

OKCPS Career Academies

Oklahoma City
Public Schools

8.2021



Career Academies

Oklahoma City Public Schools

What is a Career Academy?

Career Academies are organized as schools-within-schools that permit approximately 100 students per grade level to stay within a cohort or group, from grade 9 through grade 12. These cohorts of students are also grouped with the some core and career themed teachers to promote a more personalized learning environment in which students are able to build strong relationships with their teachers and peers. Students are also exposed to more rigorous and relevant curriculum standards by integrating the academic courses with the technical and applied courses, which are all organized around a career theme. This means that core courses, such as English, mathematics, science and social studies, are combined with the occupation-related courses that focus on the academy's career theme (engineering, finance, health science, hospitality and tourism, information technology, law and public safety, education and human services). Students will also take other electives outside of the academy structure to satisfy their graduation requirements or other areas of interest. One of the final components of the career academy is the partnerships with local community members and businesses. These partnerships allow for work-related learning experiences beginning with the 9th grade and internships during the student's junior and/or senior year.

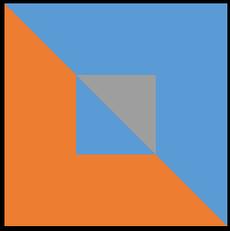
- History of the OKCPS Career Academies
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- Present Academies/High Schools and Coordinators

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CTE

Cindi Walls

College Career Connections Coordinator

ckwalls@okcps.org



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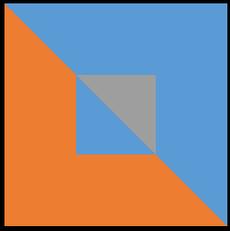
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History of the OKCPS Career Academies

In November 2010, Oklahoma City Public Schools began the process of gathering stakeholder input to guide the critical work of the district toward improving the delivery of service to students. Out of this process came the call for the transition of each of the district's nine traditional high schools to the career academy model. Each high school would offer a four year program to students in a selected career pathway theme. Any OKCPS eighth-grade student was able to apply to the program at these schools. Implementation of all academies began in August 2012. Through a partnership with The National Academy Foundation and Metro Technology Centers, Oklahoma City Public Schools offered this unique educational opportunity to high schools students throughout the district. In 2017 – 2018 OKCPS concluded their partnership with NAF and all academies became known as OKCPS Career Academies.

Development and Growth of Career Academies

Oklahoma City Public Schools launched the 1st career academy in 2011 with an Academy of Engineering at Northeast HS. In 2012 five additional academies launched; Capital Hill Academy of Engineering, OK Centennial Academy of IT, John Marshall Academy of Finance, Northeast Academy of Health Sciences, Star Spencer Academy of Hospitality & Tourism. The second cohort of academies launched in 2013; US Grant Academy of Health Sciences, Northwest Classen Academy of Health Sciences, Douglass Academy of Law and Public Safety. In 2015 OKCPS added 2 more academies; Capital Hill Academy of the Arts and Northwest Classen Academy of Teacher Preparation. In 2016, Emerson Alternative HS started their Academy of Entrepreneurship. Beginning 2021, Northwest Classen Academy of Culinary Arts will begin enrolling students.



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OKCPS Advisory Boards and Business Connections

Academies embody partnerships with employers and postsecondary education. An advisory group for the academy includes representatives from the local employer community and from local colleges or universities, as well as academy faculty and administrators from the school and district. Advisory group members give advice on curriculum, appear as guest speakers in classes, host field trips, supervise student internships, provide financial or in-kind support, and some serve as mentors for individual students.

Each academy consists of an advisory board of 10 or more members. 80% of members are from industry and 20% of members are from education, a parent representative and a student. Each academy has an advisory board chair person and the advisory boards meet once every month.

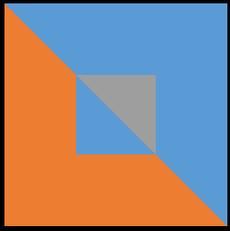
If you are interested in becoming an advisory board member with any of the OKCPS academies, go to the OKCPS website and check out the “Career Academies” link under “Departments”.

OKCPS Career Academy Internships

Internships are an invaluable feature of the career academy. Students experience what it’s really like to work and put their skills and knowledge into practice. It can also be a life changing experience. You might even get to witness the light bulb moment when a student realizes what they want to do in their career.

As an employer, you provide a work placement of 80 to 120 hours (usually paid) in the summer of the students completion of their junior year. This is the employers chance to spot future talent and see what an academy student can do for you. Of course, the academy students aren’t undergraduates and they may need more support, but this allows your employees to enhance their development skills. Also you may be surprised how swiftly the students progress. With the right preparation, you will find that having a determined and able “Career Ready” student on your team is incredibly useful and rewarding.

To prepare for the internship students will create a resume and advisory board members participate in Mock Interviews. Student also gain a better understanding of “Professional Skills” through classroom speakers. Industry partners assist the students in planning for appropriate dress for the workplace.



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Why Should a Student Enroll in a Career Academy?

Students enrolled in a Career Academy have the ability to enhance their:

- **Critical Thinking** learning to be detailed-oriented, become a problem solver, ask questions, set goals and think independently.
- **Communication Skills** in both written and oral formats, interview skills, professional networking and practicing appropriate social media behavior.
- **Work Ethic** displaying their character and integrity as a collaborative and highly motivated team member. Also capable of following precise directions and managing time efficiently.
- **Business Skills** preparing for the workplace with computer skills, financial literacy, professionalism and the understanding of ethical business practices.

Looking for a **CAREER ACADEMY APPLICATION?**

Go to the **OKCPS** website and find the **CAREER ACADEMIES** link under the **DEPARTMENTS** heading. Fill out the application and return it to your school counselor, they will connect you with the academy coordinator and place you in the academy courses.

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Health Academy High Schools:

Classen SAS @ Northeast
Northwest Classen High School
U.S. Grant High School



Hospitality & Tourism High School:

Star Spencer High School

Engineering High School:

Capital Hill High School



Culinary Arts High School:

Northwest Classen High School

Law & Public Safety High School:

Douglass High School



Finance Academy High School:

John Marshall High School



Arts High School:

Capital Hill High School



Education & Human Services High School:

Northwest Classen High School

Information Technology High School:

Southeast High School

