



Nebraska Career Education
OVERVIEW

Nebraska

CAREER EDUCATION

is a system that

- Emphasizes career development through career awareness, exploration and preparation
- Offers world-class secondary Career Technical Education Programs of Study that provide seamless transition to post-secondary education
- Promotes expanded learning opportunities for students through components such as Workplace Experiences and Career and Technical Student Organizations
- Supports professional development for school counselors, teachers and administrators
- Fosters essential partnerships that link CTE in schools and colleges with business and industry, workforce, economic development and government agencies



NEBRASKA CAREER EDUCATION (NCE) exemplifies the concept of college and career readiness. Building on a foundation of academic and technical skill attainment, K-12 students also need career exploration and preparation, whether they are directly entering the workforce, the military or pursuing post-secondary education.

NCE is not about forcing students into a “track” that limits their possibilities; in fact, just the opposite is true. A well implemented Career Education system expands students' understanding of career possibilities and helps them plan for the appropriate post-secondary education and training to achieve their career goals.

Nebraska's Community Colleges offer relevant Career Technical Education Programs of Study based on the needs of Nebraska's future workforce and economic development efforts.



Who wins with NEBRASKA CAREER EDUCATION?

THE BENEFITS OF NCE are designed to spread from schools, colleges and students across families and communities to bring positive change to the entire state. Here's how everybody wins with NCE:

STUDENTS WIN

By starting with an assessment of each student's goals and abilities, and crafting an education with those personal objectives in mind, NCE creates customized pathways to success that combine rigorous academic instruction with career education relevant to each student's needs. Whether those pathways lead to community college, work-based learning, a four-year degree or on to graduate school, NCE gives students the tools they need to build strong futures.

PARENTS & FAMILIES WIN

NCE involves parents and families in new and effective ways to prepare their children for success in life. By seeking their participation in the design and annual review of their children's personal learning plans, NCE puts parents and families at the table as their children chart their futures. Families can make sure their children get the best education possible, both in terms of academic excellence as well as practical preparation for real life.

EDUCATORS WIN

NCE revitalizes education by connecting schools with the life of the community. Teachers forge closer ties with students as they help them form and execute their personal plans for success. School counselors find increased professional satisfaction as they carry out the essential task of career counseling. Principals and administrators have new opportunities to build community partnerships as schools set up expanded learning in local businesses and seek guidance on local workforce needs.



EMPLOYERS WIN

NCE aims to ensure that business and industry have a highly educated pool of people from which to hire. By focusing students on career options early, NCE allows young people the time to pick and choose the right careers. Career Education introduces students to the real world of work with rigorous and relevant on-the-job experience such as internships, cooperative education and service learning. The result is that graduates entering the workforce are ready to contribute to their work places right away.

COMMUNITIES WIN

NCE builds schools and colleges that are better able to serve the workforce needs of communities throughout Nebraska. By producing graduates with first-rate academic and technical skills and excellent work habits, schools maximize their effectiveness as engines of local economic development.



Understanding the NEBRASKA CAREER EDUCATION MODEL

1 CORE ACADEMICS/ COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

At the center of the NCE Model is the expectation for all students to develop a solid academic core. The next ring identifies specific College and Career Readiness Standards and practices that prepare students for success in post-secondary education as well as entrepreneurship/employment.

2 CAREER FIELDS

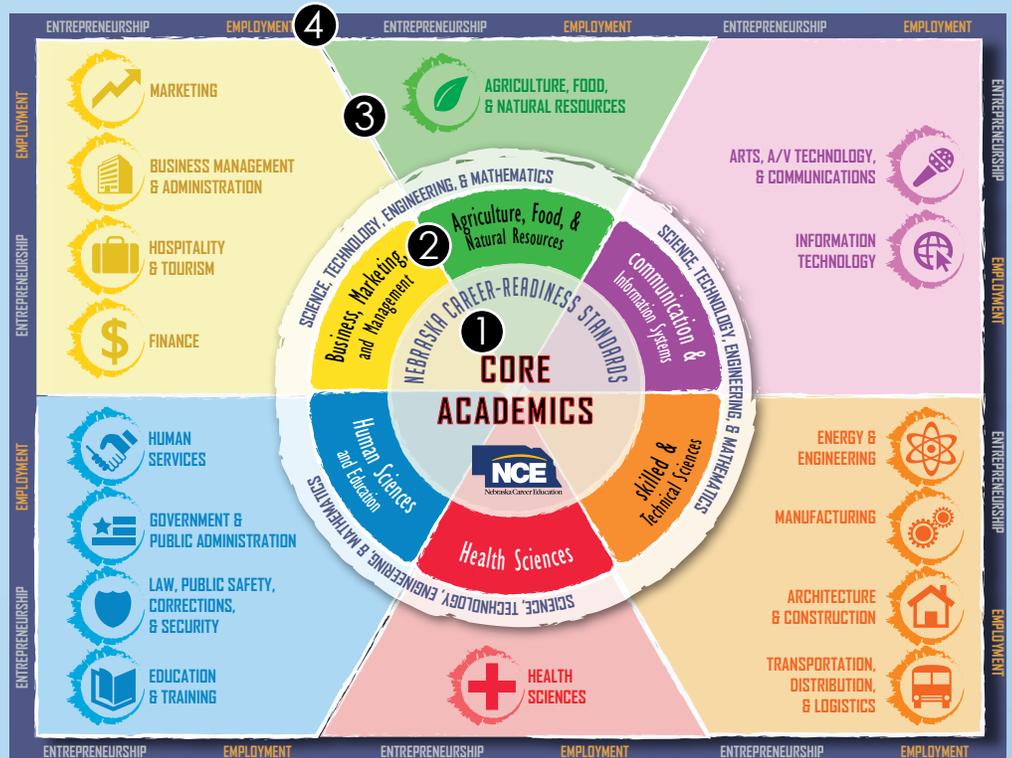
The six career fields represent broad sectors of the job market on which students may choose to focus.

3 CAREER CLUSTERS

Each career field is composed of career clusters. The clusters are more specific segments of the labor market. Each cluster is a grouping of careers that focus on similar subjects or similar skills. A basic understanding and exploration of each of the clusters will provide students with a solid foundation for career decision-making to conceptualize the entire world of work.

4 EMPLOYABILITY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Career Education provides the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills for both employment AND entrepreneurship. The reality for Nebraska and the United States is that entrepreneurship will help ensure our economic growth and vitality. By infusing entrepreneurship competencies, Career Education is helping to create the next generation of America's innovators and entrepreneurs.



THE NEBRASKA CAREER EDUCATION MODEL is a visual map of "career fields" and "career clusters/pathways". The model organizes the 16 National Career Clusters into six broad sectors of entrepreneurship and employment:

- Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
- Business, Marketing and Management
- Communication and Information Systems
- Health Sciences
- Human Sciences and Education
- Skilled and Technical Sciences

These fields break down into more specific Career Clusters, Pathways and Occupational Specialties.

The model provides a way for:

- Students to explore the diversity of career options available to them
- Students to begin to prepare for their career with plans for secondary and post-secondary education
- Schools to organize curriculum into Programs of Study that prepare students for opportunities in Nebraska's economy



FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:
CESTANDARDS.EDUCATION.NE.GOV



reVISION

THE REVISION PROCESS, initiated in 2012, was a direct response to the challenges identified in preparing young people for careers in the 21st Century.

reVISION is a strategic approach for Nebraska schools to analyze their current Career Education system and make adjustments to more effectively prepare students for college AND career opportunities. Bridging the gap between education and local workforce and economic development needs is core to the process.

The outcomes of reVISION are:

- Identifying local and/or regional workforce and economic development priorities
- Analyzing and updating current Career Technical Education Programs of Study and course offerings.
- Evaluating career readiness and infusing career readiness throughout the Career Education system, including school counseling, CTE programs and courses, as well as other components of the local education system.
- Developing 3-5 year action plans that identify the changes that will be made in the Career Education system



A core component of reVISION is a community engagement meeting at which local and area community stakeholders examine current program offerings, review labor market data and economic priority information as well as student career interest data. They then make recommendations on how to improve and enhance the Career Education system offered.

Once the initial reVISION process is completed, the local district is eligible to apply for a reVISION action grant. To date, over \$2 million in action grants have been awarded to local schools.



FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:
WWW.EDUCATION.NE.GOV/NCE/REVISION.HTML

World-Class

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

NEBRASKA has a rich history of quality schools. From the earliest educational offerings, hands-on or vocational education has been a significant part of Nebraska's education landscape. Today, known as Career Technical Education, these programs have evolved into rigorous and relevant course offerings designed to address the workforce and economic development needs of our state. Career Technical Education is the vital component of Nebraska's Career Education System.

NCE has adopted the five principles established as a part of AdvanceCTE's new vision for Career Technical Education. The principles provide a solid foundation for the continued growth of Career Technical Education.



All CTE programs are held to the highest standards of excellence

All learners are empowered to choose a meaningful education and career

All learning is personalized and flexible



All learning is facilitated by knowledgeable experts



All learners work together to put learner success first

SECONDARY CTE PROGRAM OF STUDY SEQUENCE OF COURSES

NEBRASKA CAREER EDUCATION has created State Model Programs of Study to assist students in achieving their education and career goals. A Program of Study is a comprehensive, structured approach for delivering academic and Career Technical Education to prepare students for post-secondary education and career success.

Nebraska's State Model Programs of Study were developed in cooperation with post-secondary education and business/industry. Where possible, dual-credit options were developed in the Program of Study.

Nebraska's State Model CTE Programs of Study Sequence of Courses may be found at:
www.education.ne.gov/nce/ProgramsofStudy.html



FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:
CAREERTECH.ORG



FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:
CESTANDARDS.EDUCATION.NE.GOV

CAREER & TECHNICAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS



NEBRASKA CAREER & TECHNICAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (CTSO) include: DECA, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Educators Rising, FFA, HOSA | Future Health Professionals, and SkillsUSA. CTSOs are an extension of classroom instruction—applying classroom learning to real-world experiences, they are not clubs. CTSOs are connected to middle school, high school and post-secondary instructional programs and are integral to the classroom.



BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

- Opportunities for all students with all ability levels
- Apply academic and technical learning and skills to real life situations
- Awards, competitions and scholarships
- Development of the whole person, from technical skills to leadership skills
- Physical and financial well-being; making decisions in real life application
- Career awareness
- Exposure to local, state, national and global opportunities, develop cultural competence
- Discovery and utilization of individual strengths and talents
- Learn how to be responsible, understand organization functions and how to carry those out to completion

BENEFITS TO SCHOOLS

- Engaged and involved students
- Continual sense of school pride through organization involvement
- Enhanced public relations between school, community, students, parents and families
- Increased family engagement, involved because of children's involvement
- Leadership opportunities for students that transcends to other areas, apply CTSO knowledge to student council, athletic teams and more
- Creates a way to "bridge" classes, all age groups work together for a common purpose

BENEFITS TO TEACHERS

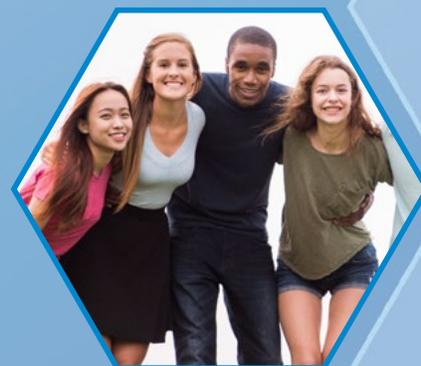
- Professional development opportunities for growth
- Build relationships with students that enhance classroom and out-of-class experiences
- Connects real-life situations into the classrooms
- Added support and validation of what is taught in the classroom

BENEFITS TO COMMUNITY

- Student involvement through community development and service projects
- Career awareness in community, students aware of local careers which may encourage them to return to local area for future employment or entrepreneurship
- Engage local businesses in school events and activities
- Foster a level of respect for what community members, business leaders and employers offer to the community

BENEFITS TO BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

- Ensures that local education and training programs meet business and industry needs
- Prepares students for technical, skilled and service careers
- Teaches students to become world-class employees and responsible American citizens



FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:
WWW.EDUCATION.NE.GOV/NCE/CSOS.HTML

Effective CAREER READINESS



THE MISSION OF CAREER GUIDANCE IS CLEAR – to increase student achievement and prepare students for meaningful careers and life-long success. Effective career guidance encompasses the following areas:

WORLD OF WORK INFORMATION

- Nebraska Career Education Model illustrates the multitude of career options
- Nebraska Career Connections website provides career and college information
- H3 website is updated weekly with current job information
- Career Readiness modules available 24-7 to help students and job-seekers
- Nebraska Career Tours

STRENGTHS-BASED GOAL SETTING AND THE RIGHT EDUCATION FOR THE RIGHT CAREER

- ENGAGE! curriculum for middle school and high school
- Habitudes curriculum available to teach Career Readiness
- Assessments and results interpretation in academic, career and technical skills
- Nebraska Career Readiness Standards
- Workplace experiences
- Expanded learning opportunities

PERSONAL LEARNING PLANS

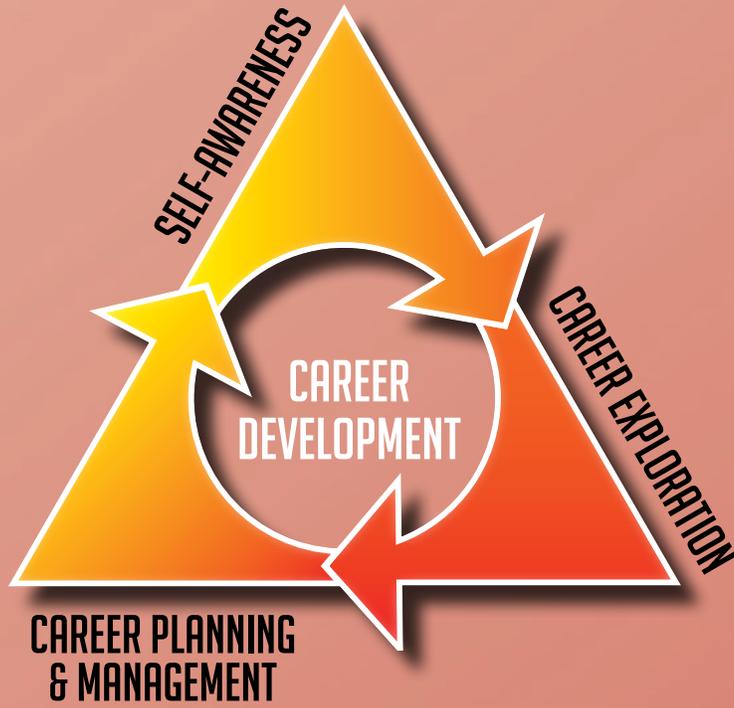
- Academic and CTE coursework
- Workplace and expanded learning opportunities (secondary and post-secondary)
- Application to post-secondary education and training options: military, diplomas, certificates
- Financial decisions and financial aid for college

SUPPORT NETWORKS AND CAREER ROLE MODELS

- Parents and families
- Career and Technical Student Organizations
- Career professionals
- Business and industry professional organizations
- Industry councils
- Chambers of Commerce
- NEWorks, Department of Labor
- Nebraska Career Connections



FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:
WWW.NEBRASKACAREERCONNECTIONS.ORG



Steps to Success

THE NCE SYSTEM spans all years of schooling. It begins as early as kindergarten with discussions aimed at building career awareness. It continues in middle school as students explore career options. In high school, young adults prepare for post-secondary education or employment. The system carries on through college and into careers.

SELF-AWARENESS:

- Identify interests, skills, abilities & talents
- Inventory NE Career Readiness Skills
- Understand the relationship of education to work

CAREER EXPLORATION:

- Explore all career clusters
- Use occupation & labor market information
- Investigate all college options and financial aid
- Identify careers with "best fit" between self-awareness and labor market

CAREER PLANNING & MANAGEMENT:

- Determine career goals
- Create Personal Learning Plan & Portfolio to achieve goals
- Select "best fit" college option for career preparation and self-awareness
- Apply to college and financial aid
- Demonstrate job-seeking skills

Workplace Experiences:

Explore workplaces to find the "best fit" with self-awareness results

Workplace Experiences:

Develop NE Career Readiness Skills

Workplace Experiences:

Demonstrate NE Career Readiness Skills



FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:
WWW.EDUCATION.NE.GOV/NCE/TOOLKIT.HTML

Education, Business & Industry PARTNERSHIPS



NEBRASKA CAREER EDUCATION is a part of Nebraska's educational and workforce and economic development systems. NCE is a connector in the talent pipeline; helping students understand the opportunities in Nebraska's workforce and preparing them for their chosen career.

EXAMPLES OF NCE'S CONNECTION TO BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY INCLUDE:

- Advisory Councils for local CTE programs
- Nebraska Economic Development Industry Councils
- CTSO and Nebraska Career Education and Innovation Foundation board members
- Speakers, workplace experience providers, career mentors
- Development of industry-aligned curriculum
- Partnerships with professional development efforts
- Partnerships with Career Readiness Skills development efforts

A strong partnership exists between Nebraska Career Education and the Nebraska Department of Labor and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. Together, these three agencies work to create a talent pipeline that begins in elementary school and culminates with a successful career in Nebraska. By utilizing resources together, the agencies have developed the H3 website to provide up-to-date career information for Nebraska teachers.

H3 WEBSITE

- Real-time information on Nebraska's "Hot Jobs" – high skill, high wage, high demand occupations
- Workforce projections by economic industries and career clusters
- Great resource for educators, economic developers, students, parents, community leaders and career seekers

CAREER READINESS MODULES

- Designed for employers, career seekers, parents, educators, students, and professionals.
- Focuses on knowledge and skills important for success in both classroom and workplace settings.
- Moodle-based modules produced by NET Interactive and Educational Media

<http://nelearn.nebraska.gov>



CAREER ACADEMIES

Bringing the education and business world together, career academies offer a unique delivery of career education through focused curriculum and experiences. Normally offered for junior or senior high school students, career academies provide more depth of instruction than can be provided during a normal high school experience. Career academies integrate core academic courses with career education courses that are organized around a career theme. In addition, career academies provide students with opportunities for dual-credit courses that support a seamless transition to a post-secondary institution.

www.education.ne.gov/NCE



FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:
H3.NE.GOV/H3

Workplace EXPERIENCES



WHAT IS WORK-BASED LEARNING?

An instructional strategy that prepares students for success in careers through direct involvement with business/industry and community professionals.

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS FROM WORK-BASED LEARNING

- Awareness of career options and skills required
- Development of technical knowledge and skills
- Application of academic and technical knowledge and skills
- Demonstration of career readiness skills

RETHINKING WORK-BASED LEARNING

- Expanding and improving opportunities for work-based learning
 - Expanding job shadowing, internships, connections to business
 - Developing virtual tours of Nebraska businesses
 - Providing teacher and counselor externships
- Engaging Nebraska businesses and communities

WORKPLACE EXPERIENCES

THE CONNECTION NCE MAKES with life as it is lived in the world of work is what makes it different and exciting. Workplace experience helps students consider their real-life future by giving them a taste of it right now. NCE treats these expanded activities not as extracurricular sidelines to the business of schooling but as central elements of Career Education. The most common types of workplace experience in Nebraska include:

- **Cooperative Education** – an arrangement that coordinates part-time student work with the instruction they receive in the classroom.
- **Apprenticeships** – on-the-job training coordinated with courses of academic study leading to certified mastery of particular skills.
- **Internships** – part-time, on-the-job learning experiences that reinforce classroom instruction.
- **Career Mentoring** – establishes long-term relationships between students and mentors from business to develop Career Readiness Skills, understanding of career options and workplace knowledge.
- **Job Shadowing** – following experienced workers to gain a better understanding of career options and work expectations.

WORKPLACE EXPERIENCE CONTINUUM STRATEGIES

WORK AWARENESS

- Career Education instruction
- Career-based service learning
- Career fairs
- Career research projects
- Career videos
- Guest speakers
- Lunch & learn sessions

WORK EXPLORATION

- Business tours/field trips
- Job shadow experiences
- Mentorship experiences
- Simulations
- Summer camp/summer experiences

WORK-BASED LEARNING

- Apprenticeships
- Cooperative education
- Education and training experiences
- Entrepreneurship
- Health science clinicals
- Internships
- Pre-apprenticeships
- Rule 47 Career Academy internships
- School-based enterprises
- Supervised Agricultural Experiences



Career Readiness Skills Identification



Career Readiness Skills Development



Career Readiness Skills Demonstration

← CAREER & TECHNICAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS →



FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:
WWW.NECAREERTOURS.COM

ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION

Career Education in Nebraska is about more than just preparing students to enter the workforce. Preparing students with the knowledge and skills to embark on entrepreneurship as a career choice is also an important focus of the Nebraska Career Education system.

WHY ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION?

Creating good jobs hinges on the success of entrepreneurs. More than half of the jobs in the U.S. are created by small businesses.

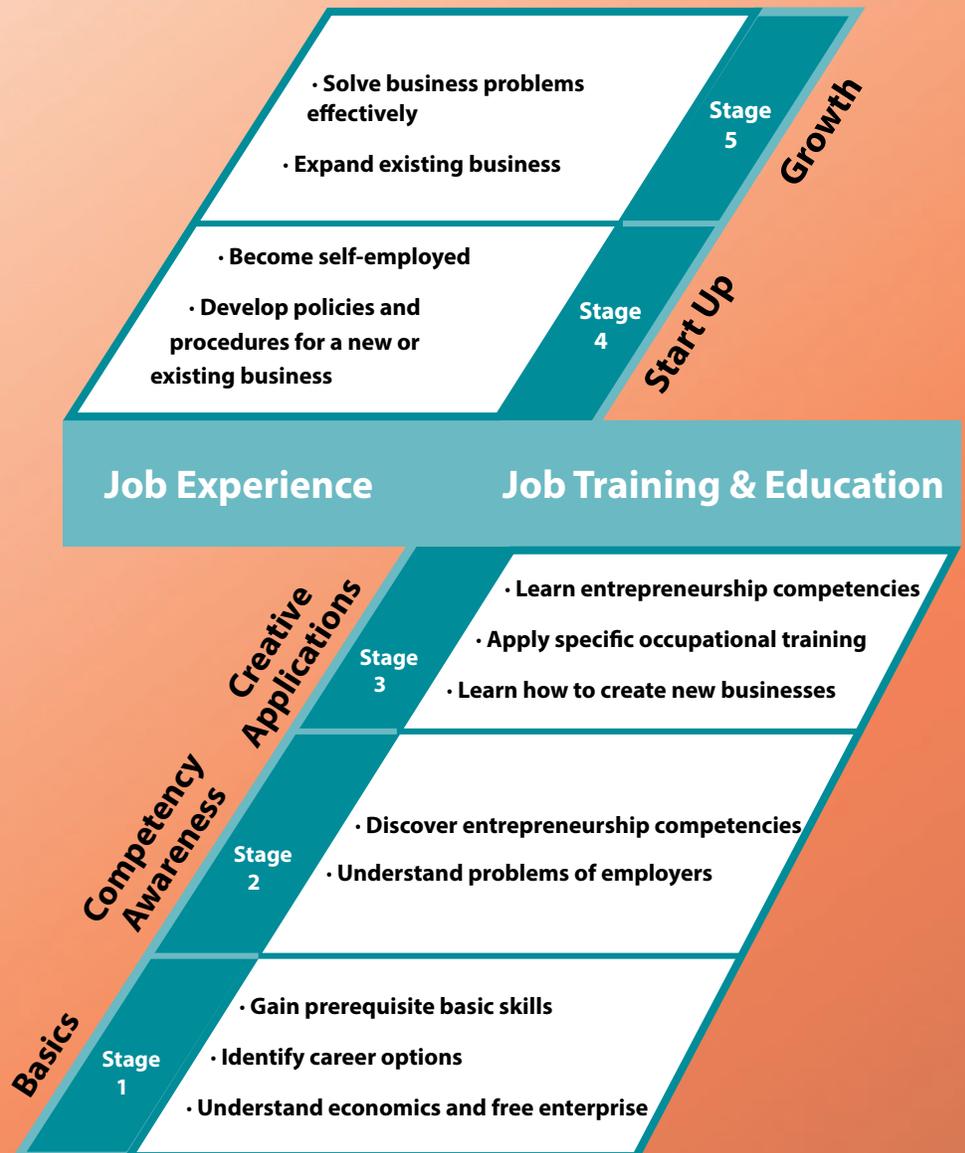
Besides creating more businesses and more competitive Nebraska and American economies, additional benefits of entrepreneurship education include increased occupational aspirations, increased interest in attending college, and enhanced leadership behavior.

Entrepreneurship education focuses on tapping into students' innate creativity, enhancing the ability to think critically, problem-solve and innovate. The ultimate outcome is to better prepare young people to take charge of their own career success.

Entrepreneurial skills and innovative thinking are highly prized by employers.

Entrepreneurship education in Nebraska includes infusion of entrepreneurship concepts into existing courses, exploration courses and stand-alone skill enhancement courses. It is based on the premise that entrepreneurship is a lifelong opportunity that builds on education and work experiences.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP LIFELONG LEARNING MODEL



Developed by The Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education



FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:
WWW.EDUCATION.NE.GOV/ENTREPED/MODEL.HTML



NEBRASKA STANDARDS FOR

career readiness

The standards were derived from extensive input from Nebraska business and industry representatives expressing the most critical skills needed of employee and/or entrepreneurial success. These standards and related practices should be used over and over again with increasing complexity and relevance by students as they

progress through their education pathways. The standards themselves do not dictate curriculum pedagogy or delivery of content. Schools and colleges may handle the teaching and assessing of these standards in many different ways.

www.education.ne.gov/nce/Standards.html

Applies Appropriate
ACADEMIC & TECHNICAL SKILLS

"A CAREER READY PERSON capitalizes on personal strengths, talents, education and experiences to bring value to the workplace and the community through his/her performance, skill, diligence, ethics and responsible behavior."

COMMUNICATES
Effectively & Appropriately

Contributes to
EMPLOYER & COMMUNITY SUCCESS

MAKES SENSE OF PROBLEMS
& Perseveres In Solving Them

Uses
CRITICAL THINKING

Demonstrates
INNOVATION & CREATIVITY

Models Ethical
LEADERSHIP & EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT

WORKS PRODUCTIVELY IN TEAMS
& Demonstrates Cultural Competency

Utilizes
TECHNOLOGY

Manages
PERSONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Attends to
PERSONAL & FINANCIAL WELL-BEING

The Nebraska Standards for Career Ready Practice were unanimously adopted by the Nebraska State Board of Education on December 8, 2011 and approved by the Nebraska Workforce Investment Board on June 28, 2013.



Nebraska Career Education





FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:
WWW.EDUCATION.NE.GOV/NCE





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This project was funded through the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, administered through the Nebraska Department of Education. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the United States Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.