

CTE License and Endorsement Information

[Educator Licensure Policy 5.502](#) Overview

Practitioner Occupational Teacher License

(Three year validity period, renewable once)

The practitioner occupational license is the initial license issued to occupational educators who have met endorsement requirements pursuant to State Board of Education policy 5.502, had content verification provided by the Tennessee Department of Education's college, career and technical education Division, and hold the required current/valid industry certification were indicated prior to entering Tennessee public schools. Individuals applying for the practitioner occupational teacher license must meet the following criteria:

- Formally admitted to or have completed a state-approved educator preparation program
- Recommended by the state-approved educator preparation program
- High school graduate or higher
- Meet industry certification requirements
- Meet the endorsement experience requirements

Prior to recommending a candidate for licensure, Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) should receive verification from the Department of Education that the applicant meets stated criteria for licensure, such as required industry certification and experience.

Professional Occupational Teacher License

(Six year validity period, renewable)

The professional occupational education license is issued to educators upon meeting licensure expectations at the practitioner level, completing coursework covering the professional education standards and additional requirements as defined in State Board of Education policy.

Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) specifies that educators must be properly licensed prior to entering the classroom.

TCA § 49-5-101

No person shall be employed as principal, teacher or supervisor of any public elementary or high school by any local school district, or receive any pay for such services out of the public school funds of the local school district until the person presents to the director of schools a valid license as prescribed in this part. It is unlawful for any board of education to issue any warrant or check to such persons for services as principal, teacher or supervisor until the person has presented for record a license valid for the term of employment.

Occupational Endorsements

This table outlines endorsements available for Tennessee Occupational Education License only. Occupational endorsements can only be issued to a practitioner or professional occupational education license. Academic endorsements cannot be added to a practitioner or professional occupational education license.

Endorsement Name	Endorsement Code
Automotive	770
Aviation Ground School	774
Barbering	780
Broadcasting	710
Carpentry	706
Collision Repair	771
Concrete/Masonry	702
Cosmetology	781
Culinary Arts	730
Digital Arts and Design	711
Drafting/CAD	700
Electrical	701
Fire Safety	751
Health Informatics	721
Health Science 6-12	720
Information Technology	740
Legal and Protective Services	750
Manufacturing	760
Plumbing	703
Programming	742
Public Health	722
Supply Chain Management	776
Welding	705

Initial Issuance of Practitioner Occupational Education License

Requirements for a practitioner occupational education license align with the endorsement(s) an applicant is seeking. Occupational endorsements have different education, examples of qualifying occupational work experience, and industry certification requirements. The examples are only a sampling of occupations which could qualify for the endorsement area. If there are questions about occupations that are not listed, please contact Sheila.K.Morris@tn.gov. Prior to enrollment in a preparation program, qualifications, such as industry certification, work experience, and postsecondary education, shall be reviewed by the Tennessee Department of Education's college, career and technical education division.

Endorsement requirements for a practitioner occupational education license can be met through a pathway using combined work experience, industry certification, and postsecondary education.

Occupational Endorsement Aligned Requirements

Endorsement Name and Code	Automotive 770
Previous Endorsements	508
Minimum Education Requirements	High School diploma or above
Occupational Work Experience	Five years of full time work experience out of the past eight years
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	mechanic, automotive technician, service technician, auto body technician
Industry Certification	ASE A-4, ASE A-5, ASE A-6, and ASE A-8 or G-1
Pathway Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate's degree in automotive technology, one year of work experience in endorsement area, and industry certification • Bachelor's degree in automotive technology and industry certification
Endorsement Name and Code	Aviation Ground School 774
Previous Endorsements	594
Minimum Education Requirements	High School diploma or above
Occupational Work Experience	Five years of full time work experience out of the past eight years
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	pilot, aircraft flight instructor
Industry Certification	FAA Ground Instructor Certificate and FAA Flight Instructor Certificate (Airplane)
Pathway Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate's degree in aviation/commercial or private pilot, one year full time work experience in endorsement area, and industry certification • Bachelor's degree in aviation/commercial or private pilot and industry certification
Endorsement Name and Code	Barbering 780
Previous Endorsements	560
Minimum Education Requirements	High School diploma or above and completion of a barbering instructor curriculum
Occupational Work Experience	Five years of full time work experience out of the past eight years
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	barber, cosmetologist
Industry Certification	Tennessee Barbering Instructor License

Pathway Options	None
Endorsement Name and Code	Broadcasting 710
Previous Endorsements	576, 597
Minimum Education Requirements	High School diploma or above
Occupational Work Experience	Five years of full time work experience out of the past eight years
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	electronic engineering, electronic recording, electronic concept design and creation, audio/video technology, sound board networking, sound board operations, audio/video/DVD networking, camera operators, film and video editors, broadcaster with production experience, studio production manager
Industry Certification	Currently none
Pathway Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate's degree in broadcasting/digital media and three years of full time work experience in endorsement area • Bachelor's degree in broadcasting/digital media and one year full time work experience in endorsement area • Master's degree in broadcasting/digital media
Endorsement Name and Code	Carpentry 706
Previous Endorsements	522
Minimum Education Requirements	High School diploma or above
Occupational Work Experience	Five years of full time work experience out of the past eight years
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	carpenter, mechanical maintenance technician, journeyman, home repair technician, general contractor, construction project manager, foreman, construction superintendent
Industry Certification	U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship, Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship, NOCTI Carpentry 5265, or Tennessee Contractor's license Contractor's license
Pathway Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate's degree in building construction and one year of work experience in endorsement area and industry certification • Bachelor's degree in building constructions and industry certification
Endorsement Name and Code	Collision Repair 771
Previous Endorsements	507

Minimum Education Requirements	High School diploma or above
Occupational Work Experience	Five years of full time work experience out of the past eight years
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	mechanic, automotive technician, auto body technician, auto body painter
Industry Certification	ASE B-2, ASE B-3, and ASE B-4 or I-Car
Pathway Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate's degree in collision repair/refinishing and one year of work experience in endorsement area out of the past eight and industry certification • Bachelor's degree in collision repair/refinishing and industry certification
Endorsement Name and Code	Concrete/Masonry 702
Previous Endorsements	524
Minimum Education Requirements	High School diploma or above
Occupational Work Experience	Five years of full time work experience out of the past eight years
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	cement masons, concrete finishers, concrete operations manager, concrete paving foreman
Industry Certification	U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship, Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship or NOCTI Masonry 5933 Tennessee Contractor's license
Pathway Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate's degree in building construction and one year of work experience in endorsement area and industry certification • Bachelor's degree in building constructions and industry certification
Endorsement Name and Code	Cosmetology 781
Previous Endorsements	561
Minimum Education Requirements	High school diploma and completion of a cosmetology instructor
Occupational Work Experience	Five years of full time work experience out of the past eight years
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	cosmetologist, barber
Industry Certification	Tennessee Cosmetology Instructor license
Pathway Options	None
Endorsement Name and Code	Culinary Arts 730

Previous Endorsements	562
Minimum Education Requirements	High School diploma or above
Occupational Work Experience	Five years of full time work experience out of the past eight years
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	pastry chef, head chef, caterer, personal chef, restaurant manager, executive chef
Industry Certification	Serve-Safe or National Registry of Food Safety Professionals, or Certified Culinary Chef Educator (CCE) Industry Certification
Pathway Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate's degree in culinary arts, industry certification, and three years full time work experience out of the past eight in endorsement area • Bachelor's degree in culinary arts, industry certification, and one year full time work experience out of the past eight in endorsement area
Endorsement Name and Code	Digital Arts & Design 711
Previous Endorsements	543
Minimum Education Requirements	High school diploma or above
Occupational Work Experience	Five years of full time work experience out of the past eight years
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	desktop publishers, commercial artist, graphic designers, photographer, page composition, image conversion, digital printing, electronic publishing, digital imaging, press operations and finishing
Industry Certification	ADDA Certified Digital Designer or NOCTI Advertising & Design 5261 or Adobe Certified Expert Certification
Pathway Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate's degree in graphic design, one year work experience, and industry certification • Bachelor's degree in graphic design and industry certification
Endorsement Name and Code	Distribution and Logistics 776
Previous Endorsements	503
Minimum Education Requirements	High School diploma or above
Occupational Work Experience	Five years of full time work experience out of the past eight years
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	supply chain analyst, operations analyst, logistics manager, logistician, distribution manager, engineer, warehouse manager, transportation coordinator, buyer/inventory control specialist, fulfillment manager

Industry Certification	Currently none
Pathway Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate's degree in distribution and logistics and three years full time work experience out of the past eight in endorsement area • Bachelor's degree in distribution and logistics and one year full time work experience out of the past eight in endorsement area
Endorsement Name and Code	Drafting/CAD 700
Previous Endorsements	531
Minimum Education Requirements	High School diploma or above
Occupational Work Experience	Five years of full time work experience out of the past eight years
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	architect, individuals with experience in the following areas: technical drawings, scale drawings, orthographic projection, two and three dimensional drawings, manual drafting and computer aided design skills
Industry Certification	ADDA Certified Drafter or Autodesk
Pathway Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate's degree in drafting, one year work experience, and industry certification • Bachelor's degree in drafting and industry certification
Endorsement Name and Code	Electrical 701
Previous Endorsements	523
Minimum Education Requirements	High School diploma or above
Occupational Work Experience	Five years of full time work experience out of the past eight years
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	electricians, electrical engineering technicians, electrical engineers
Industry Certification	U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship, Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship or NOCTI Electrical 5271 or Tennessee Contractor's license
Pathway Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate's degree in building construction, one year of work experience in endorsement area, and industry certification • Bachelor's degree in building constructions and industry certification

Endorsement Name and Code	Fire Safety 751
Minimum Education Requirements	High School diploma or above
Occupational Work Experience	Five years of full time work experience out of the past eight years
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	Firefighter
Industry Certification	Fire Fighter Instructor 1
Pathway Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate's degree in fire science and one year work experience in endorsement area and industry certification • Bachelor's degree in fire science and industry certification
Endorsement Name and Code	Digital Arts & Design 711
Previous Endorsements	543
Minimum Education Requirements	High School diploma or above
Occupational Work Experience	Five years of full time work experience out of the past eight years
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	desktop publishers, commercial artist, graphic designers, photographer, page composition, image conversion, digital printing, electronic publishing, digital imaging, press operations and finishing
Industry Certification	ADDA Certified Digital Designer or NOCTI Advertising & Design 5261 or Adobe Certified Expert Certification
Pathway Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate's degree in graphic design, one year work experience, and industry certification • Bachelor's degree in graphic design and industry certification
Endorsement Name and Code	HVAC 707
Previous Endorsements	598
Minimum Education Requirements	High School diploma or above
Occupational Work Experience	Five years of full time work experience out of the past eight years
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	HVAC technicians, first-line supervisors of mechanics, installers, and repairers
Industry Certification	U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship, Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship or HVAC Excellence Certification

Pathway Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate's degree in building construction and one year of work experience in endorsement area and industry certification • Bachelor's degree in building constructions and industry certification
Endorsement Name and Code	Health Informatics 721
Minimum Education Requirements	Associate's degree or above in endorsement area
Occupational Work Experience	One year full time work experience out of the past five in endorsement area
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	medical biller, medical coder, pharmacy technician, data analyst, clinical analyst, informatics specialist, medical and health services manager
Industry Certification	CPC-Certified Professional Coder or CCA-Certified Coding Associate or CCS- Certified Coding Specialist or RHIT-Registered Health Information Technician or RHIA-Registered Health Information Administrator or MCT-Medical Coding Technician
Pathway Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor's degree in health informatics and industry certification
Endorsement Name and Code	Health Science 720
Previous Endorsements	577
Minimum Education Requirements	Associate's degree or above leading to a Tennessee Board of Health issued license in one of the following areas or occupations. (Internships and Fellowships are not eligible)
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	registered nurse, physician, chiropractor, dentist, dental hygienist, medical laboratory technician, paramedic, athletic trainer, occupational therapist, physical therapist, respiratory therapist, radiology technician, diagnostic medical sonographer, nuclear medicine technologist, audiologist, veterinarian, physical therapy assistant, occupational therapy assistant, physician's assistant, speech therapist, optometrist, pharmacist, dietician, podiatrist, clinical perfusionist
Occupational Work Experience	One year full time or part time work experience out of the past five
Industry Certification	Tennessee Board of Health issued license
Pathway Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All applicants must provide verification of one year full time or part time work experience out of the past five and industry certification regardless of postsecondary degree level

Endorsement Name and Code	Information Technology 740
Previous Endorsements	595
Minimum Education Requirements	Associate's degree or above in endorsement area
Occupational Work Experience	Two years of work experience out of the past eight years
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	web page designer, host web manager, web master, computer networking, network designer, computer maintenance, computer engineer, cable technician, telecommunication technician, computer system analysis, computer programmer, software developer, quality assurance software developer, software architect, technology business analyst, it project manager, business intelligence developer, business analyst, information technology systems manager, computer support specialist
Industry Certification	A+ or Net Plus or CIW or CISCO
Pathway Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor's degree in endorsement area and industry certification
Endorsement Name and Code	Legal and Protective Services 750
Previous Endorsements	590
Minimum Education Requirements	High School diploma or above
Occupational Work Experience	Five years of full time work experience out of the past eight years
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	Police officer, sheriff, TBI/FBI officer, military police, wildlife officer, correctional officer, crime scene investigator, lawyer, judge with law or
Industry Certification	POST or NOCTI assessment for law, public safety and security
Pathway Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate's degree in criminal justice and three years of full time work experience out of the past eight in endorsement area • Bachelor's degree in criminal justice and one year full time work experience out of the past eight years in endorsement area • Master's degree in criminal justice or juris doctorate
Endorsement Name and Code	Advanced Manufacturing 760
Previous Endorsements	596
Minimum Education Requirements	High School diploma or above
Occupational Work Experience	Five years of full time work experience out of the past eight years

Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	Engineer, plant manager, industrial production manager, computer aided drafting (CAD) certified individual, industrial maintenance , machinist, numerical control machine tool programmer, electronic engineer, electronic technician, electronic semi-conductor processor
Industry Certification	National Institute of Metalworking Skills certification (NIMS) or Level 1 Siemens trainer certification
Pathway Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate’s degree in manufacturing operations/technology, one year of work experience in endorsement area, and industry certification • Bachelor’s degree in manufacturing operations/technology and industry certification
Endorsement Name and Code	Plumbing 703
Previous Endorsements	527
Minimum Education Requirements	High School diploma or above
Occupational Work Experience	Five years of full time work experience out of the past eight years
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	Plumbers, pipefitters, steamfitters
Industry Certification	U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship, Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship or NOCTI Plumbing 5175 or Tennessee contractor’s license
Pathway Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate’s degree in building construction, one year of work experience in endorsement area, and industry certification • Bachelor’s degree in building constructions and industry certification
Endorsement Name and Code	Programming 742
Minimum Education Requirements	High School diploma or above
Occupational Work Experience	Five years of full time work experience out of the past eight years
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	computer programmer, software developer, quality assurance software developer, software architect , technology business analyst, it project manager, business intelligence developer, business analyst
Industry Certification	A+ or Net Plus or CIW or CISCO
Pathway Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate’s degree in endorsement area, one year work experience in endorsement area, and industry certification • Bachelor’s degree in endorsement area and industry certification

Endorsement Name and Code	Public Health 722
Minimum Education Requirements	Bachelor's degree in Public Health or Public Health Administration
Occupational Work Experience	One year of full time work experience out of the past five years in endorsement area
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	epidemiologist, health educator, health care administrator, environmental scientists, quality investigator, environmental engineer, HIV/AIDS educator, refugee coordinator, health services manager, midwife, public health nurse
Industry Certification	Currently none
Pathway Options	None
Endorsement Name and Code	Welding 705
Previous Endorsements	584
Minimum Education Requirements	High School diploma or above
Occupational Work Experience	Five years of full time work experience out of the past eight years
Example Qualifying Areas/Occupations	welders and individuals with experience in blueprint reading, layout and fabrication using oxy-fuel cutting SMAW, FCAW, GMAW, GTAW processes on various metals
Industry Certification	AWS or U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship, Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship or Certified Welding Educator Certification, NOCTI Welding 5279
Pathway Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate's degree in welding/fabrication, one year full time work experience, and industry certification • Bachelor's degree in welding/fabrication and industry certification

Advancing to a Professional Occupational Education License

In addition to completing an educator preparation program, an educator must provide evidence of the following to advance to a professional occupational license:

- three years of teaching experience,
- recommendation from the Director of Schools or 30 professional development points (PDPs),
- attendance at the five-day new occupational teacher training,
- four observations of three experienced teachers within your endorsed area and one experienced teacher outside of your teaching area,
- mentor contact information and signature, **and**
- current/valid industry certification for specified endorsements and course assignments requiring industry certification.

Renewal of the Practitioner Occupational License

The Practitioner Occupational License is valid for three years. If an educator does not meet expectations for advancement to the Professional Occupational License, the Practitioner Occupational License can be renewed once. If the educator does not meet expectations at the end of the second validity period, the license will become inactive.

Renewal of the Professional Occupational License

To renew the professional occupational education license an educator must have documentation of 60 professional development points and current/valid industry certification if indicated in the current correlation of course code document. Professional development points can only be used to renew a professional occupational license.

At the date of expiration, if an educator does not have documentation of 60 professional development points and required industry certification, the license will become inactive. In order to reactivate the license and endorsements held, the educator must submit an application to reinstate, provide evidence of 60 professional development points and industry certification to the College, Career and Technical Education licensure consultant.

Option	PDPs Awarded	Required Documentation
Training (Academy/Institute/ Seminar/Conference)	1 clock hour = 1 PDP	Certification of completion, Transcript or Verification from signed by the Director of Schools (or designee)
College/University Coursework	1 semester hour credit = 10 PDPs	Transcript
Overall Evaluation Score from TN- Approved evaluation model	Overall Score of 5 = 20 PDPs Overall Score of 4 = 15 PDPs Overall Score of 3 = 10 PDPs	This information is maintained by TDOE. Educators are not required to submit any documentation. PDPs based on overall evaluation scores may be accrued on an annual basis.
National Board Certification	30 PDPs	Official documentation from NBPTS

Adding Occupational Endorsements

Licensed occupational educators who have completed an approved education preparation program for initial licensure may add additional occupational endorsements. For occupational endorsements requiring industry certification, submit evidence of completion (e.g., certificate, qualifying scores, certification card). To add an occupational endorsement not requiring industry certification you must provide evidence in **at least one** of the following ways:

- Verification of five years of full-time work experience in requested occupational area out of the past eight years; teaching is not considered occupational work experience and will not be accepted;

- Associate’s degree in the endorsement area and three years full-time work experience in the endorsement area out of the past eight years;
- Bachelor’s degree in the endorsement area and one year full-time work experience in the endorsement area out of the past eight years; **or**
- Master’s degree in the endorsement area.

Occupational endorsements can only be added to a practitioner occupational or professional occupational educator license. Academic endorsements cannot be added to a practitioner occupational or professional occupational educator license.

Career and Technical Education Academic Endorsements

The table below outlines the CTE academic endorsements that are processed by the division of college, career, and technical education. All academic practitioner license applications must be submitted through TNCompass by an educator prep program (EPP). The practitioner teacher license is valid for a period of three years.

Individuals applying for the practitioner license must meet the following criteria:

- Hold a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college or university **AND**
- Be formally admitted to or have completed a state-approved educator preparation program **AND**
- Recommended by the state-approved educator preparation program **OR**
- Submitted qualifying scores on required assessment.

Educators must submit qualifying scores on all required assessments within three years of obtaining the practitioner license. If the educator does not submit assessment scores and complete an EPP within three years of the license being issued, the license will become inactive.

Academic endorsements can only be issued to a practitioner or professional education license. Occupational endorsements cannot be added to a practitioner or professional educator license.

Endorsement Name	Endorsement Code
Agriculture Education 6-12	150
Agriscience 6-12	151
Business Education 6-12	152
Business Technology 6-12	153
Early Childhood Care and Services 6-12	156
Family and Consumer Sciences 6-12	154
Food Production & Management Services 6-12	155
Marketing Education 6-12	158
STEM 6-12	157

Advancing a Professional Teacher License

In addition to completing an EPP, an educator must provide the following evidence of the following to advance to a professional license:

- three years of experience, and
- the recommendation of the Director of Schools, **or**
- documentation of 30 PDPs

Renewal of a Professional Teacher License

To renew the professional education license an educator must have documentation of 60 professional development points. Professional development points can only be used to renew a professional license, not advance a practitioner education license.

At the date of expiration, if an educator does not have documentation of 60 professional development points, the license will become inactive. In order to reactivate the license and endorsements held, the educator must provide evidence of 60 professional development points to the College, Career and Technical Education licensure consultant.

Option	PDPs Awarded	Required Documentation
Training (Academy/Institute/ Seminar/Conference)	1 clock hour = 1 PDP	Certification of completion, Transcript or Verification from signed by the Director of Schools (or designee)
College/University Coursework	1 semester hour credit = 10 PDPs	Transcript
Overall Evaluation Score from TN- Approved evaluation model	Overall Score of 5 = 20 PDPs Overall Score of 4 = 15 PDPs Overall Score of 3 = 10 PDPs	This information is maintained by TDOE. Educators are not required to submit any documentation. PDPs based on overall evaluation scores may be accrued on an annual basis.
National Board Certification	30 PDPs	Official documentation from NBPTS