
CAREER TRANSITIONS

B. STRAND RATIONALE AND PHILOSOPHY

Career Transitions, a strand in Career and Technology Studies, focuses on helping students recognize the relevance of schooling and to make a smooth transition from secondary school to the world of work or to further training and/or education. Key themes include Career Readiness, Leadership, Career Extensions, Career Credentials, Job Safety Skills, Client Service and Career Directions.

Career Transitions has the potential to create meaningful educational experiences for today's high school students. It supports integration across curricular areas and partnerships in which students, schools, businesses and the community can work together toward common goals.

Each Career Transitions course promotes the development of independent thinking and decision-making skills. As well, the courses encourage the abilities and flexibility required to adapt to new situations, including the pursuit of career advancement opportunities and changes in career paths. Career Transitions also helps students recognize the relevance, transferability and applicability of competencies they have developed in other courses and through hobbies, interests or work.

Students participating in Career Transitions are encouraged to set realistic career goals and to increase their motivation to succeed in courses

that are related to these goals. Career Transitions helps students determine what employers and others expect of prospective employees, and encourages students to actively work to meet their own and others' expectations. Contact with role models in the work setting can provide accurate information about the training and pretraining requirements of occupations and the availability and use of up-to-date technology.

Within the philosophy of Career and Technology Studies, *students* in Career Transitions *will*:

- analyze the job market and societal trends, and relate them to personal career plans
- explore selected occupations in depth
- demonstrate successful job search, job acquisition and maintenance skills
- understand the concept of job termination
- develop acceptable work habits and positive attitudes toward work
- identify and discuss the expectations and the rights and responsibilities of employers and employees
- recognize and develop a positive attitude toward safety and safe workplace practices

- identify and understand legislation and regulations that govern employers and employees
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- understand the relationships among the individual worker, the employer, organized labour and the government
- recognize and develop leadership and client service skills
- apply leadership and client service theory and skills in a variety of contexts
- explore the relationship between education, training and career advancement
- develop and demonstrate project management skills
- make a smooth transition between schooling and the world of work
- attain externally recognized credentials, where available
- develop a career portfolio, prepare learning/ career plans, including transition scenarios, and establish and implement action plans for strengthening their essential competencies (employability skills) and learning capacity.

STRAND ORGANIZATION

THEMES

The courses within this strand are identified in the following themes:

- Career Readiness
- Leadership
- Career Extensions
- Career Credentials
- Job Safety Skills
- Client Service
- Career Directions.

The courses within each theme provide students with the flexibility to refine and enhance the competencies they are developing in one or more of the career-specific strands.

Career Readiness

Courses within the Career Readiness theme focus on career planning and career development.

Career planning helps students identify and understand their values, interests, skills and aspirations. Researching career paths and occupations allows students to make informed choices as a part of their career-planning process. Job search and acquisition skills are developed and students discover that understanding employer expectations, writing targeted résumés and developing interview skills have lifelong value. In addition, students recognize and develop skills that allow them to advance within selected career paths.

Career development helps students to develop the knowledge, skills and positive attitudes that will help to enhance their marketability in the community and the workplace.

Leadership

The Leadership theme introduces students to the principles and practices of leadership. Students may select courses that focus on group and organizational leadership and/or leadership competencies relating to student governance and school–community governance.

Career Extensions

Within the Career Extensions theme are project courses that students may use to develop project design and project management skills, and to expand and enhance learning of components of other CTS strands.

Career Credentials

The five practicum courses that comprise the Career Credentials theme provide students with the opportunity to obtain Career Transitions strand credits while working toward attaining an externally developed and recognized credential relating to a CTS strand. Credentials students can attain and their sponsoring organization are listed in Section H.

These practicum courses cannot be used to obtain an apprenticeship-related credential by students enrolled in Registered Apprenticeship Program courses.

Job Safety Skills

Courses within the Job Safety Skills theme provide students with the opportunity to develop a better understanding of safety and competencies relating to personal safety management, workplace safety practices and safety management systems.

Students successfully completing courses within the Job Safety Skills theme may attain a credential recognized by the Ministry of Human Resources and Employment.

Client Service

The three Client Service courses enable students to develop knowledge, skills and an appreciation of the value and importance of client service in any occupational or volunteer sector.

Career Directions

In the revised Career and Life Management (CALM) Program of Studies (2002), CTR1310: Career Directions—Foundations has been incorporated as approved by the Minister. This strengthens the Career component of the CALM course.

CTS courses in Career Directions are available at the intermediate and the advanced levels either as stand-alone 1-credit courses or as 1-credit options for extending CALM. Senior high school students update their learning/career plans, including transition scenarios, and to establish and implement action plans for strengthening their essential competencies (employability skills) and learning capacity.