



SkillsUSA Fact Sheet

Overview: SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives, working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. It 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. SkillsUSA was formerly known as VICA (the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America).

Membership: More than 350,000 student and instructors join SkillsUSA annually, organized into more than 15,000 sections and 54 state and territorial associations. SkillsUSA has served more than 12.5 million members.

Mission: 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, life-long education, and pride in the dignity of work. SkillsUSA also promotes understanding of the free-enterprise system and involvement in community service.

Partners: Currently, 15,166 teachers and school administrators serve as professional SkillsUSA members and instructors. More than 1,500 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.

Programs: SkillsUSA programs include local, state and national competitions in which students demonstrate occupational and leadership skills. At the annual national-level SkillsUSA Championships, over 5,700 students compete in 97 occupational and leadership skill areas.

SkillsUSA programs also help to establish industry standards for job skill training in the lab and classroom, and promote community service. SkillsUSA is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and is cited as a "successful model of employer-driven youth development training program" by the U.S. Department of Labor.

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-motivated

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

Professional development [Student2Student Mentoring](#) gives high school students a chance to mentor younger students in the area of career development.

[CareerSafe](#) is a credentialed 10-hour online training program developed in cooperation with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to provide students with basic knowledge of safety and a credential desired in the job market. There are two OSHA credentials available for students.

[The SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System](#) is a comprehensive tool to help student's document entry-level skills as defined by industry and accepted by state education policy. Being developed under a W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant, the Work Force Ready System will feature 46 industry-driven assessments that can lead to professional certifications.

[www.workforcereadysystem.org]

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