



Early College Programs- CTE

In 2013 legislation was passed that created dual enrollment Career and Technical Education Programs. The Early College funding for the program has been allocated by the Governor for the past three years in support of the “Act to Create an Educational Collaborative Partnership To Implement a Program That Enables Career and Technical Education Students To Earn College Credits while Attending High School” which was passed in 2013.

Basics of the Act:

A. Provides a cohort-based experience for secondary school students to acquire technical skills and proficiencies through enrollment in a career and technical education program in their junior and senior years and earn concurrent credits toward a high school diploma and a postsecondary education degree through dual enrollment in integrated secondary and postsecondary education courses over a 3-year period that:

- (1) Begins with the student's junior year in secondary school;
- (2) Includes up to 3 years of summer career academies;
- (3) Includes a college freshman seminar experience;
- (4) Meets national concurrent enrollment standards;
- (5) Concludes at the end of summer following the student's senior year in secondary school; and
- (6) Includes college course work that provides the opportunity to earn a general associate’s degree allowing students of many diverse interests the opportunity to transfer credits earned to postsecondary education programs of their individual choosing; and

B. Includes individual learning plans, academic and career assessment, college and career advising, career exploration and job-shadowing opportunities matched to achieve the student's individual academic and career goals.

The career and technical education center or region may enter into a contract with a service provider that operates as a nonprofit organization to provide technical assistance in developing and implementing the initial phase of the dual enrollment program. The service provider selected must meet the specified educational functions, support services and all other requirements of the grant application as required by the department to facilitate the development and implementation of the dual enrollment career and technical education program. All the existing programs have opted to contract with the Bridge Year program provider that was the pilot program for the legislation.

Bridge Year Program

The Bridge Year Program offers secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) students the opportunity to earn up to 25 college credits while attending high school in a carefully designed and unique learning package utilizing the combined strengths of a secondary CTE school, a secondary high school, and a Maine public postsecondary institution. A student completing the program will have the ability to complete their associate degree within 12 months after high school graduation.

The Bridge Year Program offers a cohort based high school experience. Program courses are taught by sending high school instructors who have been approved by the university and/or community college and will cost students just \$40 per credit hour – considerably less than the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System’s current tuition rate. In addition to the college credits, students concurrently receive a technical skills-based education through their CTE school that will put them on a career track in occupations including those related to automotive, business, electronics, equipment maintenance and repair, health and public safety.

The Bridge Year Program offers increased levels of career assessment, career exploration, and job shadowing opportunities to help the students learn more about well-matched career opportunities as well as the education needed to achieve each student’s individual career goals.