



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

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Career and Technical Education Annual Report, 2023

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs offered at Utah System of Higher Education institutions provide students with the necessary skills to contribute to Utah’s economy. USHE CTE programs serve Utah students and employers by preparing students to enter the workforce in high-demand, high-paying jobs.

Secondary Students

To help high school students embark on a meaningful career path, USHE provides an opportunity for students enrolled in Utah high schools to take postsecondary CTE courses. Thirteen of the 15 USHE institutions demonstrated growth in at least one of three metrics from the previous school year.

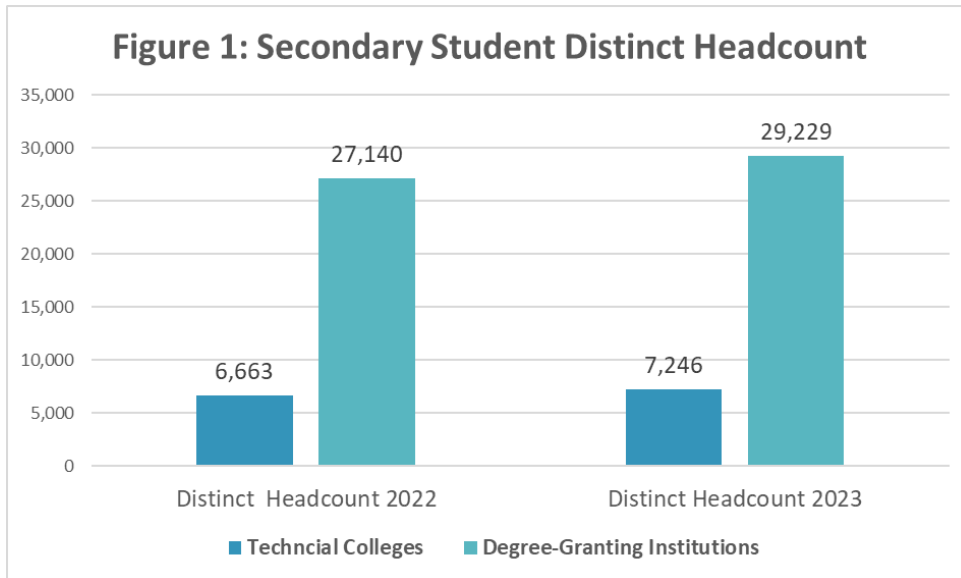
Table 1: FY23 Concurrent Enrollment

College/University	Headcount	Headcount Growth	Completions	Completion Growth	Credits or Equivalent*	Credits or Equivalent Growth
Bridgerland Technical College	134	24.1%	131	22.4%	766.0	45.9%
Davis Technical College	1,643	-8.9%	280	0.0%	14,517.9	17.0%
Dixie Technical College	236	28.3%	105	38.2%	2,696.9	16.2%
Mountainland Technical College	1,494	10.6%	593	-6.0%	20,063.4	20.8%
Ogden-Weber Technical College	1,542	38.2%	223	32.0%	10,874.7	9.4%
Southwest Technical College	464	11.8%	57	14.0%	2,865.0	22.8%
Tooele Technical College	354	1.1%	38	8.6%	2,437.1	23.3%
Uintah Basin Technical College	1,379	3.2%	188	-22.0%	6,886.4	18.8%
Salt Lake Community College	5,427	-4.5%	6	-14.3%	25,846.0	26.4%
Snow College	971	9.7%	75	4.2%	4,334.0	-17.6%
Southern Utah University	584	13.4%	0	0.0%	2,638.0	81.8%
Utah State University	2,328	37.5%	1	100.0%	10,303.0	18.9%
Utah Tech University	2,178	13.0%	54	80.0%	7,315.0	-8.4%
Utah Valley University	6,992	5.2%	1	100.0%	28,134.0	9.9%
Weber State University	10,749	9.8%	15	-40.0%	51,802.0	12.9%
USHE TOTAL	36,475	7.9%	1,767	2.6%	191,479.4	14.8%

*Technical education earned hours are converted to credit hours by taking the total earned hours/30.

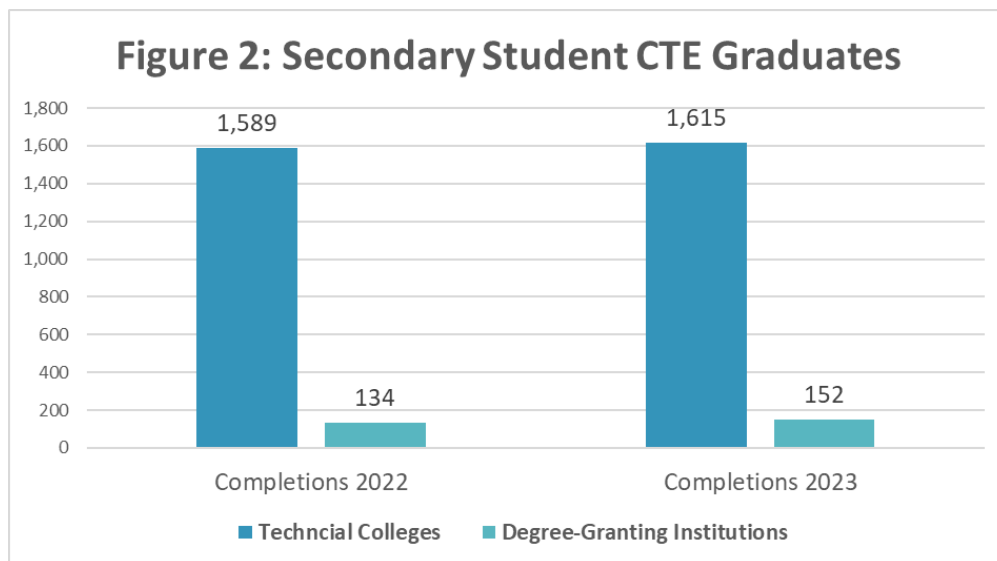
A. Headcount:

USHE institutions enrolled 36,475 secondary students in CTE courses during the 2022-23 school year. CTE enrollments grew by 7.9% from 2022 to 2023. Technical colleges showed 8.7% enrollment growth, and degree-granting institutions showed 7.7% growth during that time. Of the 15 participating USHE institutions, 13 showed enrollment growth (see Table 1).



B. Completions:

For the 2023 school year, USHE reported that 1,767 secondary students received one or more postsecondary certificates or awards. Completions at technical colleges represented 91.0% (n = 1,615), and degree-granting institutions represented 9.0% (n = 152) of all completions. Technical college completions grew by 1.6%, while degree-granting institutions' completions grew by 13.4% over the prior year. Systemwide CTE secondary student completions increased by 2.6%.

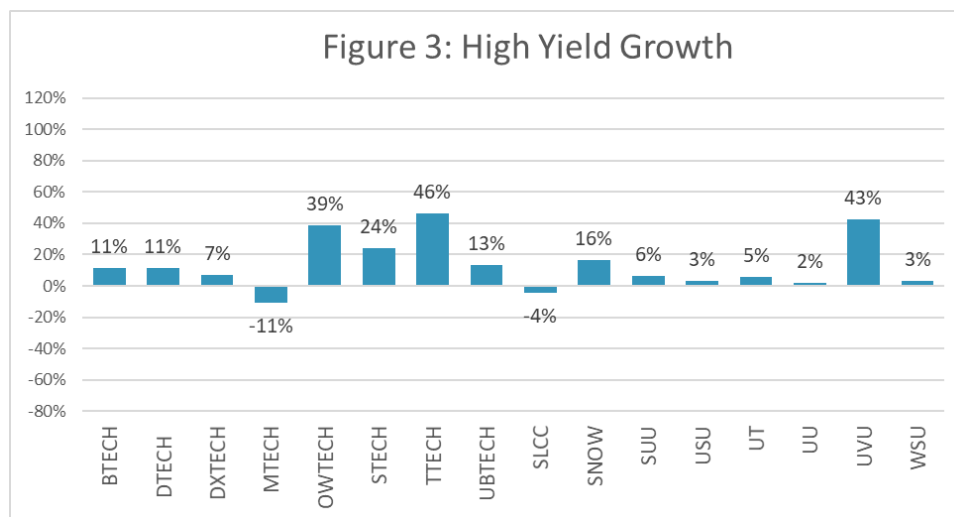


High-Yield Jobs

The Department of Workforce Services (DWS) categorizes 4- and 5-star jobs as high-wage and high-demand occupations. USHE has classified programs at each USHE institution that align with these jobs as high-yield programs. Table 3 shows the number of high-yield CTE awards earned in 2023. Technical college certificates represented 14.0% of all high-yield awards. Degree-granting associate degrees and certificates represented 86.0% of all high-yield awards.

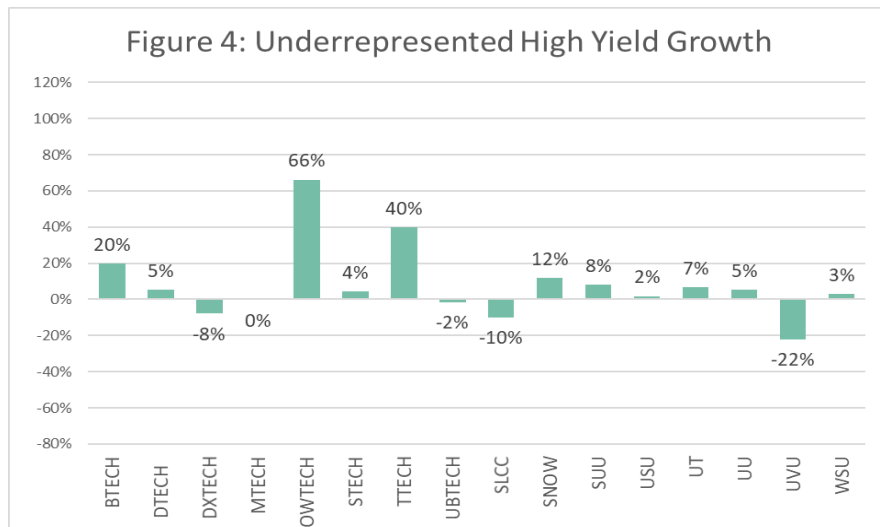
Institution Type	Awards
Technical Colleges	3,880
Degree-Granting Institutions	24,857
USHE Total	28,737

Figure 3 shows the high-yield enrollment growth for all students, and Figure 4 shows the high-yield enrollment growth for underrepresented students.¹ Nearly all institutions showed growth in total student high-yield completions. Overall, high-yield growth increased by 13.0% for technical colleges and 8.0% for degree-granting institutions. Notable high-yield completion growth occurred at Tooele Technical College (up 46%), Utah Valley University (up 43%), and Ogden-Weber Technical College (up 39%).



Eleven out of 16 institutions increased underrepresented high-yield completions. Notably, Ogden-Weber Technical College grew by 66.0%, Tooele Technical College by 40.0%, Bridgerland Technical College by 20.0%, and Snow College by 12.0%.

¹ Underrepresented students are Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Multiracial, Asian OR Female.



Performance Outcomes

Data matching with DWS² provides USHE an opportunity to examine the immediate and long-term workforce outcomes of CTE graduates. The following information provides insight into the number of CTE graduates who entered employment, who retained employment, and graduates’ median employment or employment earnings.³

A. Entered Employment:

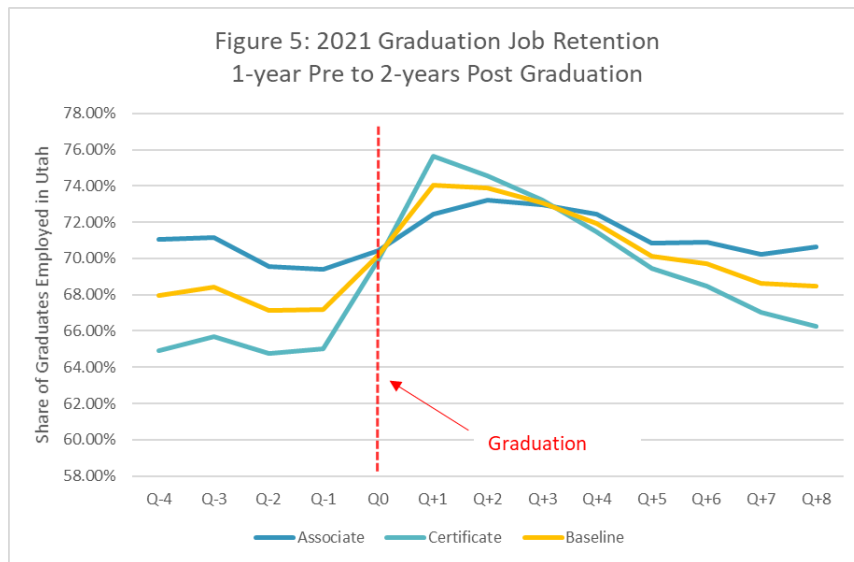
For 2023, 73.4% of USHE CTE graduates participated in Utah’s workforce within one year of earning an associate degree. At graduation, 70.4% of associate degree graduates and 69.9% of certificate awardees were employed. Within the first year post-graduation, 72.8% of associate degree graduates and 73.7% of certificate awardees were employed.

B. Job Retention:

Job retention compares graduates’ wage information from one year pre-graduation to two years post-graduation. Figure 5 details how CTE graduates found employment quickly in the first quarter after graduation but struggled to maintain employment through the seven quarters post-graduation. Peak employment occurred for certificate graduates in the quarter after graduation (75.6%). Associate degree graduate employment peaked during quarters two and three after graduation (73.2% and 73.0%, respectively). Job retention two years after graduation was the lowest for certificate earners at 66.3%, and for associate degree graduates, two-year job retention was 70.7%.

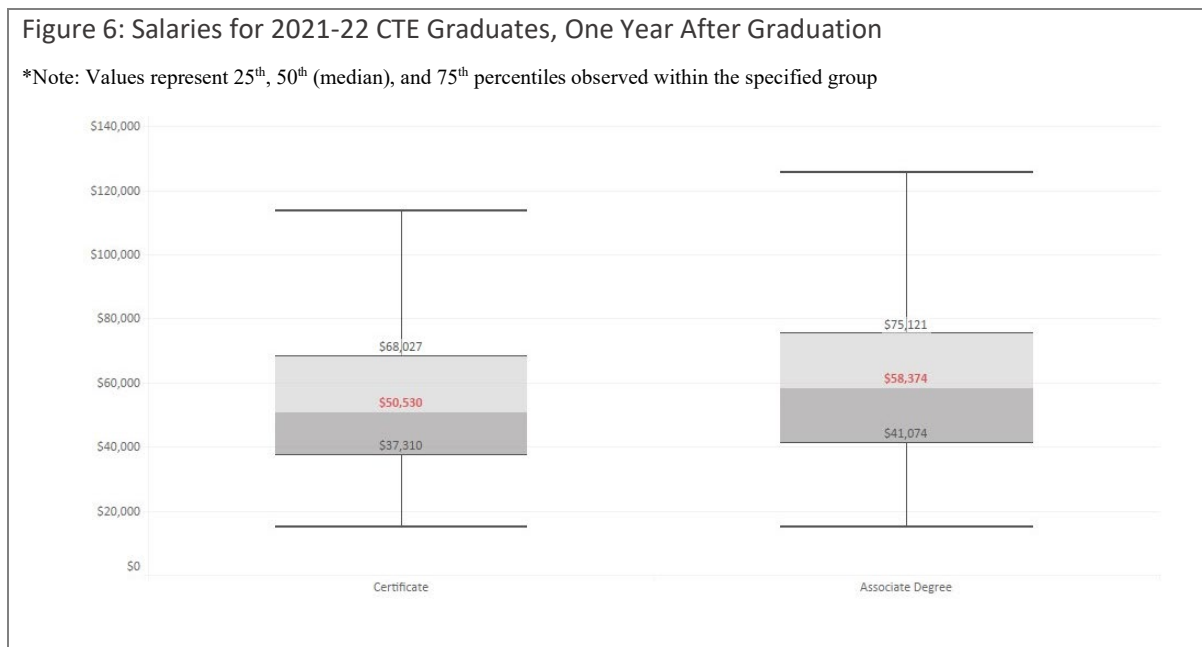
² Note: federal, non-profit, and self-employed graduates are not reported in DWS data.

³ Graduates' aggregate wages are calculated based on only those individuals with wage records from each of the four quarters (Q+1 through Q+4) immediately following the student's quarter of graduation (Q0). If a graduate has wage records for three or fewer quarters, he/she is excluded from the analysis. Graduates earning below \$15,080 per annum are excluded. Graduates are also excluded from the analysis if they are found enrolled at a USHE institution during the four quarters immediately following the specified graduation (potentially depressing wage growth due to ongoing education) or if they received a subsequent award before the end of the fourth quarter after graduating with the credential in question (potentially inflating wage growth associated with the credential in question).



C. Earnings:

Salary information for CTE graduates was measured from one year pre-graduation to one year post-graduation. Figure 6 reveals how much CTE graduates earned one year after graduation.

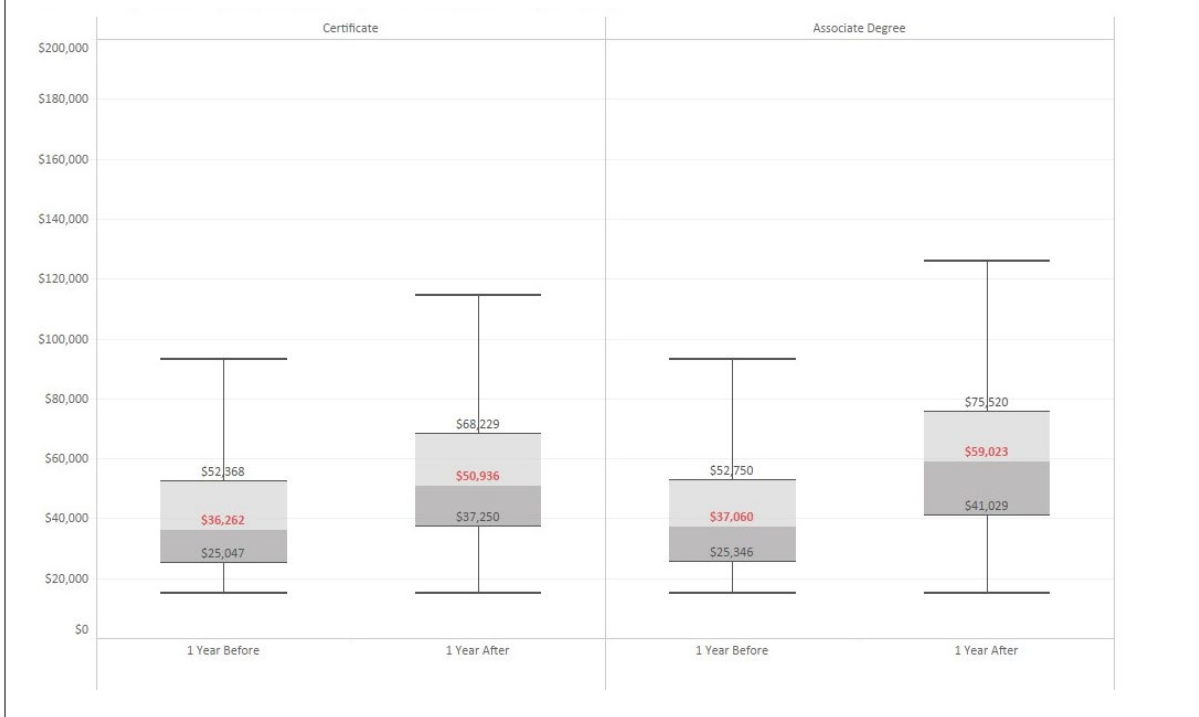


The median salary for CTE certificate awardees was \$50,530, and the median salary for CTE associate degree completers was slightly higher at \$58,374.⁴ Figure 7 illustrates how much CTE graduate wages grew by degree type from one year before to one year after graduation.

⁴ Source: <https://ushe.edu/ushe-graduates-workforce-outcomes/>
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Figure 7: Salaries for All 2021-22 CTE Graduates, One Year Before and After Graduation

*Note: Values represent 25th, 50th (median), and 75th percentiles observed within the specified group



CTE students with a certificate experienced a \$14,674 median wage increase after graduation. CTE students with an associate degree experienced a larger \$21,963 pre- and post-graduation median wage increase.

Tuition and Fees

Table 6 reports the annualized in-state tuition and fee rates for CTE programs at USHE institutions. These data are reported by full-time equivalent (FTE)⁵ credits/hours for single and full-time credit loads. Technical colleges are required to offer free tuition to secondary students, although some programs may require additional costs depending on the specific program of study.⁶

⁵ Note: One full-time equivalent (FTE) student of two semesters at 15 credit hours for degree-granting institutions and 900 membership hours for technical colleges, and all info is pulled for In-State tuition

⁶ Source: https://ushe.edu/wp-content/uploads/pdf/databook/2022/2022_TabE-tuition-fees.pdf

Table 6: Tuition and Fees

College/University	Annual Tuition 22-23 (Per FTE Credit/Hour)	Annual Tuition and Fees 22-23 (Per FTE Credit/Hour)	Annual Tuition and Fees (Per FTE)
Bridgerland Technical College	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 1,800.00
Davis Technical College	\$ 2.10	\$ 2.10	\$ 1,890.00
Dixie Technical College	\$ 2.25	\$ 2.25	\$ 2,025.00
Mountainland Technical College	\$ 2.10	\$ 2.10	\$ 1,890.00
Ogden-Weber Technical College	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 1,800.00
Southwest Technical College	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 1,800.00
Tooele Technical College	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 1,800.00
Uintah Basin Technical College	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 1,800.00
Salt Lake Community College	\$ 251.87	\$ 283.80	\$ 4,257.00
Snow College	\$ 253.07	\$ 278.67	\$ 4,180.00
Southern Utah University	\$ 400.40	\$ 451.33	\$ 6,770.00
University of Utah	\$ 606.87	\$ 685.80	\$ 10,287.00
Utah State University	\$ 492.47	\$ 553.67	\$ 8,305.00
Utah Tech	\$ 337.60	\$ 405.00	\$ 6,075.00
Utah Valley University	\$ 357.87	\$ 418.00	\$ 6,270.00
Weber State University	\$ 364.73	\$ 426.07	\$ 6,391.00