**Program of Study Overview and Application**

***Programs of Study Overview:***

Career and Technical Education programs of study are designed to prepare students to enter the workforce ready to pursue career opportunities in their chosen path. Students should have a seamless path to follow but have the flexibility to enter and exit the program at multiple points. Intentional planning and alignment of opportunities are considered in the development of career and technical education programs of study to ensure students develop the knowledge and skills necessary for entry into postsecondary education and training programs and/or the workforce.

In planning secondary to postsecondary programs of study applications, local school districts and partnering postsecondary institutions shall work together to ensure programs of study are aligned and implemented to meet the specialized needs of business and industry and meet the goals of the student’s individual learning plan. Secondary and postsecondary personnel should work together to;

* Identify secondary career and technical education programs of study offered at high school (Starting in 25-26 the complete program must be offered in one building unless the district receives a waiver from KDE.)
* Identify postsecondary programs of study at partnering postsecondary institution.
* All POS must meet the size, scope and quality definition.
* Determine and plan seamless alignment by identifying the secondary general education and technical courses needed for successful entry into the postsecondary program.

***Establishing Common OCTE Vocabulary Related to Program Areas and Programs of Study:***

In an ongoing effort to demonstrate continuous improvement and simplify processes, OCTE has streamlined the Program of Study (POS) documentation process for 2026-27. Please note the following important distinctions:

* **Program Area** – A **program area** is a broad category that encompasses various related fields of study. It represents a major sector of education and training within the Career and Technical Education (CTE) framework.  KY program areas are similar to national career clusters in that they are a system of grouping related occupations and industries that share common skills and knowledge.
* **Career Pathway** – Pursuant to KRS [158.810](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=40071) and [157.072](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=40074), a **career pathway** is a **“**coherent, articulated sequence of rigorous academic and career-related courses, commencing in **ninth grade and leading to an associate degree, an industry-recognized certificate or license, or a baccalaureate or higher degree.** A career pathway is developed, implemented, and maintained in partnership among secondary and postsecondary education institutions, businesses, and employers.”
* **Career Pathway Program of Study** – Pursuant to KRS [158.810](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=40071) and [157.072](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=40074), a **career pathway program of study** is a “coherent, articulated sequence of rigorous academic and career and technical education courses, including dual credit opportunities, that prepares **secondary students** for postsecondary study leading to postsecondary degrees, industry certifications, or licensure.”
* **Program of Study (POS)** – Perkins V term used to describe a coordinated, nonduplicative sequence of academic and technical content at the **secondary and postsecondary level**. Per the *Comprehensive Guide to the Federal Role in Career and Technical Education* published by the Bruman Group, programs of study should “run parallel” to career pathways.
* **Perkins State Approved Model Programs of Study** – Initially used as exemplars to show preferred course sequences with seamless transitions from high school to postsecondary education and to assist with the overall transition to Perkins V. Pursuant to Perkins V, Section 124 (b)(1), the original Perkins State Approved Model Programs of Study are listed for reference in the 2026-27 OCTE Programs of Study Directory appendix.
* **2026-2027 Kentucky Programs of Study Directory** – Single comprehensive guide containing all current OCTE/KWIB-approved Programs of Study. Beginning in 2026-27, all districts will select state-approved options published in this guide as the basis for completing the Program of Study application to demonstrate that all Perkins-funded programs of study meet the state’s definition of Size, Scope, and Quality.
* **Program of Study Application** – An application used to document the district meets the Perkins Size, Scope and Quality requirements for district CTE programs of study. The application documents district POS:
  + Is of sufficient size, offering a sequence of 4 or more earned technical credits
  + Has a postsecondary connection through dual enrollment, dual credit, current agreement for a program of study or current local articulation agreement approved by the lead administrators of KDE and postsecondary institutions or leads to KDE-approved industry-recognized certifications
  + Has an active advisory panel
  + Has a certified, appropriately endorsed teacher
  + Has a co-curricular career and technical student organization (CTSO) that provides students the opportunity to engage in leadership development activities
  + Is supported by current labor market data

**Program of Study Application Process:**

Step 1: Complete all fields of the Programs of Study Application. (Use the checklist to ensure all application components are complete.)

Step 2: Submit the completed application to [KDEOCTEPOSApplicationReview@education.ky.gov](mailto:KDEOCTEPOSApplicationReview@education.ky.gov) for approval.

(Note: District name, school name, program area, and POS must be included in the email subject line and POS application document title.)

Step 3: Add to GMAP the name of the POS approver and the date of email approval.

Step 4: Upload the approved program of study application to the GMAP documents section.

* **TEDS Pathway Modification** – An application used to document rare, special circumstances in which a district cannot complete a Program of Study Application with options published in the Kentucky Programs of Study Directory. These applications are submitted via TEDS and are approved by OCTE Program Area Consultants, not Perkins Consultants. Once approved in TEDS by OCTE Program Area Consultants, the district must follow up with Steps 1-4 of the Program of Study Application process outlined above.

**Program of Study Application**

**Effective date:**

**Postsecondary Institution:** **Program Area:**

**Secondary School:** **Program of Study:**

**CTSO Affiliation**:  **Program CIP Code:**

| **Grade** | **General Education Core**  (Ensure Minimum High School Graduation Requirements are Met) | **Technical Core**  (Ensure you have a minimum of a 4-credit sequence of High School CTE Courses) Please include the state course codes. | **Diploma, Certifications(s), Certificate(s), Degree(s)**  (Include any Credentials Students Have the Ability to Earn when Pursuing this Program of Study) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 9th | * Math * Science * English * Social Studies * PE * Health * Elective | * CTE Entry Level Course and Course Code and/or Dual Credit Corresponding Technical Course |  |
| 10th | * Math * Science * English * Social Studies * Art/Humanities * Elective | * CTE Intermediate Course and Course Code and/or Dual Credit Corresponding Technical Course |  |
| 11th | * Math * Science * English * Social Studies * Elective | * CTE Intermediate Course and Couse Code and/or Dual Credit Corresponding Technical Course |  |
| 12th | * Math * English * Elective | * CTE Advanced/Capstone Course and Course Code and/or Dual Credit Corresponding Technical Course | * High School Diploma * Industry Certification * End-of-Program Assessment * Post-Secondary Certificate |
| 13th | * General Education Courses Required for Certificate/Diploma/Degree | * Technical Courses Required for Certificate/Diploma/Degree | * Industry Certification * Post-Secondary Certificate 1 * Post-Secondary Certificate 2 * Post-Secondary Diploma |
| 14th | * General Education Courses Required for Certificate/Diploma/Degree | * Technical Courses Required for Certificate/Diploma/Degree | * Associate Degree |

(May add grades 15 and 16)

Secondary Partner:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Postsecondary Partner:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Must include both signatures)