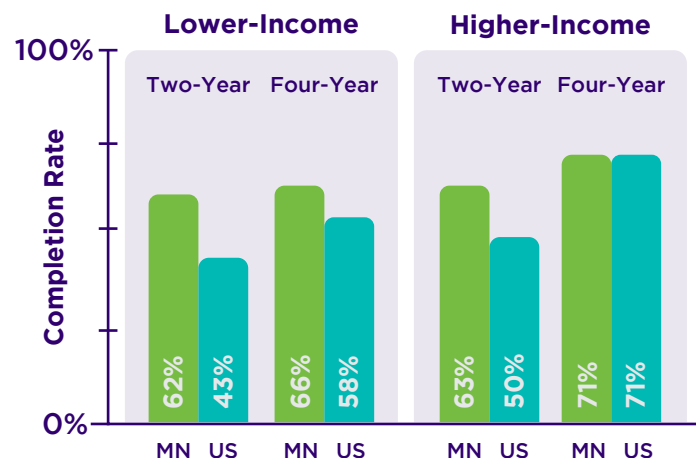
In 2022, **14%** and **35%** of Minnesota high school graduates participated in PSEO (**8,604 out of 62,212**) and CE (**21,908 out of 62,212**), respectively.

Minnesota Funding Breakdown: CE vs. PSEO

CE: The state allocates **\$4 million** annually, providing prorated reimbursements of up to **\$150 per student** to districts offering CE. Schools pay colleges for courses based on locally negotiated agreements and receive partial reimbursement based on statewide CE participation.

PSEO: When students participate in PSEO, the state redirects up to **88%** of their K-12 per-pupil funding to pay for PSEO courses at participating institutions, with the school district retaining **at least 12%**. In FY 2024, postsecondary institutions received **\$48.6 million**.

Minnesota outperforms the national average in college completion rates across income levels, with particularly strong results for students from lower-income families at both community colleges and four-year universities.



Note: In addition to the two state-funded models outlined in statute (PSEO and Concurrent Enrollment), districts and colleges may also participate in “PSEO by Contract.”

This is a locally negotiated agreement between a school district and a college/university and is not funded by the state, which is why it is not included in state-reported PSEO data.

Participation figures from MDE’s Rigorous Course Taking report do not include students enrolled through PSEO by Contract.

Educators

Minnesota CE instructors must meet the credentialing standards set by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). Instructors teaching dual credit courses must hold either:

- A Master's degree in the subject they teach, or
- A Master's degree in another discipline plus 18 graduate credits in the subject they teach.

These credentialing standards apply only to instructors teaching liberal arts courses. CTE instructors are exempt from the liberal arts credentialing model.

The seven public universities of Minnesota State created the **Pathway to 18 initiative**, which provides affordable graduate coursework to help teachers meet HLC requirements. Educators may also receive credit for prior learning (**up to six credits**) for qualifying professional experiences.

Career and Technical Education



State Funding

Students in Minnesota can participate in CTE **at no cost to the student**. Minnesota funds CTE through general K-12 education funding. Districts that qualify for the CTE levy can also choose to support CTE programs with a local property tax, which can cover **up to 35%** of approved program expenditures such as instructor salaries and supplies.



Participation

During the **2024-25** school year, **47.5%** of secondary students (**195,588 out of 411,458**) participated in CTE.



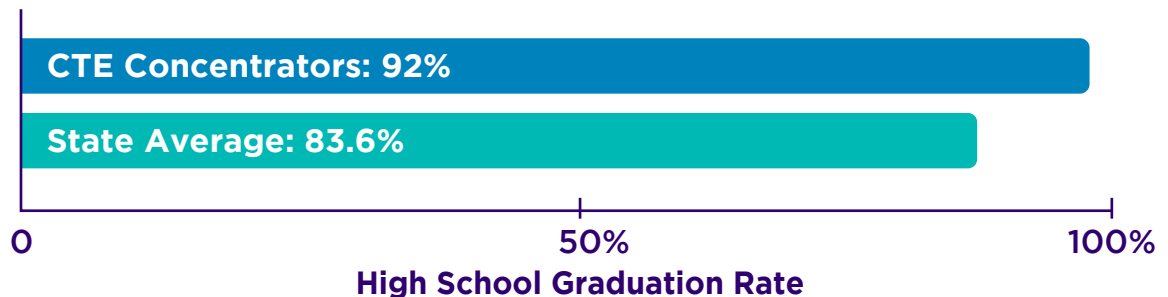
Top Three Career Pathways

among CTE concentrators in 2024-25

1. Human services (33.41%)
2. Business management and administration (25.0%)
3. Engineering, manufacturing, and technology (18.8%)

CTE concentrators have a higher four-year high school graduation rate than the state average.

Data Source: ACTE Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate in Minnesota (2021-22)



Not Either-Or, But Both-And

Minnesota's policies encourage students to mix academic coursework with real-world skills, experiences, and credentials. Minnesota developed "Programs of Study" that include nonduplicative sequences of academic and technical content aligned with state-approved career clusters, and support local and regional needs. Programs of Study have multiple entry and exit points that incorporate credentialing, and culminate in the attainment of a recognized postsecondary credential.

To date, there are **269** State-Recognized programs of study, and **52** programs of study in development in Minnesota.