



## Do High School Graduates Completing CTE-STEM Majors Have Short-Term, Post Graduation Payoffs?

*Of the 3-credit CTE-STEM concentrators going to college in fall 2004, 87.2% were still enrolled or completed a credential within two years.*

*The college retention and completion rate for non-CTE concentrators was 82.6%, which included those students completing a college prep curriculum.*

1. In the nationally representative Educational Longitudinal Study of 2002-2006 database, 33% of the Class of 2004 completed a 2-credit CTE concentration, 16.6% completed a 3-credit concentration. (Table 1) ***One out of 3 high school grads is a CTE concentrator completing between 2-4 credits in high school.***
2. Of those completing a 2-credit CTE concentration, 10.2% (nearly 1/3 of the concentrators) chose majors in: computer and information sciences, construction and architecture, engineering technology, and manufacturing. (Table 1 - see pdf referenced below) ***Broadly defined, STEM concentrators represent about 1 in 10 high school graduates.***
3. Among CTE concentrators who enrolled in postsecondary education within the first two years after graduation from high school, the percentage that persisted (i.e., were still enrolled or completed a credential) were: 82.6% of non-concentrators, 80.2% of all 2-credit concentrators, 87.2% of 2-credit engineering technology concentrators, and 84.8% of computer and information science concentrators. (Table 4) ***Of those concentrators going to college, 4 out of 5 persist or complete a credential after two years. The persistence power for engineering and technology high school concentrators is 5-7% higher than other CTE concentrators, and 2-4% higher than non-concentrators.***
4. Among the 2004 graduates who enrolled in postsecondary education and that chose a postsecondary field of study related to their concentration were: 18.1 % of all 2-credit concentrators, 11.8% of engineering technology concentrators (Table 6). ***Overall, nearly 1 in 5 of the 2-credit CTE concentrators enter a concentration-related major, but only 1 in 10 engineering technology concentrators chose a related college major.***
5. Of the 2-credit CTE concentrators, the percentage high school graduates with a postsecondary major, first job, or current job related to their area of concentration has: 20.1% of all concentrators, 26.2% of construction and architecture concentrators, 20.2% of manufacturing concentrators, 17.2% of computer and information science concentrators, and 17% of engineering technology concentrators. (Table 11). ***When considering the influence of modest CTE concentration in high school, between 17%-25% of concentrators are in program-related majors or jobs during the first two years after high school. Overall, about 20% of all CTE concentrators have the same outcomes.***

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Preliminary Observations from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) CTE Issue Tables (January, 2011) <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011234.pdf>