

Next Level Programs of Study

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the Next Level Courses not included in the 2021-22 Course Titles and Description published on the DOE website?

- The NL courses were pulled out of the 2021-22 CTD to make it easier for schools to review the new courses and because schools have the option to opt-in to the Next Level Programs of Study during the 2021-2022 school. The NL Course Titles and Description are available to review on the [GWC/Office of CTE webpage](#). The NL courses are available for schools to use and the class of 2025 are required to use the Perkins V NLPS pathways. The updated Perkins V Pathways can be reviewed on the [GWC/Office of CTE webpage](#).

Will the Next Level Programs of Study Perkins V pathways only be affecting the current 8th graders and younger?

- Correct. The upper grades will still have the other pathways available to complete graduation requirements. The Class of 2025 must use Perkins V pathways with NLPS courses. The Class of 2025 must follow the course requirements outlined in the NL course descriptions to be eligible for CTE funding.
 - These students can also enroll in the Principles course and a Concentrator A/B concurrently and still receive funding.
- It is highly recommended to start the class of 2025 on the Next Level Programs of Study and enroll them in the Principles of Ag course.
 - If you can't get all of your 2025 cohort enrolled in the Principles of Ag course starting next school year, then you will not be penalized.
 - Schools will have a grace period for a couple years until the required prerequisite of Principles of Ag can be enforced. Since we are still using current courses in our pathways, the required prerequisite of Principles of Ag can't be enforced until the other Perkins IV and V pathways are phased out.
 - If the 2025 cohort does not start in the Principles of Ag course, then they will have to go back and take it later in order to be a CTE Concentrator.

Can a current high school student use the Next Level Program of Study to complete graduation requirements instead of Perkins V?

- Correct. All current high school students can opt-in to the Next Level Programs of Study to complete graduation requirements

What happened to Natural Resources?

- Natural resources will continue to be a course moving forward. It was a pathway that was not revised in this first round of Next Level Programs of Study. In total this round had 56 of 75 pathways revised. It will be on the next round of revisions and items that will be considered while revising include

- Is the current course sequencing the best options for students?
- Is there a need for a new course to be created to complete the pathway?
- Is there a certification/credential that the pathway can be aligned?
- Are there additional dual credits that can be added to the pathway?

Which courses are required for a student to earn CTE Concentrator Status?

- The Principles, Concentrator A, and Concentrator B courses are required to earn concentrator status. Students can enroll in courses concurrently.

Is the Capstone course required for graduation requirements?

- No, but it is highly encouraged to complete at least two credits of a capstone experience. There are often cases where the first two credits of the Pathway Capstone course will allow a student to complete a Certificate. When the Next Level Programs of Study are fully implemented, we are planning multiple capstone options for students including - the Pathway Capstone course, Work-Based Learning Capstone, an Entrepreneurship Capstone, and a Computer Science/Information Technology Capstone. A student may also choose to complete the concentrator sequence for a second pathway in place of the Capstone Course. An example of this would be a student combining the Fire and Rescue pathway with the EMT pathway.

What is the projected timeline of the design, build, and roll-out of Next Level Programs of Study?

- **September – October:** We are currently working to finalize the course sequences for all 70+ programs of study and to add the new courses to the 2021-2022 Course Titles and Descriptions. This process includes sharing secondary review docs with selected instructors and reviewers for postsecondary aligned pathways or pathways that will have a significant number of new courses.
- **November – December:** The Office of CTE is creating a Career Guide that students, parents, and school counselors may use as a resource to learn more about what CTE has to offer, Next Level Programs of Study, and information on available careers by careers cluster. There will be an online version of the guide available by the beginning of November. Throughout November and December, the Office of CTE will be offering regional implementation workshops. These workshops will be geared towards CTE Directors, School Principals and School Counselors.
- **January – February 2021:** The Office of CTE will be facilitating convenings in January and February of 2021 with secondary instructors to develop the secondary course standards for all new programs of study courses.
- **Spring 2021:** The Office of CTE will continue to provide technical assistance and support for CTE instructors and school counselors that are implementing the Next Level Programs of Study courses.
- **Fall 2021:** The first three courses for each Next Level Program of Study will be available to schools beginning in the fall of the 2021-2022 school year. We are working on a transition plan that will be available before the end of September that will allow schools to offer current CTE courses or Next Level Programs of Study Courses to meet the requirements Perkins IV or Perkins V pathways.

What is the Principles of Ag class?

- The principles course will be the starting point for all the pathways, and it will be a required prerequisite for the following courses in the pathway. There will be a new course that is titled Principles of Ag which is different from the Intro to Ag course. This will be the starting point for all our ag pathways. The Intro to Ag course will still be available to teach at the 8th grade or high school level for credit and funding will still be attached to the course.
- The Principles of Ag course will be aligned to AGRI 100 at Ivy Tech and AGBS 101 at VU.
- This course will be different from the Intro to AFNR course. The distinction between the two will be worked out during the course framework and standards work that will be completed in January and February.
- The Principles of Ag course had to be created so we could get dual credit alignment for the course.

Is the principles class a replacement for Introduction to Agriculture or an entirely new course?

- The principles course will be in addition to the intro course. It is an entirely new course.

Can we "grandfather" in current 8th graders that are in Introduction to Agriculture for high school credit as counting for the principles course requirement for programs of study for just this class?

- No, they are separate courses and one does not count for the other

Can you offer the principles class at the 8th grade level and just not have them enroll in dual credit?

- The Office of CTE is not allowing funding for the principles course if it is taught at the 8th grade level. Per guidance shared by the DOE in 2017, "Indiana State Board of Education rules (511 IAC 6-7.1-1) do not restrict high school credit to course work completed in Grades 9 through 12. Therefore, students who complete courses before entering Grade 9 may earn high school credit for those courses." However, only the Introduction to Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources course (5056) is eligible for CTE funding if taken prior to grade 9.

Will programs of study courses be funded differently?

- Under our current funding model, the Principles, Concentrator A and B courses would each receive one credit of Level I funding based upon their value classification as high, moderate or less than moderate value. The Pathway Capstone would receive Level II or persistence funding in much the same way that current Level II courses are funded. Students must follow all course requirements to be eligible for funding. If students do not have the required prerequisites, then they will not be eligible for funding.

Will funding go away from Introduction to Agriculture?

- No, funding will still be available for the Intro to AFNR course at the 8th grade and high school level. It currently is a \$300 introductory course on the funding memo.

Will Introduction to Agriculture still be a course?

- Yes. It will still be a course and students can still get high school credit.

Where did the Agribusiness Management course go?

- The plan moving forward is to have this course as part of a capstone course that students will be able to enroll in after they have completed the principles, concentrator A and B courses.

Does the Next Level Program of Study affect course offerings and sequences for all CTE?

- Yes. All CTE areas will be affected.

Will there be a new principles course for all CTE areas that next year's freshman will have to take first in a program of study?

- Yes, for the most part. The majority of the CTE pathways have been redesigned to fit the NL Program of Study template.

Can a freshman in 2021-2022 take principles of agriculture course and another agriculture course, like animal science at the same time?

- Yes, the Office of CTE has stated that students can enroll concurrently in the courses.

Do courses have to be taken for dual credit to count for concentrator status?

- No, Concentrator status is only determined by completion of the secondary course. We understand that it will be difficult for some schools to offer each course for dual credit. However, dual credits and credentials earned are high quality outcomes that provide great benefits to students and schools should do all that they can to take advantage of the alignment to postsecondary.

NLPS FAQs provided by the Office of CTE

Next Level Programs of Study (NLPS) courses are available for schools and career centers to begin offering during the 2021-2022 school year. The following document covers some of the most common questions the Office of CTE has received regarding the new courses. It will continue to be built out as questions arise and updates will be communicated through the Office of CTE Bi-Weekly Update. Schools and career centers are encouraged to review these questions in advance of attending an NLPS Implementation Workshop throughout December or January. Additional questions can be directed to CTE@gov.IN.gov.

Question #1: Do we have to transition all of our programs to NLPS for 2021-22?

- No. You can pick and choose which programs of study to transition during the 21-22 school year.

Question #2: How do we transition students in the 2nd year of a pathway to NLPS?

- Schools and career centers are encouraged to only transition students beginning a pathway to NLPS courses during the upcoming school year.

Question #3: Where can the list of NLPS Courses available for the 2021-2022 school year be located?

- The NLPS courses were pulled out of the Department of Education's 2021-22 CTD to make it easier for schools to review the new courses and because schools have the option to opt-in to Next Level Programs of Study during the 2021-2022 school year. The NLPS Course Titles and Description can be reviewed on the GWC/Office of CTE NLPS Resources webpage. The NLPS courses are available for schools to use and the class of 2025 are required to use the Perkins V NLPS pathways.

Question #4: When will funding information be available for NLPS Courses?

- The Office of CTE will release a memo in January with funding information regarding NLPS courses for the upcoming school year. This will be in addition to the 2021-2022 CTE funding memo recently passed by the State Board of Education which does not include the NLPS Courses. The current funding model is being maintained and the Principles, Concentrator A and B courses will each receive one credit of Level I funding based upon their value classification as high, moderate or less than moderate value. The Pathway Capstone course being implemented in 22-23 will receive Level II or persistence funding in much the same way that current Level II courses are funded. Students must follow all course requirements to be eligible for funding. If students do not have the required prerequisites, then they will not be eligible for funding.

Question #5: Can an Introductory course be used in place of a Principles course?

- No, these are two separate courses. The Principles course is dual credit aligned and includes required content for the Technical Certificate (TC) or Certificate of Graduation (CG).

Question #6: May Principles courses be completed during a student's 8th grade year?

- Principles courses may be completed during the 8th grade year but they will not be eligible for CTE funding.

Question #7: Can the Principles course and the Concentrator A course be taught during the same block of time?

- No. Both courses are dual credit courses and have required dual credit contact hours. Each course should be taught in a separate block of time or period.

Question #8: What will happen to pathways where a NLPS is not ready for the 2021-2022 SY?

- The Office of CTE will be working to align these programs to a credential of value over the next 6 months. We will develop a crosswalk for schools that enroll 9th graders in these pathways.

Question #9: Which courses are required for a student to earn CTE Concentrator Status?

- The Principles, Concentrator A, and Concentrator B courses are required to earn concentrator status. NLPS courses are designed with the vision that students can also have the opportunity to complete at least 2 credits of the Pathway Capstone course, but this is not required for concentrator status. Completing the Pathway Capstone course and related academic courses can often allow the student to earn a TC or a CG.

Question #10: Do courses have to be taken for dual credit to count for concentrator status?

- No, Concentrator status is only determined by completion of the secondary course. We understand that it will be difficult for some schools to offer each course for dual credit. However, dual credits and credentials earned are high quality outcomes that provide great benefits to students and schools should do all that they can to take advantage of the alignment to postsecondary.