Career and Technical Education Pathways: From High School to Lower Columbia College and Beyond

# High School

There are many education and work options for Career and Technical Education (CTE) high school students, including Pre-Apprenticeship. Many of the CTE credits earned in high school can be applied to a college credential.

# Lower Columbia College

The Multicraft Trades Certificate at Lower Columbia College (LCC) is a work ready certificate that can be completed in one year or less when students attend full-time. This certificate prepares students to either go to work in an entry-level position in the skilled trades, continue on to an industrial trades associate degree program, or begin an apprenticeship.

CTE students can also begin an associate degree in the industrial trades right after high school. Options at LCC include Diesel/Heavy Equipment Technology, Machining, Manufacturing, Welding, and Automotive Technology. An associate degree in the industrial trades can be completed in two years or less when students attend full-time, or in one additional year after the Multicraft Trades Certificate.

CTE students can pursue other professional-technical degree programs as well, including Accounting, Business Technology, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education/Para-educator, and Nursing/Allied Health. These programs can be completed in two years or less when students attend full-time, although Nursing generally takes longer.

# Beyond

For students that complete the Multicraft Trades or other work-ready certificates, the next step may be to pursue an entry-level position in the skills trades, either union or non-union.

For students that complete either the Pre-Apprenticeship program at their high school, the Multicraft Trades Certificate at LCC, or an associate degree in the industrial trades at LCC, an apprenticeship may be the next step. Local apprenticeship opportunities include:

* Building Trades/Construction
* Electrician
* Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
* Plumber/Pipe Fitter

For students that complete an associate degree at LCC, further education options include pursuing a bachelor’s degree through the Lower Columbia Regional University Center (where over 40 programs are offered through partner universities on the LCC campus) or an applied bachelor’s degree. LCC currently has applied bachelor’s degree in education and business under development.