

# Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teaching Certificate Requirements

R.I. DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

Shepard Building

255 Westminster Street

Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400



## Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teaching Certificate Requirements

---

On December 4, 2018, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approved educator [certification regulations](#) that update the degree, test and experience requirements for Secondary Grades Career and Technical Education Teacher certificates, effective June 6, 2019.

This is a comprehensive document that will detail the following:

- Pathway requirements for a CTE certificate, both preliminary and full
- Degree, experience and test requirements for each CTE certificate
- Application steps and checklist to apply
- Steps to register for the NOCTI exam

### I. Pathways to CTE Certification

#### A. First Issuance of Preliminary 3-year CTE Certificate & Renewal to a Preliminary 4-year CTE Certificate:

Preliminary certificates allow educators to begin teaching while working toward additional certification requirements. A CTE preliminary certificate is valid for 3 years and may be renewed once for an additional 4 years.

#### 1. Application Steps:

Applicant may apply online from their **My eCert** portal on the [RIDE Portal](#) or download and complete a [paper application from this site](#).

#### 2. Eligibility for Preliminary CTE Certificates:

To be eligible for a preliminary CTE certificate, applicants must meet the following requirements listed below:

- a. High School diploma/GED/Degree (as applicable)
- b. RI licensure in CTE area (where applicable)
- c. Work/occupational experience aligned to CTE degree type (High School/GED diploma, or degree)
  - High School/GED diploma- Five (5) years of experience
  - Associate or bachelor's degree-Three (3) years of experience

#### 3. Work/Occupational Experience Options:

Work/occupational experience - experience verification may include any one of the following documents/pieces of evidence OR a combination thereof:

- a. **Option 1—Traditional Work Experience: Designed for individuals with traditional industry work experience who wish to enter the teaching profession for the first time:**
  - CTE Work Verification form (signed by employer(s))
  - W-2 form(s) and self-attested CTE Work Verification form (when not signed by employer)
  - Employer letter that includes length of employment, position, and description of the position
  - Profit and Loss document (when self-employed)

## Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teaching Certificate Requirements

b. **Option 2—Equivalent Occupational Experience:** *Designed only for individuals who are currently certified educators who are looking to pivot into Career and Technical Education and must gain industry work experience.*

- Note that years/experiences do NOT need to be consecutive, nor do they need to total from the same category—an educator may combine categories to qualify for the required years of work experience.

4. **Specific requirements depend on the CTE Program Career Field. (See section IV below for more details)**

5. **Renewal of Preliminary Certificates:** To renew a preliminary CTE certificate, candidates will need to do the following:

- Demonstrate progress in a teacher preparation program
- Have recommendations from the preparation program and the employing agency (LEA) for renewal
- Pass the applicable NOCTI test, unless holding advanced industry certificates or advanced industry licenses issued by the appropriate Rhode Island governing body (see section IV below for more details)

### B. Full Initial Certificates

**Application Steps:** Applicant may apply online from their **My eCert** portal on the [RIDE Portal](#) or download and complete [the general educator application from this site](#).

**Eligibility for Initial Certificates:** To be eligible for a full initial certificate, applicants must meet all the requirements listed in [Section IV below](#) **AND** provide evidence of the following:

- Completion of an approved program in the CTE area or completion of the required pedagogical and CTE content courses
- Passing score on required NOCTI when applicable
- CTE Work/Occupational Experience

## II. Getting CTE Certified

This chart details the process a candidate should follow when submitting a CTE application. It includes the party responsible, action, and the estimated timeframe for application review. In general, the typical time for processing and reviewing an application is 6-8 weeks or 10-12 weeks during summer months. Districts can request a certification priority to expedite the process of a candidate’s applying for a new certificate or certificate area by emailing the Educator Quality mailbox at [eqac@ride.ri.gov](mailto:eqac@ride.ri.gov).

Responsible Party	Process	Estimated Timeline
Applicant	Submits a completed application with the appropriate fees and required documents to the Office of Educator Excellence and Certification Services	
RIDE	Certification application request is processed into eCert system. Coursework/degree, work experience and test scores are reviewed. Either the certificate is issued, or a status form is generated detailing the steps to be taken to meet issuance or renewal requirements. <i>NOTE: This process cannot begin until all materials are received.</i>	8-10 weeks
Applicant	Reviews the status form and completes the steps to be taken to meet issuance or renewal requirements. When a NOCTI exam is required, the applicant must contact Roger Williams University to schedule and register for the required NOCTI exam.	

## Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teaching Certificate Requirements

	Be aware that institution program enrollment and credential review consortium institution (CRCI) application reviews may take 14 – 16 weeks to be processed and reviewed by the institution. Please plan accordingly.	
--	---	--

### III. Steps to Register for the NOCTI (If applicable):

Responsible Party	Process	Estimated Timeline
Applicant	Contacts Roger Williams University to schedule the required NOCTI exam	
Test Provider	RWU will collect payment, order written test and schedule a proctor for the practicum test <i>Due to NOCTI guidance and the pandemic, the performance component of the NOCTI is currently not offered. RIDE will notify you when the performance component becomes available.</i>	4-5 weeks from receipt of payment for tests
Test Provider	RWU will contact applicant and Certification Office with NOCTI results	3-4 weeks (2-3 weeks for results to arrive from NOCTI, 1 week for notification to process)

If you have additional questions specific to the CTE requirements, or wish to check on the status of your application, please refer to the CTE certification [resources](#) or email the Educator Quality mailbox at [egac@ride.ri.gov](mailto:egac@ride.ri.gov)

### IV. CTE Eligibility Requirements

The chart below provides a comprehensive list of each CTE career cluster, certificate area requirements, (including the degree, licensure, experience) and NOCTI test requirements.

#### Understanding CTE Eligibility Requirements Chart:

The chart below merges the CTE Career Clusters and Career Field areas with the Rhode Island Career and Technical (CTE) certification areas and requirements. The columns indicate the career clusters and career fields aligned to the CTE Board Standards.

All CTE programs listed are approved by the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) specific to a career field. To be eligible to be a teacher in a CTE program, candidates must meet *either* the CTE prerequisite certification requirements OR the general education certificate area requirements.

Applicants who hold an advanced industry license issued by the appropriate RI governing body or advanced industry certificates are not required to complete the NOCTI exam. However, if the applicant’s work experience was completed more than ten (10) years prior to the date of the application, the applicant must pass the NOCTI exam even if it otherwise would not have been required.

If you have additional questions specific to the CTE requirements, please refer to the CTE [resources](#) or email the Educator Quality mailbox at [egac@ride.ri.gov](mailto:egac@ride.ri.gov) .

## Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teaching Certificate Requirements

### RIDE Approved CTE Career Clusters

[Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources](#) | [Architecture and Construction](#) | [Arts, A/V Technology & Communications](#) | [Business Management and Administration](#) | [Education and Training](#) | [Healthcare](#) | [Hospitality & Tourism](#) | [Human Services](#) | [Information Technology](#) | [Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security](#) | [Manufacturing](#) | [Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics \(STEM\)](#) | [Transportation, Distribution & Logistics](#)

Note: Light blue shaded areas indicate that there is no requirement for that specific heading.

CTE Program Career Field	CTE Teacher Certificate Area Name	Required Degree Type	CTE Work/Occupational Experience	RI Licensure <i>(if you have this type of license, you must take the appropriate NOCTI)</i>	Advanced Licensure <i>(if you have this advanced license, you do NOT need to take the corresponding NOCTI)</i>	OR	General Ed Teacher Certificate Area
<b>CTE Program Career Cluster: Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources</b> <a href="#">(Back to Top)</a>							
Animal Science Veterinary Assistant/Lab Animal Caretaker	Agriculture-Animal Science	Bachelor's degree	3 years				Secondary Agriculture, Biology, or General Science
Aquaculture/Agricultural and Food Science Technician							
Plant Science – Landscaper & Groundskeeper							
Bioscience	Biotechnology-Bioscience	Bachelor's degree	3 years				Secondary Biology, Chemistry, or General Science
Process Technician (Chemical Manufacturing, Research & Development)							
Renewable Energy and Environmental Protection Professionals	Renewable Energy and Environmental Protection	Bachelor's degree	3 years				Secondary Biology or General Science
<b>CTE Program Career Cluster: Architecture and Construction</b> <a href="#">(Back to Top)</a>							
Computer Assisted Design (CAD) Operator	Architectural Drafting	Bachelor's degree	3 years		Registered Architect		5920: Architectural Drafting
Construction Craft Laborer (Local 51 union)	Carpentry-Construction Trades	High School/GED diploma	5 years	RI Contractor 's license			5265: Carpentry

## Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teaching Certificate Requirements

CTE Program Career Field	CTE Teacher Certificate Area Name	Required Degree Type	CTE Work/Occupational Experience	RI Licensure <i>(if you have this type of license, you must take the appropriate NOCTI)</i>	Advanced Licensure <i>(if you have this advanced license, you do NOT need to take the corresponding NOCTI)</i>		O R	General Ed Teacher Certificate Area
Junior Carpenter Helper (NELS union)								
Residential Construction (RIBA)								
Construction Manager	Building Construction Trades - Construction Manager	Associate degree	3 years			5263: Building Construction Occupations		
Marine Trades	Marine Technology	High School/GED diploma	5 years					
Residential Pre-Apprentice HVACR	Air Conditioning & Refrigeration	High School/GED diploma	5 years	Journeyman license or RI Contractor's license	RI Master Mechanical or RI Master Refrigeration	5937: HVAC Maintenance Technology		
Residential Pre-Apprentice Plumber	Plumbing & Heating	High School/GED diploma	5 years	Journeyman license or RI Contractor's license	RI Master Plumber	5175: Plumbing		
Residential Pre-Apprentice Electrical	Electrical Installation	High School/GED diploma	5 years	Journeyman license or RI Contractor's license	RI Master Electrician	5271: Electrical Construction Technology		
<b>CTE Program Career Cluster: Arts, A/V Technology &amp; Communications</b> <a href="#">(Back to Top)</a>								
Actor, Director or Theater		High School/GED diploma						All Grades Theater
Arts Educator – Visual or Media		Bachelor's degree						All Grades Art
Arts Educator – Theater								All Grades Theater

## Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teaching Certificate Requirements

CTE Program Career Field	CTE Teacher Certificate Area Name	Required Degree Type	CTE Work/Occupational Experience	RI Licensure <i>(if you have this type of license, you must take the appropriate NOCTI)</i>	Advanced Licensure <i>(if you have this advanced license, you do NOT need to take the corresponding NOCTI)</i>		O R	General Ed Teacher Certificate Area
Arts Educator – Dance								All Grades Dance
Craft & Fine Artist Designer		High School/GED diploma						All Grades Art
Dancer/Choreographer		High School/GED diploma						All Grades Dance
Graphic Communications Technology: Advertising Promotions and Marketing	Advertising & Design	Associate degree	3 years			5261: Advertising & Design		
Audio/Video/Film Production	Audiovisual Communications and Technologist: Audio/Video	Associate degree	3 years			5904: Audio- Visual Communications Technology		
Graphic Communications Technology: Digital Designer & Web-Print E-Commerce	Web -Page & Visual Design	Associate degree	3 years			5934: Web Design		
Graphic Communications Technology: Print Manufacturing – Production	Graphic Arts	Associate degree	3 years			5938: Graphic Production Technology		
Graphic Communications Technology: Print Manufacturing-Pre-Production								
Media Communications	Marketing/Marketing Management-Media Communications	Associate degree	3 years					
Multimedia Artist		Associate degree						All Grades Art
Music Technologist		Associate degree						All Grades Music
Musician		Associate degree						All Grades Music

## Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teaching Certificate Requirements

CTE Program Career Field	CTE Teacher Certificate Area Name	Required Degree Type	CTE Work/Occupational Experience	RI Licensure <i>(if you have this type of license, you must take the appropriate NOCTI)</i>	Advanced Licensure <i>(if you have this advanced license, you do NOT need to take the corresponding NOCTI)</i>		O R	General Ed Teacher Certificate Area
Music Educator		Associate degree						All Grades Music
Sound Engineering Technician	Audiovisual Communications-Sound Engineering Technician  (to include Technologist/Technicians-Sound Engineering Technician)	Associate degree	3 years					
<b>CTE Program Career Cluster: Business Management and Administration</b> <a href="#">(Back to Top)</a>								
Business/Commerce; General	Office Occupations	Bachelor's degree	3 years		Certified Public Accountant (CPA)	5180: Accounting		Secondary Business Education
Marketing	Business - Marketing	Bachelor's degree	3 years					Secondary Business Education
<b>CTE Program Career Cluster: Education and Training</b> <a href="#">(Back to Top)</a>								
Education, Child Care, Teacher Assistant								Any General Educator Certification: Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle Grades, Secondary or All Grades
<b>CTE Program Career Cluster: Health Science</b> <a href="#">(Back to Top)</a>								
Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)	Health Occupations-Health Occupations-	Associate degree	3 years	RI Registered Nurse OR RI Emergency Medical	RI Registered Nurse OR RI Emergency	5273: Health Assisting		All Grades School Nurse

## Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teaching Certificate Requirements

CTE Program Career Field	CTE Teacher Certificate Area Name	Required Degree Type	CTE Work/Occupational Experience	RI Licensure <i>(if you have this type of license, you must take the appropriate NOCTI)</i>	Advanced Licensure <i>(if you have this advanced license, you do NOT need to take the corresponding NOCTI)</i>		O R	General Ed Teacher Certificate Area
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	(CNA/EMT)			Technician (EMT) License	Medical Technician (EMT) License			
Certified Patient Care Technician (CPCT)	Health Occupations-Certified Patient Care Technician (CPCT)	Associate degree	3 years			5273: Health Assisting		All Grades School Nurse
Community Health Worker	Health Occupations-Community Health Worker	Associate degree	3 years					
Dental Assistant	Health Occupations-Dental Assistant	Associate degree	3 years	Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) Licensure		5371: Dental Assisting		
Pharmacy Technician	Health Occupations-Pharmacy Technician	Associate degree	3 years					
Sports Medicine, Rehabilitative Services & Athletic Trainer	Health Occupations- Sports Medicine, Rehabilitative Services & Athletic Trainer	Associate degree	3 years		RI Athletic Trainer, RI Physical Therapist, RI Occupation Therapist, RI Registered Nurse, RI Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) License			All Grades Physical Education  All Grades School Nurse
<b>CTE Program Career Cluster: Hospitality &amp; Tourism</b> <a href="#">(Back to Top)</a>								
American Culinary Federation (ACF) Culinary Artist	Quantity Food Preparation	High School/GED diploma	5 years		JWU M.Ed. program meets the NOCTI and experience requirements	5167: Commercial Foods OR 5918: Retail Commercial Baking		
ProStart Culinary Artist / Foodservice Management								

## Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teaching Certificate Requirements

CTE Program Career Field	CTE Teacher Certificate Area Name	Required Degree Type	CTE Work/Occupational Experience	RI Licensure <i>(if you have this type of license, you must take the appropriate NOCTI)</i>	Advanced Licensure <i>(if you have this advanced license, you do NOT need to take the corresponding NOCTI)</i>	OR	General Ed Teacher Certificate Area
American Culinary Federation (ACF) Culinary Artist	Vocational Baking	High School/GED diploma	5 years		JWU M.Ed. program meets the NOCTI and experience requirements		
ProStart Culinary Artist / Foodservice Management							
Customer Service Representative / Event Planner	Hotel/Hospitality Management	High School/GED diploma	5 years				5927: Hospitality Management Lodging
<b>CTE Program Career Cluster: Human Services</b> <a href="#">(Back to Top)</a>							
Cosmetology	Cosmetology	High School/GED diploma	5 years	Cosmetology Instructor's License issued by RI Department of Health (RIDOH)			
<b>CTE Program Career Cluster: Information Technology</b> <a href="#">(Back to Top)</a>							
Networking (Cisco- Certified Network Assoc- CCNA)	Information Technology- Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)	Associate degree	3 years	CCSI – Cisco Certified Systems Instructor	CCSI – Cisco Certified Systems Instructor		
Cybersecurity Specialist	Information Technology	Associate degree	3 years				Any General Educator Certification: Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle Grades, Secondary or All Grades and CS4RI endorsement
Software Developer							
Technology Specialist							
Web Developer							

## Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teaching Certificate Requirements

CTE Program Career Field	CTE Teacher Certificate Area Name	Required Degree Type	CTE Work/Occupational Experience	RI Licensure <i>(if you have this type of license, you must take the appropriate NOCTI)</i>	Advanced Licensure <i>(if you have this advanced license, you do NOT need to take the corresponding NOCTI)</i>	O R	General Ed Teacher Certificate Area
<b>CTE Program Career Cluster: Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security</b> <a href="#">(Back to Top)</a>							
Firefighter	Fire Management and Services- Firefighter	High School/GED diploma	5 years Career and/or Volunteer	National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 1041) Fire Instructor Level 1			
Law Enforcement & Corrections Officer	Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement & Corrections Officer	Bachelor's degree	3 years		Certificate/ card (evidence of passing the bar exam)  OR Rank of Captain or higher in Police Department	5269: Criminal Justice	Secondary Social Studies
Military/JROTC	Must meet appropriate military /JROTC branch certificate	Bachelor's degree					
Paralegal/Legal Assistant	Criminal Justice-Paralegal/Legal Assistant	Bachelor's degree	3 years			5269: Criminal Justice	
<b>CTE Program Career Cluster: Manufacturing</b> <a href="#">(Back to Top)</a>							
Sheet Metal Worker	Sheet Metal	High School/GED diploma	5 years	Journeyman license or RI Contractor's license	RI Master Sheet Metal	5174: Industrial Maintenance OR 5937: HVAC Maintenance Technology	
Electronics Technician	Electronics Technology	High School/GED diploma	5 years				

## Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teaching Certificate Requirements

CTE Program Career Field	CTE Teacher Certificate Area Name	Required Degree Type	CTE Work/Occupational Experience	RI Licensure <i>(if you have this type of license, you must take the appropriate NOCTI)</i>	Advanced Licensure <i>(if you have this advanced license, you do NOT need to take the corresponding NOCTI)</i>	O R	General Ed Teacher Certificate Area
Welder – Entry-level	Welding	High School/GED diploma	5 years	Journeyperson license or RI Contractor’s license	RI Master Welder		5279: Welding
Entry-level Machinist	Machine Trades-Machinist/Tool & Die Maker	High School/GED diploma	5 years				5176: Precision Machining
Entry-level Machinist (Option: Tool & Die Makers)	Machine Trades-Entry-level Manufacturing and above (Machinists and Tool & Die Makers)	High School/GED diploma	5 years				5176: Precision Machining
Entry Level Manufacturing (Logistical Function)	Machine Trades – Logistical Function	High School/GED diploma	5 years				5176: Precision Machining
Maritime Electrical	Electrical Installation	High School/GED diploma	5 years	Journeyperson license or RI Contractor’s license	RI Master Electrician		5271: Electrical Construction Technology
Pipefitting	Plumbing And Heating	High School/GED diploma	5 years	Journeyperson license or RI Contractor’s license	RI Master Plumber		5175 Plumbing
<b>CTE Program Career Cluster: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)</b> <a href="#">(Back to Top)</a>							
General Pre-Engineering/Design	Pre-Engineering	Bachelor’s degree	3 years				5915: Engineering
Environmental Engineer							
							Any Secondary Science Area, or Secondary Mathematics, or All Grades Technology Education And PLTW training

## Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teaching Certificate Requirements

CTE Program Career Field	CTE Teacher Certificate Area Name	Required Degree Type	CTE Work/Occupational Experience	RI Licensure <i>(if you have this type of license, you must take the appropriate NOCTI)</i>	Advanced Licensure <i>(if you have this advanced license, you do NOT need to take the corresponding NOCTI)</i>	OR	General Ed Teacher Certificate Area	
Entry-Level Engineer Technologist	Engineer Technologist	Bachelor's degree	3 years				5907: Electronics Technology	All Grades Technology Education
Entry-Level Computer Engineer	Pre-Engineering	Bachelor's degree	3 years				5915: Engineering	
<b>CTE Program Career Cluster: Transportation, Distribution &amp; Logistics</b> <a href="#">(Back to Top)</a>								
Automotive Body Repair Technician	Auto Body Repair	High School/GED diploma	5 years				5266: Collision Repair/Refinishing	
Automotive Service Technician	Automotive Mechanic	High School/GED diploma	5 years				5262: Automotive Technician	
Parts Specialist								
Service Advisor								