



Career-Based Learning Experience:

Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) or Career-Related Out-of-School Activity

CBLE (Explore)

Definition

Career-related out-of-school activities and career and technical student organizations (CTSOs) provide opportunities to expand and apply knowledge gained in regular coursework. Some examples of career-related extracurricular clubs are Girls Who Code, First Robotics, or Science Olympiad.

Unlike career-related extracurricular activities, career and technical student organizations (CTSOs) are co- or intra-curricular. In other words, they complement the CTE sequence of career pathway courses. CTOS offer learning experiences that support development of citizenship, technical, leadership, and teamwork skills essential for students preparing for the workforce and further education.

- CTOS are a basic component of CTE programs that support and enhance related school-based and work-based learning.
- CTOS provide students with skills and knowledge to succeed in the new global economy.
- CTOS are found in schools at the middle, junior, and senior high levels as well as some colleges throughout Wisconsin.

CTOS in Wisconsin include DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, HOSA, and SkillsUSA. Both CTOS and career-related out-of-school activities often involve business professionals who act as mentors and/or competition judges.

State Certificate

Possible awards or recognition in local, regional, state, and national/international competitions

Course Credit

Local school board decision. Voluntary participation

Number of Hours

Participation hours are defined by the club.

Program Administration

Local school district advisor.

Program Elements

Participation and competition event activities occur under the guidance and supervision of a designated school advisor who implements and operates the chapter according to the

membership requirements of the CTOS. However, to ensure that the career-related out-of-school activities reflect current occupational applications, business professionals in the field should also be consulted or act as mentors.

Documentation

As required by the CTOS or career-related out-of-school club.

Resources

Career-related out-of-school clubs and groups usually maintain their own state websites. This includes any club that offers opportunities to engage with business or industry partners and learn about careers, such as economics/investment clubs, robotics clubs, coding clubs, Wisconsin Science Olympiad, scouting (boys/girls), and student government.

State Webpages

- [DPI's CTOS webpage](#)
- [Wisconsin DECA](#) (marketing and business)
- [Wisconsin FBLA](#) (Future Business Leaders of America)
- [Wisconsin FCCLA](#) (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America)
- [Wisconsin Association of FFA](#) (agriculture, natural resources)
- [Wisconsin HOSA](#)–Future Health Professionals
- [Wisconsin SkillsUSA](#) (technology, trades, and engineering)

Virtual Option

- CTOS chapter advisors continue to conduct meetings and planning for events via a video-conferencing platform.
- CTOS state leaders conduct leadership training and events in a virtual format.

Excerpted from the [Wisconsin Guide to Implementing Career-Based Learning Experiences](#)