

10 MINUTES WITH YOUR CAREER COACH



CTE Facts and Myths

Are the statements below fact or myth?

- 1: Smart students go directly from high school into four-year universities. Career Technical Education and community colleges are primarily options for those who are not college ready.
- 2: High school needs to focus on core classes, AP courses, and honors. Career Technical Education is a waste of my child's academic career when he/she is college bound.
- 3: Community college attendance is costly and will require most students and/or their parents to get student loans to cover the expense.
- 4: Each child's 4-Year Plan should be completed before entering the ninth grade and is based on standardized tests taken from grades K-8. It is reviewed after the student completes ACT Aspire, ACT, and Work Keys tests in the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades.
- 5: The first step in picking the right college is to visit the campus, consider social opportunities (including athletics and Greek life), the cost to attend, and the career goal.
- 6: Through Dual Enrollment and Early College, my child has the opportunity to earn college credit while in high school at no or little cost.
- 7: Community service and volunteer experiences are ways for my child to explore careers and gain valuable work experience even before he/she reaches the legal age to get a paying job.
- 8: Under the Alabama High School Diploma requirements, math and science credits may be earned through Career Technical Education approved courses.
- 9: Apprenticeship programs through West Alabama companies should be considered during my child's senior year of high school.
- 10: The Alabama State Department of Education provides all high school students access to ACT's online prep program for a nominal fee per family.

"Planning is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now."

- Alan Lakein

Mark "Fact" for true and "Myth" for false. Check your answers on the following pages!

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Fact | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Fact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Myth | <input type="checkbox"/> Myth |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Fact | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Fact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Myth | <input type="checkbox"/> Myth |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Fact | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Fact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Myth | <input type="checkbox"/> Myth |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Fact | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Fact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Myth | <input type="checkbox"/> Myth |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Fact | 10. <input type="checkbox"/> Fact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Myth | <input type="checkbox"/> Myth |

CTE Myth Busters 1-4

1: **Myth** | CTE can play a role in reducing the number of high school dropouts. CTE graduates are more likely to be employed and earn more than their non-CTE counterparts, particularly graduates who worked part time during high school. Generic technical skills and occupationally specific skills provided in CTE can increase worker productivity, skill transfer, job access, and job stability when CTE graduates find training-related jobs.

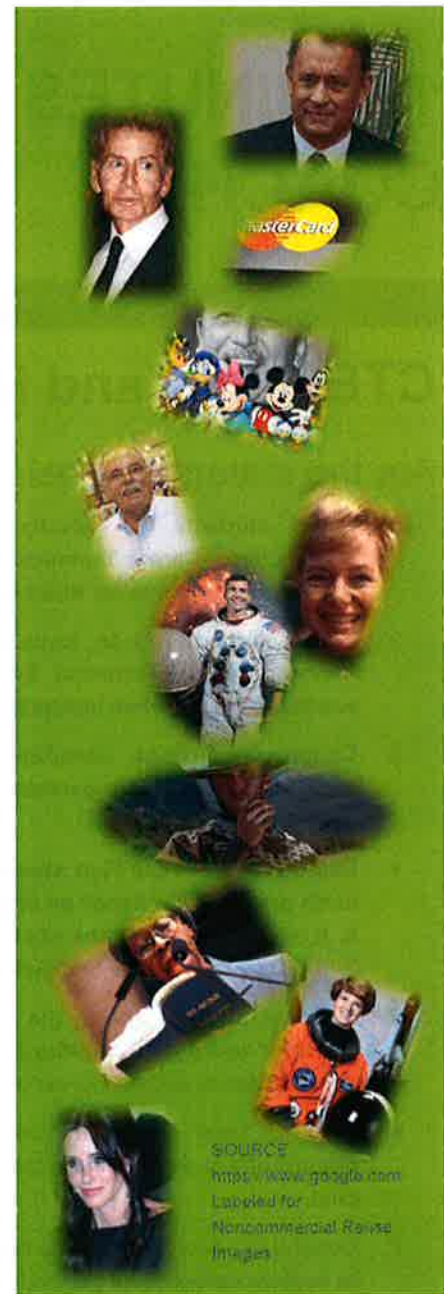
SOURCE: Authoring Institution: ERIC Clearinghouse on Adult, Career, and Vocational Education, Columbus, OH. Identifiers: Career and Technical Education; Carl D. Perkins Voc and Appl Techn Educ Act 1990; Carnegie Unit; High Schools That Work. Stone, J. "Debunking the Myths," Vocational Education Journal 68, No. 1 (January 1993): 26-27, 56. (EJ 455 319)

2: **Myth** | In fact, these rather successful individuals attended community college and/or learned skills through Career Technical Education.

- Tom Hanks: Oscar-winning actor
- Calvin Klein: Fashion Designer
- Melvin Salvesson: Creator of MasterCard
- Walt Disney
- Francine Neff: Former U.S. Treasurer
- James Sinegal: CEO of Costco
- Fred Haise: Apollo 13 Astronaut
- Clint Eastwood: Actor and Oscar-winning director
- Gwendolyn Brooks: Pulitzer prize-winning poet
- Eileen Collins: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Astronaut
- Courtney Cox: "Monica" from *FRIENDS!* (From Birmingham!)

3: **Myth** | Students who attend a 2-year college spend one-third less per year than students attending a 4-year college. The average cost of tuition and fees for a 2-year college is \$3,131.00 per year. The average cost of tuition and fees for a 4-year college or university is \$8,655.00. This does not include room and board.

4: **Myth** | Think of the 4-Year Plan as your child's roadmap that should lead to his/her life's aspirations for after high school. Selection of courses each year of high school should be given careful consideration to ensure that your child is prepared for post-secondary, four-year college, and work upon high school graduation (*College AND Career Ready*). The first steps in the process are career exploration and a career interest assessment to identify career options that are well suited to your child's particular likes, interests, abilities, talents, and skills. WoW will give your child an opportunity to explore Worlds of Work in West Alabama and subsequently identify career options based on WoW hands-on experiences. The 4-Year Plan should then be completed to map out a plan for high school course selections to get your child ready for that career choice—whether that means going directly into the workforce, post-secondary education, or a combination after high school graduation. The 4-Year Plan is to be reviewed and changed each school year—because, after all, your child will mature and change with additional education and experiences each year of high school. Should your child change schools, his 4-Year Plan transfers with him/her within the state of Alabama.



| Course Planner | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 | Year 12 |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| English 9 ENGL9 | English ENGL10 | English ENGL11 | English ENGL12 | English ENGL12 |
| Mathematics MATH9 | Mathematics MATH10 | Mathematics MATH11 | Mathematics MATH12 | Business Leads BULEAD |
| Science SCIE9 | Mathematics MATH10 | Biology BIOL11 | Chemistry CHEM12 | Communications COMM12 |
| Geography GEOG9 | History HIST10 | Chemistry CHEM11 | Business Lead BUSLEAD | Senior to Home SENIOR |
| French FRAN9 | Career Studies CAREER | Business Lead BUSLEAD | Business Lead BUSLEAD | American with AMERWIT |
| Spanish SPAN9 | Latin LATIN10 | Spanish SPAN11 | Spanish SPAN12 | Spans Course SPAN12 |
| Religion - Re RELIG9 | Religious Educ. RELIG10 | Religious Educ. RELIG11 | Religious Educ. RELIG12 | Elective ELECTIVE |
| Comprehensive COMPRE9 | Healthy Active HEALTHY | Marketing Gen. MARKETG | Marketing Gen. MARKETG | Elective ELECTIVE |
| | Down French DOWNFR | Down French DOWNFR | Down French DOWNFR | Down French DOWNFR |

A 4-Year Plan (a/k/a Ed Plan)

CTE Myth Busters 5-8

- 5: **Myth** | *Roll Tide! War Eagle! Stillman Tigers! Bucs! UWA Tigers!* The best college choice for your child is the one that offers the program of study or major that will lead to a job in his/her chosen career field with the least amount of student debt upon college graduation. Winning athletics, Greek life, social environment, and friends are add-ons and fringe benefits of college life—not its purpose. In other words, your child won't be able to earn a bachelor's degree in cosmetology license from the UA. The steps to choosing a college are: Identify your child's career interests, research career opportunities, define a program of study, identify college options that will further the career goal, and narrow the choices with campus visits and additional research.
- 6: **Fact** | Eligible students may enroll in college in order to earn high school AND college credits at the same time! In fact, some students are receiving their high school diploma AND their Associate's Degree simultaneously at no cost. This **dual enrollment** opportunity is offered primarily to eleventh and twelfth graders. A 3.0 GPA is required to apply for academic coursework, and a 2.5 GPA is required to enroll in technical programs. Applications for dual enrollment are required. You and your child should begin planning now for dual enrollment since the GPA will be based on grades earned in high school. Check with your Career Coach or school counselor for specific courses approved for dual enrollment at the community colleges in your area.
- Early College** opportunities exist for students who may benefit from enrollment in higher education institutions prior to high school graduation. If approved for early admission, a student may enroll in college-level courses that provide enrichment or accelerated learning. Contact your Career Coach or school counselor for additional information.
- 7: **Fact** | Students who participate in community service, volunteer experiences, and extra-curricular activities are better prepared to make wise career choices. Through these activities your child gains work experience, develops skills that might not otherwise be taught at home or in the classroom, and learns to communicate and interact with others. Students who volunteer have work experience for their resumes and can qualify for scholarships specifically tailored for extraordinary community service.
- 8: **Fact** | Graduation requirements for graduating classes of 2017-2019 lead to an Alabama High School Diploma or an Alabama High School Diploma with Academic Distinction. Math and science credits may be earned for approved CTE courses. For example, the Alabama State Department of Education has identified successful completion of Chemistry of Food (CTE Course) as equivalent to Chemistry (science course). Check with your Career Coach or school counselor for additional information.

Did you know?

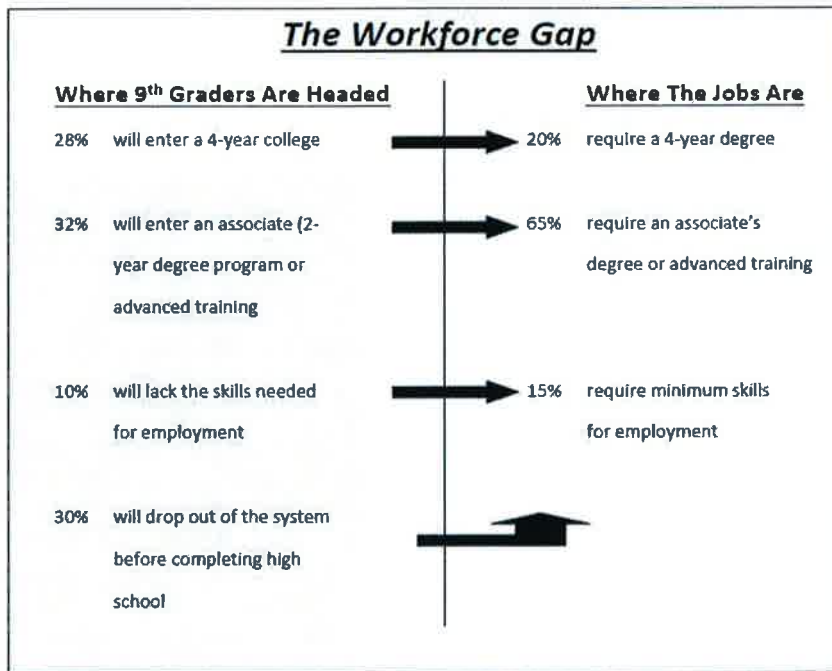
College students who participate in **Dual Enrollment** as high school students have higher persistence and retention, grade point average (GPA), and credit accumulation than students who did not participate. In particular, Dual Enrollment students earn 15.1 more college credits than their non-Dual Enrollment peers three years after high school graduation.

SOURCE: <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/slcp/finaldual.pdf>

Dual Enrollment and Early College = College credit while in high school

CTE Myth Busters 9-10

- 9: **Myth** | An apprenticeship allows your student-graduate to learn and earn through on-the-job training. Examples include the Nucor Technical Training Academy, Mercedes Benz U.S. International Mechatronics program, McAbee Construction welding apprenticeship, and Premiere Electric apprenticeship. Although applications are usually completed early in the senior year of high school, preparation needs to begin in the ninth grade through the student's 4-Year Plan, course selections, attendance, good study habits, extra-curricular activities, community service, volunteerism, and part-time work. Waiting until the twelfth grade to start preparing for an apprenticeship decreases the child's chances of being the best applicant.
- 10: **Myth** | The Alabama State Department of Education provides access to ACT's online prep program free of charge to all high school students. The online program includes practice tests with real ACT test questions, practice essays for the option ACT Writing Test, comprehensive content review for each of the four required tests (English, Math, Reading, and Science), a diagnostic test and a personalized study plan. The website is www.actonlineprep.org. Additional information is available through your



Fact | 28% of ninth grade students will enter a 4-year college, while only 20% of available jobs require a 4-year degree. This means there will only be 20 jobs available for every 28 bachelor's degree holders. On the other hand, 32% of ninth grade students will enter an associate's degree (2-year) program or advanced training, while 65% of jobs will require this degree or training. This means that for every 1 person with an associate's degree or advanced training, there will be about 2 jobs available! for the option. SOURCE: *Workforce 2020: Work and Workers in the 21st Century*.

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CTE Myth Buster Statement Answers

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| 1. Myth | 6. Fact |
| 2. Myth | 7. Fact |
| 3. Myth | 8. Fact |
| 4. Myth | 9. Myth |
| 5. Myth | 10. Myth |