

West Virginia Career Pathways

The Career Pathways listed in this publication provide West Virginia high school career technical students and adults the opportunity to prepare for the workplace and to begin accumulating credits toward an Associate Degree or a postsecondary certificate in their field of study. Students electing this pathway have the opportunity to graduate from high school with a significant number of college credits toward an Associate Degree. Adults who elect to enter these programs at the career tech center may also attain college credit. These Career Pathways offer the participant outstanding opportunities in a cost-saving, time shortened, college-going model.

The West Virginia Career Pathways feature a unique initiative called EDGE.

What is EDGE?

EDGE stands for *Earn a Degree - Graduate Early*. It gives adults and high school students the opportunity to receive (without cost) community college credit for specific high school courses.

How will that help me?

Adults and high school students have the opportunity to earn an Associate Degree with substantial savings. By following the Career Pathways, a student will save anywhere from \$300 to \$3,000 dollars in college tuition and in some instances could earn an Associate Degree within one year or along with a high school diploma.

Who can participate?

Anyone, adult or high school student, can participate.

Why would I want to go to a community and technical college if I have earned a career certification (auto mechanics, welding, building construction, machine tool technology, etc.) in a career technical program and can enter the workforce?

By applying the EDGE credits available in these career technical programs to an AAS degree in Technical Studies, students have the ability to expand their career opportunities by gaining leadership, managerial and entrepreneurial skills. This benefits not only the student, but the economic future of West Virginia.

How to use and understand the Career Pathways publication

The publication features 185 high school Career Pathways and 34 adult Career Pathways that are grouped by career clusters. Clusters are large groupings of occupations that are similar in core knowledge. Each cluster has been assigned a color that is located on the top, right hand side of each page and contains Career Pathways indicative of the cluster area. Example: All Career Pathways focused in the health areas will be located in the health cluster section of the publication and can be identified by a blue bar on the side of the page. The following is a list of the clusters and color codes:

- Agriculture, Science and Natural Resources: Orange
- Arts and Humanities: Green
- Business and Management: Red
- Engineering and Technology: Purple
- Health Science: Blue
- Human Services: Yellow

Community and Technical Colleges offering a Career Pathway for students still in high school or adults are represented by a “color” dot that is located in the center of the cluster bar.

EDGE: the career technical courses that will count for college credit if student successfully masters the content of the class are highlighted in orange in the respective Career Pathways. Dual Credit college opportunities within the pathways are highlighted in purple.