



Arizona Department of Education  
Tom Horne, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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# Arizona Career and Technical Education Curriculum Framework

## Career Exploration

July 2005

### Division of Educational Services and Resources

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## Adaptation/Adoption Curriculum Framework Process for Career Exploration

The Arizona Department of Education, Career and Technical Education Unit awarded an investigative research project to improve Arizona Career and Technical Education. The report in 2003 focused on a coherent sequence of instruction that should result in an exemplary CTE program delivery system for Arizona. Following extensive committee meetings that included stakeholders representing all of Arizona; it was determined that the Level I course entitled Technological Foundations, now entitled Career Exploration, be expanded and upgraded in order to support the new Arizona CTE Delivery System. This project (2005) was awarded with the purpose of expanding the existing list of standards, measurement criteria, and instructional resources to insure a curriculum framework that supports the successful development of career planning skills.

### The new strategies used in order to adapt/adopt the Career Exploration curriculum frameworks focus on:

- identifying project members consisting of CTE instructors (grades 7-14), school counselors, career advisors, special education instructors, and industry representatives
- aligning with the National Career Development Guidelines
- aligning with Career Clusters (Knowledge and Skills)
- aligning with Arizona Workplace Standards
- aligning with Arizona Technology Standards
- obtaining member feedback to validate all the components of the expanded curriculum framework
- increasing academic rigor by applying higher order skills to standards/measurement criteria
- crosswalking Arizona Academic Standards to standards/measurement criteria and identifying appropriate Performance Objectives that support improved academic attainment

In order to provide continuous improvement, Career Exploration will be posted on:

Arizona CTE web site: (<http://www.ade.az.gov/cte/careerpathways/>)

Tech Prep web site: (<http://www.aztechprep.org/>).

Through these websites, Career Exploration is provided an avenue for updating and publicizing framework content. In today's fast paced, high-tech world, it is imperative to provide continuous response to industry needs in order to effectively prepare our students for success in their career choices. Career Explorations is designed to assist all Arizona students in a successful transition to high school Career and Technical Education programs.

***Vision:*** Ensure a dynamic workforce by fully developing every student's career and academic potential  
***Mission:*** Prepare Arizona students for workforce success and continuous learning

## **CAREER EXPLORATION (grades 7-9)**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Career Exploration is the foundation experience within the new (CTE) Delivery System supporting the successful transition to high school Career and Technical Education Career Preparation programs. The Arizona Department of Education, approved curriculum framework is aligned with the Arizona Workplace Standards, Arizona Technology Standards, and the National Career Development Guidelines. It introduces students to the Career Clusters (Knowledge and Skills) as well as providing opportunities for instruction supported by a flexible learning environment, appropriate technology and support systems. The competencies developed address career exploration and core skill development common to **virtually all occupations**.

Students will explore careers and attain academic and technical skills through the following Standards:

- 1.0 EVALUATE INDIVIDUAL STRENGTHS, VALUES AND PERSONALITY TRAITS
- 2.0 EXPLORE A VARIETY OF OCCUPATIONAL AREAS
- 3.0 DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REQUIRED FOR MEETING CAREER GOALS
- 4.0 DEMONSTRATE CAREER PLANNING SKILLS
- 5.0 DEMONSTRATE DECISION MAKING AND CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS REQUIRED FOR CAREER SUCCESS
- 6.0 DEVELOP COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR PUBLIC AND WORKPLACE ENVIRONMENTS
- 7.0 DEVELOP LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK SKILLS REQUIRED FOR THE WORKPLACE
- 8.0 ANALYZE AND DEVELOP LEGAL AND ETHICAL BEHAVIORS
- 9.0 DEMONSTRATE TECHNOLOGICAL LITERACY REQUIRED IN THE WORKPLACE
- 10.0 ANALYZE HOW SOCIAL, ORGANIZATIONAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS OPERATE
- 11.0 EVALUATE FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO A SAFE AND HEALTHY WORK ENVIRONMENT
- 12.0 DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF DIVERSITY

### **CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK**

- Completed in June 2005
- Disseminated at various workshops and conferences throughout the summer and school year 2005-06
- Accessible by September 2005 on the Arizona CTE web site under "What's New" <http://www.ade.az.gov/cte/WhatsNew/>
- Accessible by August 2005 on Arizona Tech Prep web site <http://www.aztechprep.org/>
- Implementation of the curriculum framework should be in place by the school year 2007-08

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## Design Team Members

### Career Exploration

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