

Family and Consumer Sciences Courses Lead to Careers in Hospitality and Tourism

In 2025, 9% of hotels surveyed reported experiencing severe shortages in qualified personnel to staff their sites.¹ This is due in part to gaps in career pathways, low pay and benefits, and the impact of the 2021 pandemic. The survey notes that 71% of hotels reported having job openings that they were unable to fill.

In counterpoint, each year 35% of middle and high school students taking career and technical education (CTE) courses attend two or more courses in Hospitality and Tourism, making it the sixth most popular CTE area of study and the second most popular Family and Consumer Sciences content area. However, due to reductions in FCS programming, less schools are offering these courses, leading to less students gaining an opportunity to learn about hospitality and tourism and consider it as a future career opportunity.

Within FCS hospitality and tourism courses in secondary and post-secondary schools, students learn and explore occupations such as catering and food services, event planning and management, venue management, program coordination, sales and marketing, and more. By increasing support for these courses, hospitality and tourism as a whole can benefit from an influx of FCS students seeking employment.

In a recent survey of FCS professionals conducted by AAFCS, 23% respondents without an undergraduate degree reported pursuing a professional certification and 7% obtained a certification in Culinary Arts, Hospitality and Tourism. Meaning that graduates of FCS programs are able to provide evidence of their understanding and skills in hospitality and tourism and are more prepared to enter the workforce. This reduces the burden on hotels and other establishments to train employees and speeds their onboarding.

Additionally, 2.1% of Family and Consumer Sciences professionals who have obtained at least a bachelor's degree, currently work in the Accommodations and Food Services area. Showing that FCS professionals can not only staff entry level positions but advance their skills to take on managerial and leadership roles.

To further the growth of FCS courses and support hospitality and tourism:

- Support the inclusion of Family and Consumer Sciences education in K-12 career and technical education (CTE) programs.
- Encourage learners to attend FCS classes in K-12 and higher education.
- Provide additional funding and resources to current FCS classes.
- Hire FCS professionals who have obtained hospitality and tourism credentials.
- Hire FCS professionals that have graduated from a recognized FCS college or university program.
- Share FCS educational materials, informational flyers, and resources with the community.

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¹ "65% of surveyed hotels report staffing shortages: Hotels Attract Workers with new Benefits, Higher Pay," 2025, American Hotel & Lodging Association, <https://www.ahla.com/news/65-surveyed-hotels-report-staffing-shortages>