FCS Students Earning Industry Certifications Increasing

CAPE postsecondary industry certifications contribute to Florida’s economic development.

Industry certifications related to the Florida Career and Professional Education Act (CAPE) strengthen the partnership between students, colleges, and the workforce, offering valuable skills that contribute to and sustain a vibrant state economy. From 2014-15 to 2015-16, there was a 27.3 percent increase (8,426 to 10,726) in the number of Florida College System (FCS) students who earned industry certifications while enrolled in FCS institutions. For both years, the top three areas of postsecondary industry certifications were earned in Health Science, Law, Public Safety & Security, and Information Technology. The top two programs (Health Science and Law, Public Safety & Security) accounted for 91 percent of all funded industry certifications earned in 2015-16.

FCS programs are grounded in the needs of the local workforce, and CAPE postsecondary industry certifications provide students with the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in their communities. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics produced special editions of industry and occupational projections for use in planning Florida College programs. The portal allows colleges to align their program offerings with workforce projections highlighting current (2015) and future (2023) employment needs in Florida.

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