

Career and Technical Education Courses Level III Criteria

Definition of Career and Technical Education (CTE) Level III Courses

CTE Level III courses demand more challenging involvement than standard CTE courses. They must be demonstrably more challenging than standard courses and provide multiple opportunities for students to take greater responsibility for their learning. CTE level III courses should be distinguished by a difference in the quality of the work expected rather than merely by the quantity of the work required.

Purposes of CTE Level III Courses

CTE Level III courses are designed for students who have demonstrated an advanced level of interest and achievement in a given subject area. The rationale for level III courses is not to provide a means to attract students to enroll in classes for additional credit, but rather to offer challenging, higher level courses for students who aspire to an advanced level of learning. Furthermore, students and parents should be informed that CTE Level III courses are more demanding and have requirements beyond those of standard CTE courses. The aims of CTE level III courses are to promote:

- Opportunities for advanced work.
 - Rigorous study of CTE content areas.
 - Practical application of knowledge and skills.
 - Transfer of knowledge and skills to work-based situations.
 - College and Career readiness.
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Characteristics of CTE Level III Courses

CTE Level III courses should exemplify the following characteristics:

- Require a higher level of cognition and quality of work than a standard course
- Enable students to become actively involved in classroom and work-based learning experiences
- Involve students in exploratory, experiential, and open-ended learning experiences

CTE Level III courses should provide opportunities for the following:

- Problem-seeking and problem-solving
 - Participation in scholarly and creative processes
 - Critical analysis and application
 - Personalized learning experiences
 - Express/defend ideas
 - Accept constructive criticism
 - Reflective thinking
 - Initiator of learning
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Criteria for evaluation of CTE courses for Level 3 designation:

Criteria	Indicator*
Emphasizes a specific curriculum which includes rigorous, advanced content: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• demands complex course materials and tasks• application and transfer of knowledge, talents, and skills to real world situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of Curriculum Frameworks• NGSSS Alignment Matrix
Includes national and state technical and academic standards	Same
Integrates technical and academic content	Same
Incorporates critical thinking skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• problem solving• analysis• synthesis• application• evaluation	Same

*Reviewers will consider appropriate indicators which may differ from course to course