



# Fact Sheet

## Overview:

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA helps each student to excel. SkillsUSA is a national organization serving teachers and high school and college students who are preparing for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations, including health occupations and for further education. SkillsUSA was formerly known as VICA (the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America).

SkillsUSA is an applied method of instruction for preparing America's high-performance workers in public career and technical programs. It provides quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development. It builds and reinforces self-confidence, work attitudes and communications skills. It emphasizes total quality at work — high ethical standards, superior work skills, lifelong education, and pride in the dignity of work. SkillsUSA also promotes understanding of the free-enterprise system and involvement in community service.

## Membership:

More than 300,000 students and advisors join SkillsUSA annually, organized into more than 17,000 sections and 54 state and territorial associations. Combining alumni and lifetime membership, the total number reached is more than 335,000 annually. SkillsUSA has served more than 11.9 million members since its founding in 1965.

## Partners:

In 2014, more than 17,500 teachers and school administrators served as professional SkillsUSA members and advisors. More than 600 business, industry and labor sponsors actively support SkillsUSA at the national level through financial aid, in-kind contributions and involvement of their people in SkillsUSA activities. Many more work directly with state associations and local chapters.

## SkillsUSA Mission:

SkillsUSA's mission is to empower its members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens.

## SkillsUSA Framework:

SkillsUSA improves the lives of America's future workforce through the development of **personal, workplace, and technical skills** grounded in academics. This framework is supported by innovative programming, quality instruction and industry partnerships focused on preparing young people with the necessary leadership, technical, communication and management skills to succeed at work and in life. There has never been a time where the purpose of SkillsUSA has been more relevant to our nation's future economic security.

### Personal Skills

1. Integrity
2. Work Ethic
3. Professionalism
4. Responsibility
5. Adaptability/Flexibility
6. Self-Motivation

### **Workplace Skills**

1. Communication
2. Decision Making
3. Teamwork
4. Multicultural Sensitivity and Awareness
5. Planning, Organizing and Management
6. Leadership

### **Technical Skills Grounded in Academics**

1. Computer and Technology Literacy
2. Job-Specific Skills
3. Safety and Health
4. Service Orientation
5. Professional Development

### **SkillsUSA Motto:**

Preparing for leadership in the world of work.

### **SkillsUSA Creed:**

#### **I believe in the dignity of work**

I hold that society has advanced to its present culture through the use of the worker's hands and mind. I will maintain a feeling of humbleness for the knowledge and skills that I receive from professionals, and I will conduct myself with dignity in the work I do.

#### **I believe in the American way of life**

I know our culture is the result of freedom of action and opportunities won by the founders of our American republic, and I will uphold their ideals.

#### **I believe in education**

I will endeavor to make the best use of knowledge, skills and experience that I will learn in order that I may be a better worker in my chosen occupation and a better citizen in my community. To this end, I will continue my learning now and in the future.

#### **I believe in fair play**

I will, through honesty and fair play, respect the rights of others. I will always conduct myself in the manner of the best professionals in my occupation and treat those with whom I work as I would like to be treated.

#### **I believe satisfaction is achieved by good work**

I feel that compensation and personal satisfaction received for my work and services will be in proportion to my creative and productive ability.

#### **I believe in high moral and spiritual standards**

I will endeavor to conduct myself in such a manner as to set an example for others by living a wholesome life and by fulfilling my responsibilities as a citizen of my community.

### **SkillsUSA Pledge:**

Upon my honor, I pledge:

- To prepare myself by diligent study and ardent practice to become a worker whose services will be recognized as honorable by my employer and fellow workers.
- To base my expectations of reward upon the solid foundation of service.
- To honor and respect my vocation in such a way as to bring repute to myself.
- And further, to spare no effort in upholding the ideals of SkillsUSA.

## Meaning of the Pledge:

Upon my honor, I pledge: This is a very strong statement. It means you are committed to follow through on your promise.

- **To prepare myself:** Preparation requires self-control. It means effort without immediate reward but with the knowledge that the effort will pay off when the preparation is completed.
- **By diligent study:** Diligence implies something far beyond a quick review of assignments. Diligence means perseverance, concentration and not always taking the easy route.
- **And ardent practice:** A person of character makes every effort in spite of setbacks or personal loss.
- **To become a worker:** SkillsUSA members take pride in making things happen, in being good workers and in their employers.
- **Whose services:** Doing things for others is the basis of many occupations. SkillsUSA members strive to be active in their schools and communities.
- **Will be recognized as honorable:** The result of preparation, study, practice, work and service is the respect and honor given SkillsUSA members.
- **To base my expectations of reward upon the solid foundation of service:** This statement reinforces the attitude that we must first serve in order to gain. This attitude is important to success.
- **To respect my vocation:** SkillsUSA members recognize the need to find their vocation and strive to understand its traditions, skills, leaders and potential.
- **To bring repute to myself:** SkillsUSA members strive to have a good reputation among their peers, fellow workers, teachers, parents and employers.
- **To spare no effort in upholding these ideals:** This means service to the community, school and SkillsUSA chapter — getting things done and becoming a leader, all with the ideals of SkillsUSA in mind.

## Symbolism of the SkillsUSA Emblem:

- **The shield represents patriotism**  
The shield denotes our belief in democracy, liberty and the American way of life.
- **The gear represents the industrial society**  
The gear, symbolic of the industrial society, denotes the interdependence and cooperation of the individual working with labor and management for the betterment of mankind.
- **The torch represents knowledge**  
The flaming torch reflects the light of knowledge, which dispels the darkness of ignorance. In the light of the torch, progress will be made toward the vocational goals of the individual.
- **The orbital circles represent technology**  
The circles represent the challenge of modern technology and the training needed to accept and master the challenge of new technical frontiers and the need for continuous education.
- **The hands represent the individual**  
The hands portray a search for knowledge and our desire to acquire a skill. In the process of attaining knowledge and skill, we will develop a respect for the dignity of work and become productive and responsible citizens.

## SkillsUSA Colors:

The colors red, white, blue and gold represent the national SkillsUSA organization.

Red and white represent the individual states and chapters.

Blue represents the common union of the states and of the chapters.

Gold represents the individual, the most important element of the organization.

## **Making the Case for Career and Technical Education (CTE):**

- Experts project 47 million job openings in the decade ending 2018. About one-third will require an associate's degree or certificate, and nearly all will require real-world skills that can be mastered through CTE.  
Source: Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce via Harvard's Pathways to Prosperity report, Page 29. <http://cew.georgetown.edu/>
- CTE is helping our nation meet the very real and immediate challenges of economic development, student achievement and global competitiveness. Some 14 million students are enrolled in CTE — encompassing every state, with programs in nearly 1,300 public high schools and 1,700 two-year-colleges.  
Source: National Center for Education Statistics
- The average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in CTE programs is 90.18 percent compared to an average national freshman graduation rate of 74.9 percent.  
Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, Report to Congress on State Performance, Program Year 2007-2008
- Seventy percent of students concentrating in CTE areas stayed in postsecondary education or transferred to a four-year degree program, compared to an average state target of 58 percent.  
Source: U.S. Department of Education, Perkins Consolidated Annual Reports, 2009-2010. Office of Vocational and Adult Education

## **Industry Facts:**

- According to recent surveys of hiring trends, more than 33 percent of employers have unfilled job openings because they can't find applicants with the skills necessary for the jobs. These are good-paying jobs, too. A report by Harvard Business School found that 27 percent of trained skilled professionals earn more than the average bachelor's degree recipient
- The average skilled worker is 56 years old. By 2030, 79 million people will have retired, while only 41 million new workers will enter the workforce
- 600,000: Current number of high skilled manufacturing jobs that will remain unfilled due to a lack of skilled labor.
- Meet what has become known as "the skills gap." There appears to be a surplus of jobs waiting to be filled and not enough people trained to fill them. Yet our employment rate continues to hover around 7.7 percent, and America's jobless are becoming increasingly frustrated and scared.  
  
Source: [http://doc.mediaplanet.com/all\\_projects/11513.pdf](http://doc.mediaplanet.com/all_projects/11513.pdf)
- Over 50 percent: Number of graduates with a bachelor's degree under the age of 25 who are unemployed or in a job that doesn't require a degree.  
Source: Go Build Alabama
- 130 trade, technical and skilled service occupational titles are represented in the curricula of SkillsUSA member students, covering the construction, manufacturing, transportation, health sciences, information technology, communications, personal services, hospitality, public safety and engineering technology industries.