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. Preliminary 3-year CTE Certificates

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

Application Steps: Applicant may apply online from their **My eCert** portal on the RIDE Portal or download and complete a paper application.

Eligibility for Preliminary CTE Certificates:

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

1. High School diploma/GED/Degree (as applicable)
2. RI licensure in CTE area (where applicable)
3. Work experience aligned to CTE degree type (High School/GED diploma, or degree)
   a. High School/GED diploma- Five (5) years of experience
   b. Associate or Bachelor degree-Three (3) years of experience
4. Work experience - work experience verification may include any one of the following documents or a combination thereof:
   a. CTE Work Verification form (signed by employer(s))
   b. W-2 form(s) and self-attested CTE Work Verification form (when not signed by employer)
   c. employer letter that includes length of employment, position and description of the position
   d. Profit and Loss document.
5. Specific requirements depend on the CTE Program Career Field. (See section IV below for more details)

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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 a paper application.

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 the Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching, Grades 7-12 (5624) with a score of 157

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.

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. *NOTE: This process cannot begin until all materials are received.*	6-8 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 William's University to schedule and register for the required NOCTI exam.	4-6 weeks

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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 *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.*	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 eqac@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. Roger William's University will provide guidance as to the appropriate NOCTI test.

Note: 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 eqac@ride.ri.gov .

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RIDE Approved CTE Career Clusters

[Architecture & Construction](#) | [Arts, A/V Technology & Communications](#) | [Business Management, Administration, & Finance](#) | [Education, Training, and Human Services](#) | [Environmental and Life Sciences-Bioscience](#) | [Healthcare](#) | [Hospitality & Tourism](#) | [Information Technology](#) | [Law, Public Safety, and Government](#) | [Manufacturing](#) | [Marine Technology](#) | [Pre-Engineering](#) | [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	CTE Degree Type	CTE Work Experience	CTE RI License	CTE Advanced Licensure OR NOCTI Test Must have ONE		OR	General Ed Teacher Certificate Area
CTE Program Career Cluster: Architecture & Construction ([Back to Top](#))								
Computer Assisted Design (CAD) Operator	Architectural Drafting	Bachelor's degree	3 years		Registered Architect	5920: Architectural Drafting		
Construction Craft Laborer	Carpentry-Construction Craft Laborer	High School/GED diploma	5 years	Laborers International Program Credential or Documented Journeyman Card		5265: Carpentry		
Construction Manager	Building Construction Trades-Construction Manager	Associate degree	3 years			5263: Building Construction Occupations		
Junior Carpenter Helper	Carpentry-Junior Carpenter Helper	High School/GED diploma	5 years	Journeyman Card		5265: Carpentry		
Residential Construction	Building Construction Trades-Residential Construction	High School/GED diploma	5 years	Journeyman Construction Status		5265: Carpentry		
Residential Pre-Apprentice HVACR	Air Conditioning & Refrigeration	High School/GED diploma	5 years	Journeyman Mechanical License	RI Master Mechanical	5937: HVAC Maintenance Technology		
Residential Pre-Apprentice Plumber	Plumbing & Heating	High School/GED diploma	5 years	Journeyman Card	RI Master Plumber	5175: Plumbing		
Sheet Metal Apprentice	Sheet Metal	High School/GED diploma	5 years	Journeyman Card	RI Master Sheet Metal	5174: Industrial Maintenance		

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Welder – Entry-level	Welding	High School/GED diploma	5 years	Journeyman Card		5279: Welding		
Residential Pre-Apprentice Electrical	Electrical Installation	High School/GED diploma	5 years	Journeyman Electrician Status	RI Master Electrician	5271: Electrical Construction Technology		
CTE Program Career Cluster: Arts, A/V Technology & Communications **(Back to Top)**								
Actor, Director or Theater Educator								All Grades Theater
Arts Educator								All Grades Art
Craft & Fine Artist								All Grades Art
Dancer/Choreographer								All Grades Dance or Theater
Designer								All Grades Art
Graphic Communications Technology: Advertising Promotions and Marketing	Advertising & Design	Associate degree	3 years			5261: Advertising & Design		
Graphic Communications Technology: Audio/Video	Audiovisual Communications and Technologist: Audio/Video	Associate degree	3 years			5904: Audio-Visual Communications Technology		
Graphic Communications Technology: Design & Web	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	Graphic Arts	Associate degree	3 years			5938: Graphic Production Technology		

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Graphic Communications Technology: Sales/Support Staff	Marketing/Marketing Management-Graphic Communications Technology: Sales/Support Staff	Associate degree	3 years					
Media Communications	Marketing/Marketing Management-Media Communications	Associate degree	3 years					
Multimedia Artist								All Grades Art
Music Technologist								All Grades Music
Musician/Music Educator								All Grades Music
Sound Engineering Technician	Audiovisual Communications and Technologist/Technicians-Sound Engineering Technician	Associate degree	3 years					
Theater Technologist	Audiovisual Communications and Technologist/Technicians-Theater Technologist	Associate degree	3 years					
CTE Program Career Cluster: Business Management, Administration, & Finance **(Back to Top)**								
Accounting Clerk, Entry-Level Banking	Office Occupations	Bachelor's degree	3 years			5180: Accounting		Secondary Business Education
CTE Program Career Cluster: Education, Training, and Human Services **(Back to Top)**								

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Education, Child Care, Teacher Assistant								Any General Educator Certification: Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle Grades, Secondary or All Grades
CTE Program Career Cluster: Environmental and Life Sciences- Bioscience **(Back to Top)**								
Animal Science Veterinary Assistant/Lab Animal Caretaker	Agriculture-Animal Science Veterinary Assistant/Lab Animal Caretaker	Bachelor's degree	3 years			5185: Production Agriculture		Secondary Agriculture, Biology, or General Science
Aquaculture/Agricultural and Food Science Technician	Biotechnology-Aquaculture/Agricultural and Food Science Technician	Bachelor's degree	3 years			5185: Production Agriculture		
Bioscience	Biotechnology-Bioscience	Bachelor's degree	3 years			5189: Biotechnology		Secondary Biology, Chemistry, or General Science
Plant Science – Landscaper & Groundskeeper	Agriculture-Plant Science – Landscaper & Groundskeeper	Bachelor's degree	3 years			5185 Production Agriculture		Secondary Agriculture
Process Technician (Chemical Manufacturing, Research & Development)	Biotechnology-Process Technician (Chemical Manufacturing, Research & Development)	Bachelor's degree	3 years			5189: Biotechnology		Secondary Biology, Chemistry, or General Science
CTE Program Career Cluster: Healthcare **(Back to Top)**								
Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)	Health Occupations- Health Occupations-Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)	Associate degree	3 years	RI Registered Nurse OR RI Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) License	RI Registered Nurse	5273: Health Assisting		All Grades School Nurse
Certified Patient Care Technician (CPCT)	Health Occupations- Certified Patient Care Technician (CPCT)	Associate degree	3 years			5273: Health Assisting		All Grades School Nurse

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Community Health Worker	Health Occupations-Community Health Worker	Associate degree	3 years			5273: Health Assisting		All Grades School Nurse or School Social Worker
Dental Hygienist	Health Occupations-Dental Hygienist	Associate degree	3 years			5371: Dental Assisting		
Emergency Medical Technician	Health Occupations-Emergency Medical Technician	Associate degree	3 years	RI Registered Nurse OR RI Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) License	RI Registered Nurse	5273: Health Assisting		All Grades School Nurse
Pharmacy Technician	Health Occupations-Pharmacy Technician	Associate degree	3 years			5273: Health Assisting		All Grades School Nurse
Sports Medicine, Rehabilitative Services & Athletic Trainer	Health Occupations-Sports Medicine, Rehabilitative Services & Athletic Trainer	Bachelor's degree	3 years	Registered Nurse OR RI Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) License	RI Registered Nurse	5273: Health Assisting		All Grades School Nurse or Physical Education
CTE Program Career Cluster: Hospitality & Tourism **(Back to Top)**								
Culinary – Baker *JWU M.Ed. program completers in this CTE area satisfy the NOCTI and experience requirements.	Vocational Baking	High School/GED diploma	5 years			5918: Retail Commercial Baking		
Culinary – Line Cook *JWU M.Ed. program completers in this CTE area satisfy the NOCTI and experience requirements.	Quantity Food Preparation	High School/GED diploma	5 years			5167: Commercial Foods		
Hotel Operations- PBX Operator	Hotel/Hospitality Management-Hotel Operations- PBX Operator	High School/GED diploma	5 years			5927: Hospitality Management-Lodging		
Restaurant Operations- Server	Hotel/Hospitality Management-Restaurant Operations- Server	High School/GED diploma	5 years			5927: Hospitality Management-Lodging		

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Tourism – Travel Agent, Tour Guide	Hotel/Hospitality Management-Tourism, Travel Agent, Tour Guide	Associate degree	3 years			5927: Hospitality Management-Lodging		
CTE Program Career Cluster: Information Technology **(Back to Top)**								
Entry-level Network (Cisco-Certified Network Assoc-CCNA)	Computer Technology-Entry-level Network (Cisco-Certified Network Assoc-CCNA)	Associate degree	3 years			5268: Computer Technology		
Entry-level Software/Web Developer	Web page, Digital Multimedia & Info Resources Design	Associate degree	3 years			5268: Computer Technology		
Information Technology Specialist	Computer Technology-Information Technology Specialist	Associate degree	3 years			5268: Computer Technology		
CTE Program Career Cluster: Law, Public Safety, and Government **(Back to Top)**								
Law Enforcement & Corrections Officer	Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement & Corrections Officer	Bachelor's degree	3 years		Certificate/ card (evidence of passing the bar exam)	5269: Criminal Justice		
Military	Must meet military branch certificate for the naval defense program	Bachelor's degree						
Paralegal/Legal Assistant	Criminal Justice-Paralegal/Legal Assistant	Bachelor's degree	3 years			5269: Criminal Justice		
CTE Program Career Cluster: Manufacturing **(Back to Top)**								
Electronics Technician	Electronics Technology	High School/GED diploma	5 years					
Entry-level Machinist	Machine Trades-Entry-level Machinist	High School/GED diploma	5 years			5176: Precision Machining		

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Entry-level Manufacturing and above (Machinists and Tool & Die Makers)	Machine Trades-Entry-level Manufacturing and above (Machinists and Tool & Die Makers)	High School/GED diploma	5 years			5176: Precision Machining		
CTE Program Career Cluster: Marine Technology **(Back to Top)**								
Marine Trades	Marine Maintenance and Ship Technology	High School/GED diploma	5 years					
CTE Program Career Cluster: Pre-Engineering **(Back to Top)**								
Engineer	Engineering	Bachelor's degree	3 years			5915: Engineering		
CTE Program Career Cluster: Transportation, Distribution & Logistics **(Back to Top)**								
Automotive Body Repair Technician	Auto Body Repair	High School/GED diploma	5 years			5266: Collision Repair/Refinishing		
Automotive Service Technician	Automotive Mechanic-Automotive Service Technician	High School/GED diploma	5 years			5262: Automotive Technician		
Parts Specialist	Automotive Mechanic-Parts Specialist	High School/GED diploma	5 years			5262: Automotive Technician		
Service Adviser	Automotive Mechanic Service Adviser	High School/GED diploma	5 years			5262: Automotive Technician		
Locally Developed Pathway								
Rhode Island school districts may operate locally developed pathways that are not designated as "Rhode Island Department of Education" (RIDE) approved CTE programs and while programs in this category must meet the data requirements for RIDE-approved CTE programs, said districts are not required to operate under CTE Standards as approved by the RI Career & Technical Education Board of Trustees. All locally developed pathways must still meet RI Teacher Certification requirements.								

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Human Services	Cosmetology	GED/High School diploma	5 years	RI Cosmetology License				
Health Occupations	Dental Assistant	Associate degree	3 years	Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) Licensure		5371: Dental Assisting		