

Virginia Career and Technical Education: Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security

Virginia Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education



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Virginia's 16 Career clusters and career assessments help students investigate careers and design their plan of study to advance their career goals. Within each career cluster, there are multiple career pathways that represent a common set of skills and knowledge, including academic, technical, and career readiness skills that lead to credentials necessary to pursue a full range of career opportunities from entry level to management, including technical and professional career specialties. CTE actively partners with business and industry to design and provide high quality, dynamic programs to meet current, emerging, and projected labor market needs. Relevant work-based learning opportunities and leadership development offered through career and technical student organizations are incorporated into the academic and career plan.

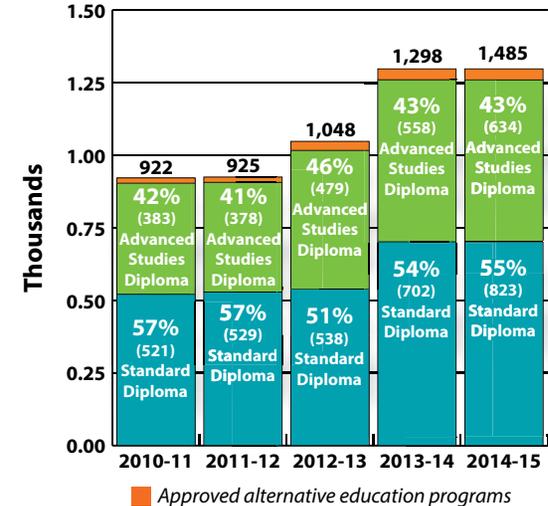
A CTE completer is a student who has met the requirements for a CTE concentration and all requirements for high school graduation, or an approved alternative education program. A concentration is a coherent sequence of state-approved courses. Students may take additional CTE courses that will enhance their career pathway goals. Completion of certain skill sets and coursework enables students to participate in Board-approved external examinations that test essential employability and technical skills. Students who earn these credentials are eligible to earn verified credit towards graduation requirements.

Beginning in 2013-2014, first time ninth grade students are required to earn a Board-approved career and technical education credential to graduate with a Standard Diploma.

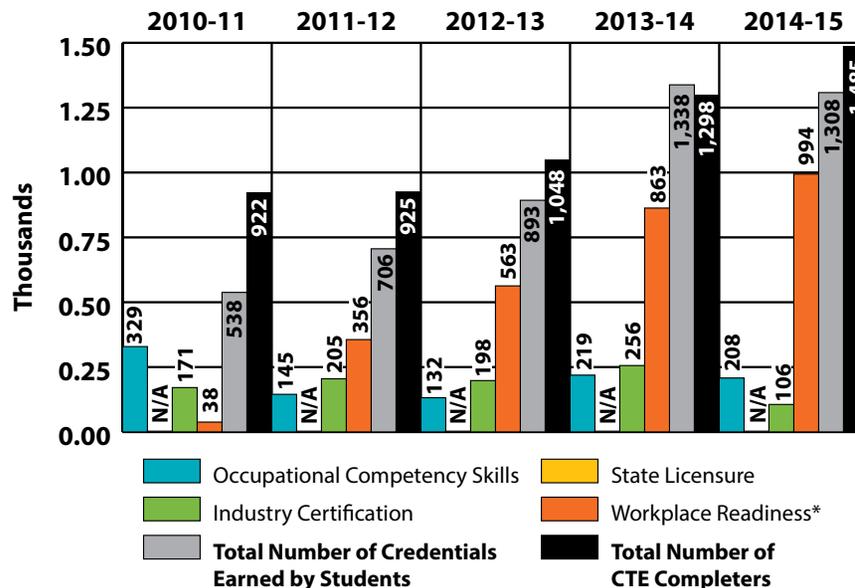
Types of credentials include:

- **Full Industry Certification** – from a recognized industry, trade, or professional association;
- **Pathway Industry Certification** – specific stackable credentials from a recognized industry that lead to a full industry certification;
- **Occupational Competency Skills Assessment** – a national standardized assessment of skills/knowledge in a specific career and/or technical area;
- **State License** – required for entry into a specific occupation; and
- **Workplace Readiness Skills for the Commonwealth Certification** - for essential employability skills recognized by Virginia employers.

Completers Graduated with Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas



Credentials Earned by CTE Students



NOTE: Completers may participate in one or more Board-approved credentialing test(s). Not all completers participate in the credentialing tests. There are age restrictions set by certain credentialing entities which would prohibit the student from testing until after high school. The cost of credentialing tests ranges from \$10 to \$300 per test.

*Prior to 2010-11, Workplace Readiness Skills assessments were included in the Industry Certification category.

Source: Virginia Department of Education

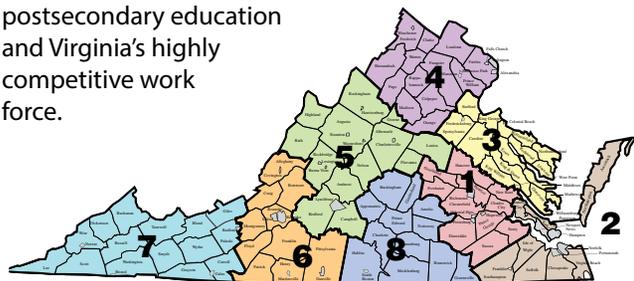
Virginia Career and Technical Education: Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security

continued

The **Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security Career Cluster** prepares you for service in public safety and security. Responsibilities include prevention of and protection from harm such as crime or natural disasters. Career opportunities range from public safety officers to legal services to homeland security. Positions in state and federal agencies will be more competitive, requiring people in this field to earn some type of college degree or gain military experience.

Virginia high school students learn the essential academic skills that are critical for all careers and the foundational skills needed for careers in Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security. They begin to specialize in a field of interest as they complete a coherent sequence of courses within a pathway.

Secondary students who complete these rigorous and relevant pathway programs are ready for entry into postsecondary education and Virginia's highly competitive work force.



Selected Statewide Occupational Projections

Selected Occupation	2014 Median Wage ¹	2022 Projected Employment ²	Predominant Education Level ³
Security Guards	\$27,230	40,712	High School
Lawyers	\$117,800	23,029	Bachelor's or more
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	\$48,490	20,636	Some college/Associate Degree & Training/certification
Correctional Officers and Jailers	\$35,870	20,587	Some college/Associate Degree & Training/certification
Paralegals and Legal Assistants	\$49,070	10,708	Some college/Associate Degree
Firefighters	\$44,700	9,856	Some college/Associate Degree & Training/certification
EMTs and Paramedics	\$30,640	6,564	Some college/Associate Degree
Detectives and Criminal Investigators	\$83,550	3,943	Bachelor's or more & Training/certification & Work experience
Police, Fire, and Ambulance Dispatchers	\$35,670	3,548	Some college/Associate Degree & Training/certification
Legal Secretaries	\$40,130	3,474	Some college/Associate Degree & Training/certification
Probation Officers	\$43,080	3,160	Bachelor's or more
Supervisors of Correctional Officers experience	\$46,000	2,835	Some college/Associate Degree & Training/certification & Work experience
Supervisors of Police and Detectives experience	\$80,070	2,753	Some college/Associate Degree & Training/certification & Work experience
Supervisors of Fire Fighting Workers	\$68,620	1,866	Some college/Associate Degree & Work experience
Private Detectives and Investigators	\$46,630	992	Bachelor's or more & Training/certification & Work experience
Animal Control Workers	\$34,600	520	High School & Training/certification
Judicial Law Clerks	\$45,500	176	Some college/Associate Degree
Forensic Science Technicians	\$65,920	405	Bachelor's or more & Training/certification
Fish and Game Wardens	\$43,910	282	Bachelor's or more
Court Reporters	\$42,880	275	Some college/Associate Degree

¹ Wage data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics Program; ² Estimates from Virginia Labor Market Information, Occupational Projections (long-term) for Multiple Occupations in Virginia in 2012-2022. Retrieved via <https://data.virginialmi.com>; ³ Predominant level of education and training information created by Trailblazers, based on US BLS occupational education and training data

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Virginia Occupational Employment Projections 2013-2022

Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security 2014-2015 Enrollments**

Pathways	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8
Correction Services	3,804	4,314	2,143	5,354	965	1,981	1,254	1,068
Emergency and Fire Management Services	4,120	4,756	2,241	6,261	1,109	2,247	1,340	1,171
Law Enforcement Services	3,819	4,360	2,007	5,013	1,014	2,087	1,262	1,041
Legal Services	1,187	1,011	665	4,190	590	1,108	794	366
Security and Protective Services	4,080	4,558	2,201	6,207	1,042	2,247	1,340	1,158

** NOTE: Duplicated Pathway student enrollments

Source: Virginia Department of Education