



# Career and Technical Education 2017 Student Survey Results

## Students' Thoughts About the Advanced Courses They Took in the Career Pathway

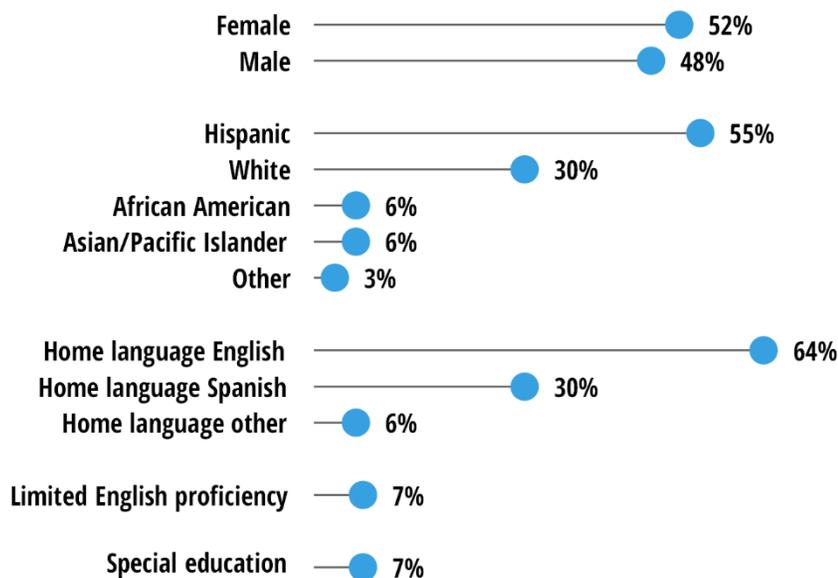
### Introduction

This report presents findings related to each question on the student survey of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Spring 2017. The Austin Independent School District's (AISD) CTE Student Survey was designed to gather students' feedback about their experiences taking the advanced CTE courses offered in their specific career pathway. The survey was sent to 4,392 participants; 2,551 students responded to the survey, representing a 58% response rate.

The statistical analysis shows that we can be 95% certain the population percentage is within 1.3 percentage points on either side of the sample percentage. In other words, responses provided by the sampling of 2,551 students are representative of the population of 4,392 students.

### Respondent Characteristics

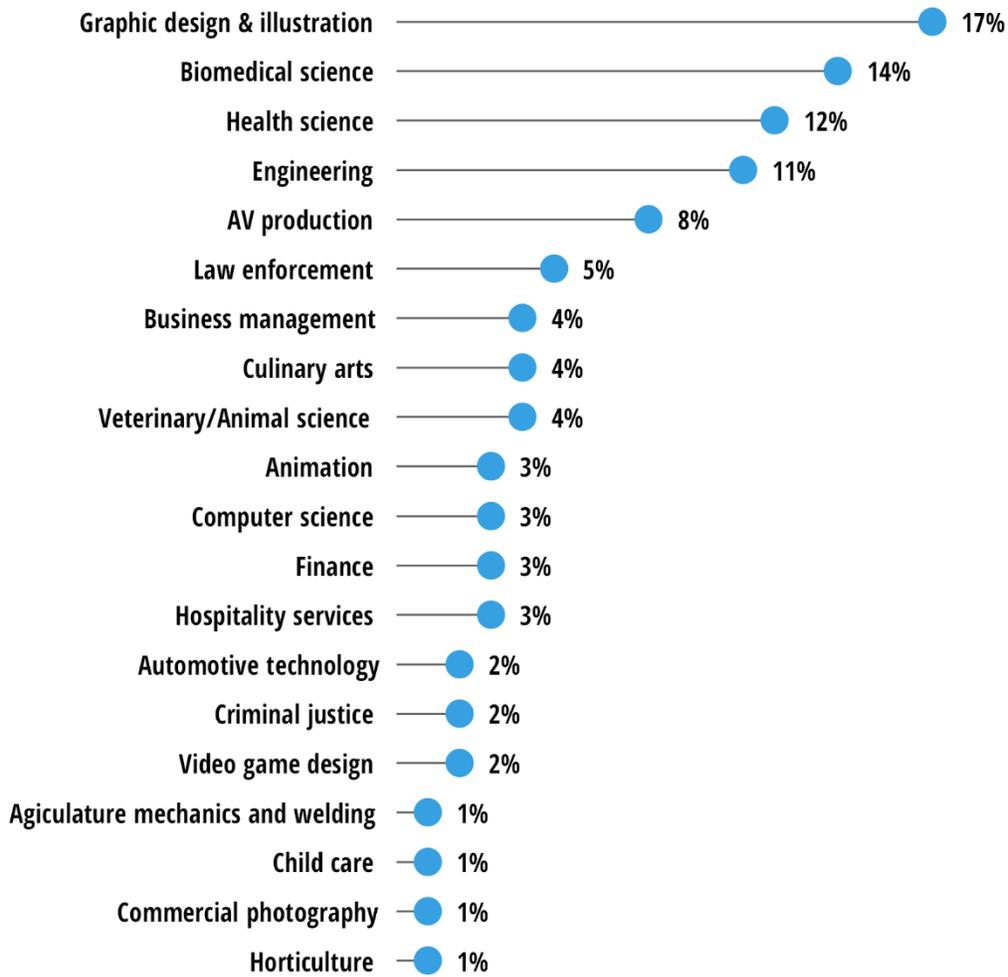
Figure 1.  
More than half of respondents were female, Hispanic, and English speakers.



Source. 2016–2017 Career and Technical Education Student Survey

Figure 2.

Fifty-four percent of respondents studied four career pathways, including graphic design and illustration, biomedical science, health science, and engineering.

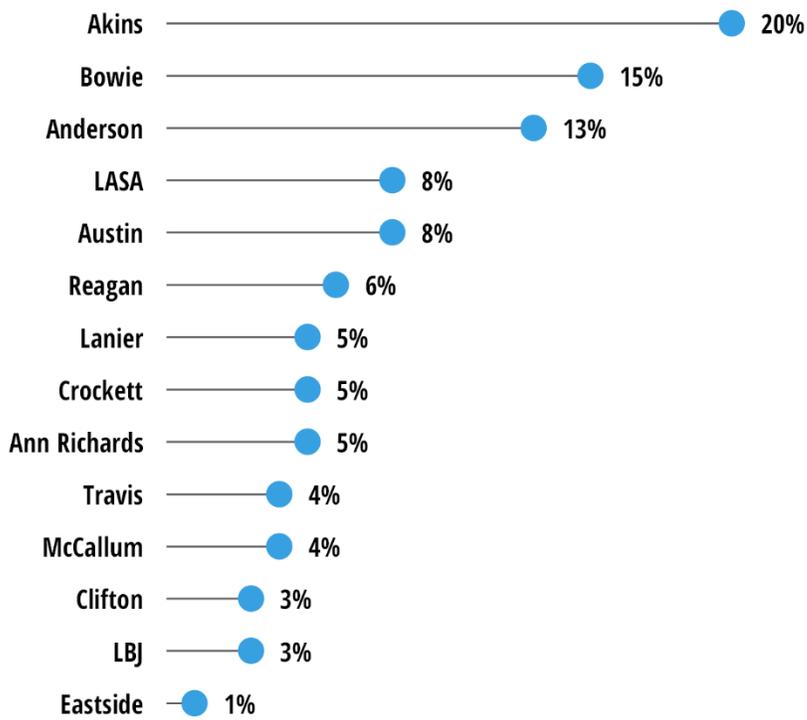


Source. 2016–2017 Career and Technical Education Student Survey

Note. Fewer than 1% of respondents studied pathways such as counseling/mental health, education, and firefighter; therefore, these pathways are not listed in the figure.

Figure 3.

Respondents from Akins, Bowie, and Anderson constituted approximately 50% of respondents.



Source. 2016–2017 Career and Technical Education Student Survey

Note. The percentage of respondents varied from campus to campus, and this percentage was representative of students participating in the advanced CTE course(s) in the career pathway at each campus.

### CTE Pathway Experiences

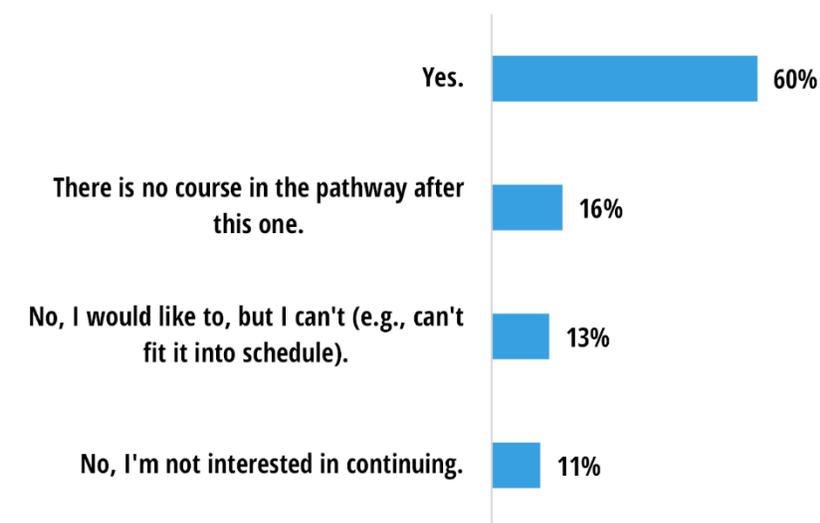
#### Why did you decide to continue in this career pathway, beyond the introductory course?

When asked why they decided to continue in this career pathway beyond the introductory course, respondents' comments were focused on the following three major themes: (a) interesting/fun/enjoyable nature of the pathway, (b) interest in the field, and (c) plan to pursue career/studies in this field.

#### Do you plan to take the next course in the pathway after this one (if there is one)?

Figure 4.

**The majority (60%) of respondents indicated interest in continuing the next course in the pathway.**



Source. 2016–2017 Career and Technical Education Student Survey

#### What are some benefits or positive things you've experienced by taking courses in this career pathway?

The two most frequently cited benefits of the pathway by respondents were: (a) knowledge and skills gained from the hands-on experience in the career pathway and (b) skills developed in communication, collaboration, leadership, critical thinking, time management, and problem solving.

AISD's CTE programs are aligned with Texas CTE's 16 career clusters. Career clusters group associated courses in order to guide students along a career pathway that will prepare them for secondary and postsecondary opportunities, skilled employment, and active citizenship.

Career pathway represent a recommended sequence of courses based on a student's interests, goals, and aptitudes. Combined with a 4-year plan of course work, students can use the pathway to create a framework for success.

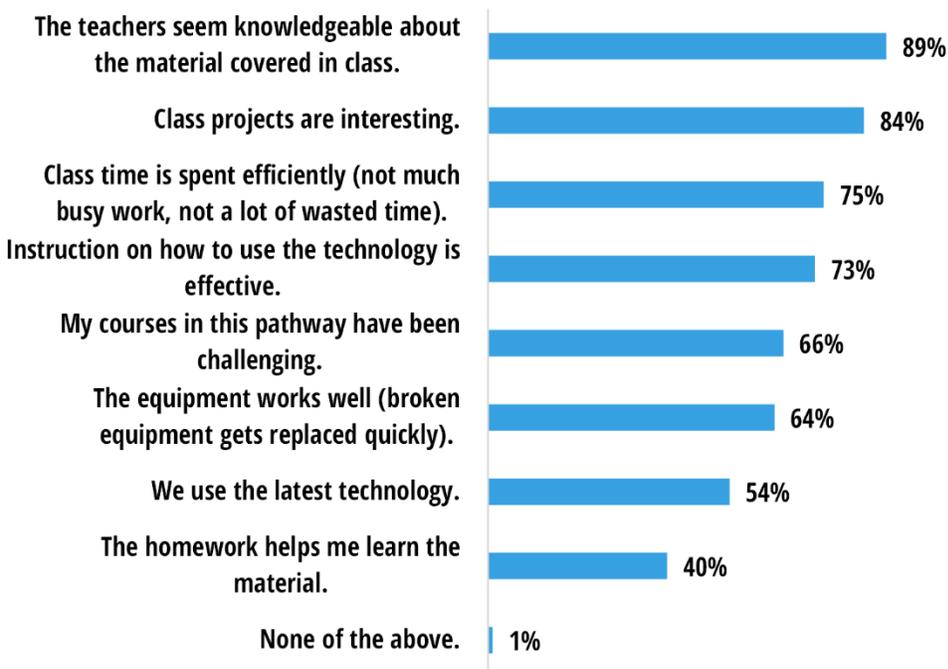
**If you could change anything to improve this career pathway, what would you change? Please explain your answer.**

When asked to provide comments about what they would like to change to improve the career pathway, 33% of respondents indicated no changes needed to be made. Changes suggested by other respondents were varied. They most frequently requested more in-depth learning, more time devoted to focused learning, more structured engaging curriculum, more hands-on activities, more opportunities for internships, and better facilities.

**Please check all the things that have been true so far about the courses you've taken in your career pathway.**

Figure 5.

**Respondents highly rated the instruction received from the teachers, thought class projects were interesting, and valued the efficiency nature of the class time.**



Source. 2016–2017 Career and Technical Education Student Survey

## Which of these opportunities is offered in your career pathway?

Figure 6.

Respondents most frequently cited earning college credit, taking field trips, and completing internships as opportunities they obtained from the pathway.

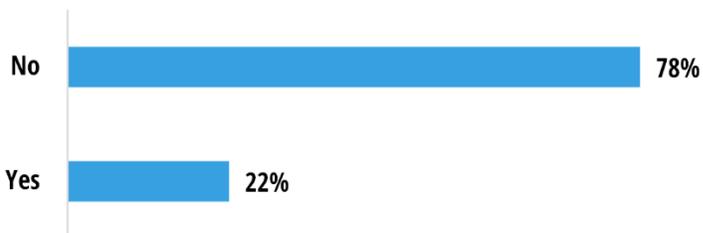


Source. 2016–2017 Career and Technical Education Student Survey

## Is there anything you expected to learn or experience in this career pathway that has not been offered?

Figure 7.

The majority (78%) of respondents indicated what the pathway offered met their expectation of learning.



Source. 2016–2017 Career and Technical Education Student Survey

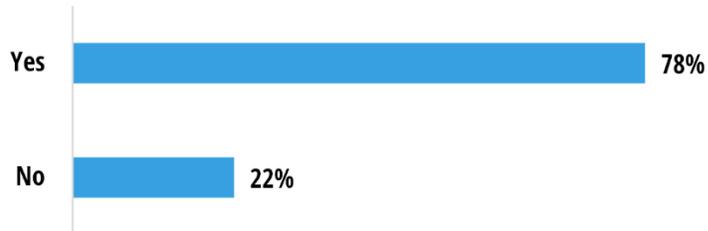
## What did you expect to learn or experience that has not been offered?

When asked to provide comments about what they expected to learn that has not been offered, the most frequently cited theme by the respondents was “I don’t know.”

## Have you had an opportunity to explore or learn about the types of jobs available in this career pathway?

Figure 8.

The majority (78%) of respondents indicated they had an opportunity to learn about jobs available in the pathway.

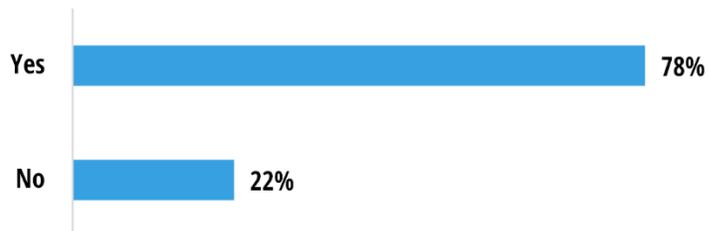


Source. 2016–2017 Career and Technical Education Student Survey

## Are you aware of 4-year universities, 2-year community colleges, or technical schools that specialize in this career pathway?

Figure 9.

The majority (78%) of respondents indicated they were aware of postsecondary institution specializing in this pathway.



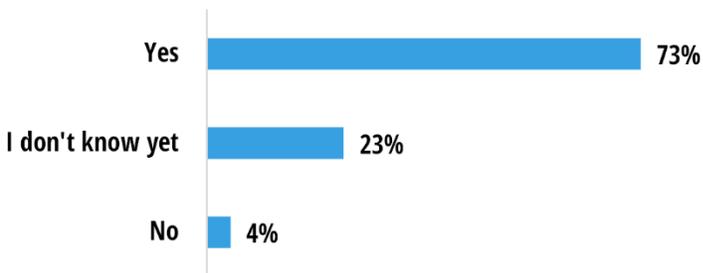
Source. 2016–2017 Career and Technical Education Student Survey

## Future Plans

Do you plan to continue your education after high school by enrolling in a postsecondary institution (university, community college, or technical school) within a year after you graduate?

Figure 10.

The majority (73%) of respondents planned to enroll in a postsecondary institution within a year after graduation from high school.

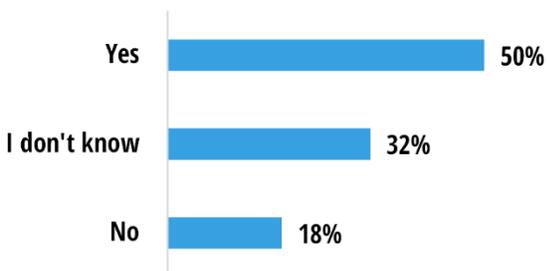


Source. 2016–2017 Career and Technical Education Student Survey

When you attend a postsecondary institution, do you plan to pursue studies in this career pathway?

Figure 11.

Half of respondents planned to pursue studies in this pathway in a postsecondary institution.



Source. 2016–2017 Career and Technical Education Student Survey

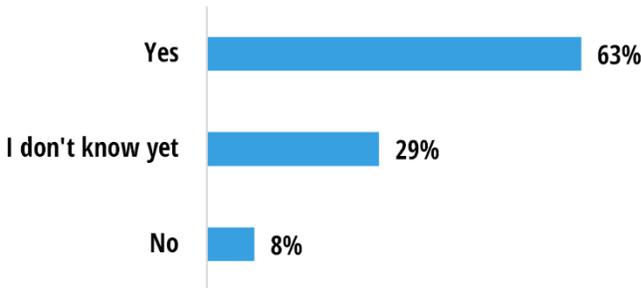
Why don't you plan to pursue studies in this career pathway?

Most respondents who were not planning to pursue studies in their pathway reported “I don't know” as the reason.

## Do you plan to get a job within a year after you graduate from high school?

Figure 12.

**Most respondents planned to get a job within a year after graduation from high school.**

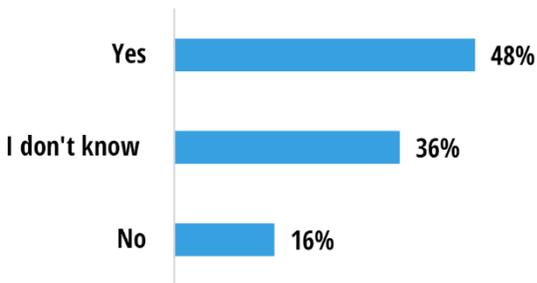


*Source.* 2016–2017 Career and Technical Education Student Survey

## Do you plan to seek a job related to this career pathway?

Figure 13.

**Approximately half (48%) of respondents planned to seek a job related to their career pathway.**



*Source.* 2016–2017 Career and Technical Education Student Survey

## Why will you not seek a job related to this career pathway?

Most respondents who were not planning to seek a job related to their career pathway reported “I don’t know” as the reason.

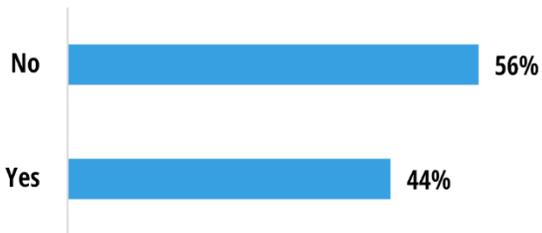
## What type of assistance would you like to receive from teachers or counselors to help you accomplish your college goals, your career goals, or other life plans after graduation?

When asked to list types of assistance students would like to receive from teachers/counselors to help accomplish their goals after graduation, the following three themes emerged: (a) academic guidance to improve grades and grade point average (GPA) and to apply/choose a college, (b) advice about life after high school, and (c) information about connections with professionals in the field and job opportunities.

## Do you plan to or have you already earned an industry certification?

Figure 14.

Fewer than half (44%) of respondents planned to or had already earned an industry certification.

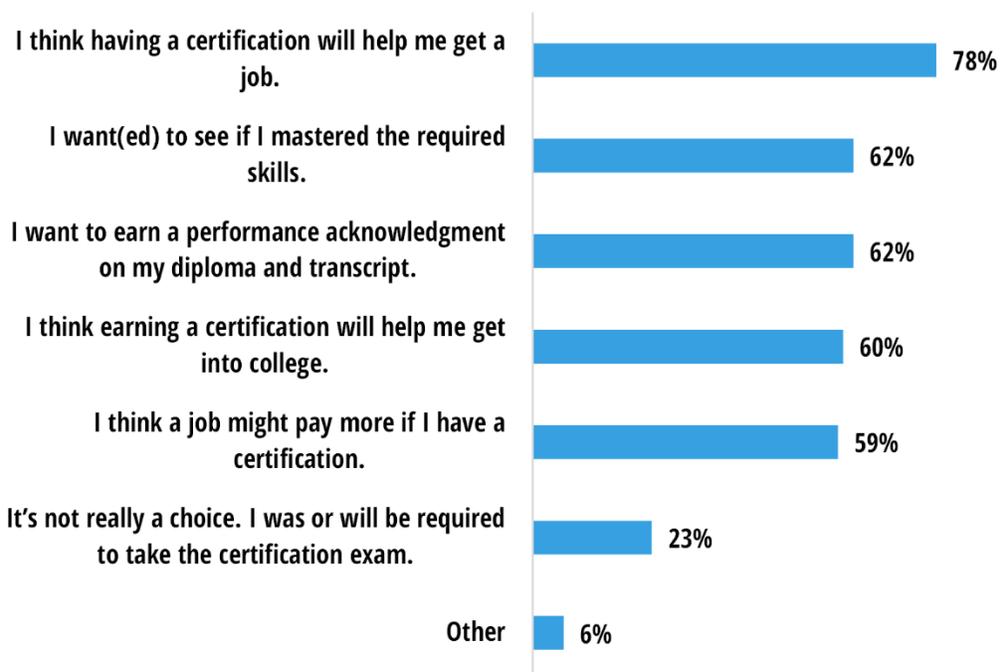


Source. 2016–2017 Career and Technical Education Student Survey

## Why did/do you want to earn an industry certification?

Figure 15.

Most respondents (78%) thought an industry certification would help them get a job.



Source. 2016–2017 Career and Technical Education Student Survey

## Conclusion

Students who participated in the survey highly rated the courses they had taken in their career pathway. They valued the opportunities to gain hands-on experiences that prepared them for their life, college, and career. Students' immersion into what is actually being done in the field provided them with inspiration for what they would pursue after graduating from high school. Most students planned to pursue a job or postsecondary education after high school. Approximately half indicated they wanted to pursue a job or postsecondary education related to their career pathway.

It is the hope of the AISD CTE program that middle and high school students master the 21<sup>st</sup>-century academic and technical skills needed for entry into the global workforce and/or postsecondary education. Findings from the CTE Student Survey reflected the program's role in not only awakening students' aspirations for job and postsecondary education related to their career pathway, but also enhancing their knowledge and skills required in the workforce and postsecondary education.

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