

Wisconsin Pathway Opportunities

Pathway Opportunities: Wisconsin offers **career pathways** that incorporate secondary career and technical education (CTE) courses, dual enrollment, industry-recognized credentials, work-based learning, and career and technical student organizations (CTSOs).

Students can earn college credits while in high school through several options:

- **Early College Credit Program (ECCP):** A statewide dual enrollment program that allows high school students to take college courses at University of Wisconsin (UW), tribal colleges, and private nonprofit colleges and universities.
- **Start College Now (SCN):** A statewide dual enrollment program that allows students in grades 11 and 12 to take college courses at Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) colleges.
- **College Credit in High School (CCIHS):** College courses taught by qualified high school instructors at the high school.
- **Transcribed Credit:** Technical college courses taught by qualified high school instructors at the high school.

Dual Enrollment



College Credit

In Wisconsin, high school students can earn **18 college credits** through Wisconsin's two statewide dual enrollment programs, ECCP and SCN, **at no cost to the student.***



Statewide Credit Transfer Policy

In Wisconsin, the **Universal Credit Transfer Agreement** guarantees that **79-88 general education credits** transfer between UW universities and WTCS colleges.



State Funding

In Wisconsin, Students can participate in ECCP and SCN **at no cost to the student.*** The state provides dedicated funding to reimburse a portion of ECCP tuition, while SCN tuition is covered by school districts using general education funds.



Participation

In Wisconsin, **26%** of high school students (**68,507 out of 266,777**) completed at least one dual enrollment course in the 2022-23 school year.

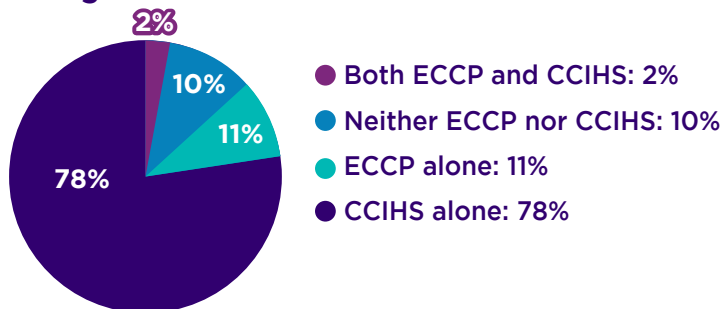
**When an ECCP course does not fulfill the graduation requirement, students receive college credit only and are responsible for 25% of the tuition.*

Educators

Wisconsin created the **Dual Enrollment Credential Grant Program** to assist high school teachers in covering tuition expenses for courses taken to meet the minimum qualifications set by the Higher Learning Commission to teach dual enrollment courses.

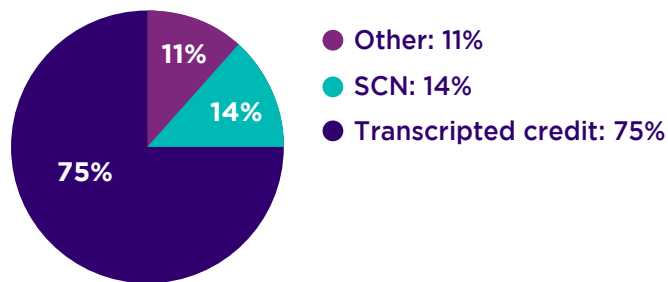
While ECCP and SCN are the two statewide dual enrollment programs mandated by Wisconsin state law, most high school students earn college credit through other pathways.

In the 2023–24 school year, only 13% of high school students who took UW courses did so through ECCP.



Data source: [Universities of Wisconsin: High School Students Taking UW Courses](#)

In the 2023–24 school year, only 14% of high school students who earned technical college credit did so through SCN.



Data source: [Wisconsin Technical College System: Dual Credit and K–12 Partnerships](#)

Career and Technical Education



State Funding

In Wisconsin, students can participate in CTE **at no cost to the student**. However, Wisconsin does not have dedicated, categorical state funding for CTE. Instead, the state supports CTE programs through general K–12 education funding, incentive grants, and technical education equipment grants.



Participation

In Wisconsin, **64%** of high school students (**167,148 out of 259,879**) participated in CTE in the 2022–23 school year.



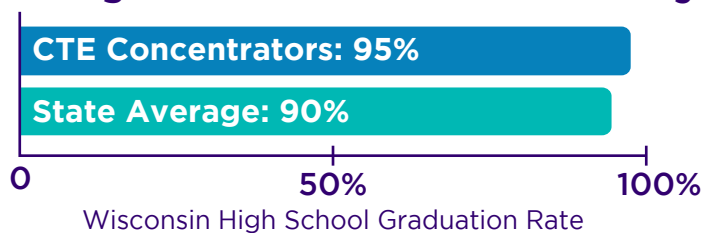
Top Three Career Pathways among CTE concentrators in 2022–23

1. Hospitality and tourism (13.4%)
2. Business management and administration (12.2%)
3. Agriculture, food, and natural resources (11.5%)

Wisconsin's **CTE Incentive Grant program** supports districts in offering high-quality CTE programs aligned with high-demand industries.

- District Incentive Grant provides up to \$1,000 per recent graduate earning an approved certification.
- Student Completion Award provides \$500 directly to students for each eligible certification earned.

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



Wisconsin High School Graduation Rate
Data source: [Career-Ready Wisconsin: 2023 Career and Technical Education Annual Report](#)

Not Either-Or, But Both-And

Wisconsin's career pathways are powered by regional partnerships among schools, higher education, and workforce organizations. They give students the opportunity to prepare for both college and a career. Through ECCP and SCN, students can earn both traditional and technical college credits. Combined with CTE courses, industry-recognized credentials, work-based learning, and CTSO experiences, these opportunities help students build the knowledge and professional skills needed for success after high school.