



THE ACADEMIES  
OF RACINE



# Freshman Academy Guide



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[www.rusd.org](http://www.rusd.org).



# Starting your Career Academies Journey

## Welcome to the Academies of Racine!

The Academies will provide you with the advanced skills you need to be successful, productive citizens in college, career and life.

The Academies of Racine are designed to ensure all students are prepared for college and the workforce. By creating engaging, hands-on learning opportunities, developing small learning communities and connecting with local businesses, post-secondary institutions and organizations, Academies help students graduate with a plan for a successful future.

Our Academies allow students to choose a thematic course of study, such as engineering, healthcare, business or International Baccalaureate, and learn in a relevant, hands-on environment with real-world application. Our students learn math, science, English and social studies in the context of their Academy theme.

*"A vision has been established as we prepare our next generation of learners to be engaged and able to apply learning in the real world, having them equipped with critical 21st century skills." - Dan Thielen, Chief of Secondary Transformation*

This booklet is designed to guide you through your Academy experience.





**Transforming  
high school  
education  
in RUSD.**

## How does it work?

Exploration begins during Freshman Seminar. You will chart your unique Pathway during ninth grade, exploring the career clusters. A Pathway is a sequence of courses within a chosen Academy designed to help students explore and prepare for a specific career area while meeting the mandatory requirements for high school graduation.



Pathways provide students with a plan to connect coursework in high school with college and career opportunities after graduation.

After choosing a Pathway, you will then select one Academy to pursue during your high school career. You will have opportunities to earn college credits, experience apprenticeships and earn certifications in a particular field of study throughout your high school career.

## What do Academies Offer?

- Academies offer smaller, personalized learning environments
- Academies partner with local businesses to solve real-world problems for authentic learning
- Academies focus on 21st century skills students need to succeed in college and life
- Academies provide a culture of teamwork, critical thinking, collaboration and creativity

# Freshman Academy

So you are a freshman and are attending the Academies of Racine - now what? This is a quick guide for freshman year:

## 1. Bell Schedule

As a freshman, you will select eight block courses (one of which will be Freshman Seminar). You will have four courses a day.

### Sample Schedule

Regular A Day Schedule		
Block 1	7:15 a.m. - 8:48 a.m. <i>(93-min. class)</i>	English
Block 2	8:55 a.m. - 10:31 a.m. <i>(93-min. class + announcements)</i>	Mathematics
Block 3 -1	10:38 a.m. - 11:25 a.m. <i>(47-min. lunch)</i> 11:25 a.m. - 12:59 p.m. <i>(94-min. class)</i>	Freshman Seminar + Lunch
Block 3-2	10:38 a.m. - 11:25 a.m. <i>(class/split)</i> 11:25 a.m. - 12:12 p.m. <i>(47-min. lunch)</i> 12:12 p.m. - 12:59 p.m. <i>(class/split)</i>	
Block 3-3	10:38 a.m. - 12:12 p.m. <i>(94-min. class)</i> 12:12 p.m. - 12:59 p.m. <i>(47-min. lunch)</i>	
Block 4	1:06 p.m. - 2:39 p.m. <i>(93-min. class)</i>	Social Studies

Note: You will have one of the three third block options (either block 3-1, block 3-2 or block 3-3). Announcements will be made during the second block. You will take a staggered 47-minute lunch during the third block of your day. Lunch periods begin either at 10:38 a.m., 11:25 a.m. or 12:12 p.m.



## Regular B Day Schedule

Block 1	7:15 a.m. - 8:48 a.m. <i>(93-min. class)</i>	Science
Block 2	8:55 a.m. - 10:31 a.m. <i>(93-min. class + announcements)</i>	Phy. Ed./Health
Block 3 -1	10:38 a.m. - 11:25 a.m. <i>(47-min. lunch)</i> 11:25 a.m. - 12:59 p.m. <i>(94-min. class)</i>	Elective + Lunch
Block 3-2	10:38 a.m. - 11:25 a.m. <i>(class/split)</i> 11:25 a.m. - 12:12 p.m. <i>(47-min. lunch)</i> 12:12 p.m. - 12:59 p.m. <i>(class/split)</i>	
Block 3-3	10:38 a.m. - 12:12 p.m. <i>(94-min. class)</i> 12:12 p.m. - 12:59 p.m. <i>(47-min. lunch)</i>	
Block 4	1:06 p.m. - 2:39 p.m. <i>(93-min. class)</i>	
		Elective

## 2. Freshman Seminar – One-Year Course

All freshmen will take the Freshman Seminar course. This is a one-year course that will help you determine which Career Academy best parallels your interests. This course will also teach you real-world skills such as time management, creating a resume and interviewing skills.

Freshman Seminar combines career exploration and development with special emphasis on soft skills, communication skills, critical thinking and problem-solving skills as well as personal qualities (responsibility, self-esteem, self-management and integrity).

### 3. SEE Your Future Expo - Fall

Think of the Expo like a 'Career Trade Show'. There will be career-related, hands-on demonstrations and engaging activities in a broad variety of careers. With the participation of community employers, the SEE Your Future Expo will help forge a relevant link between what you are learning in the classroom and how you'll use it in real life.

At the event, employers will be distributed into three (3) different Career Zones representing occupations related to the Academies and career clusters:



#### Business & Information Technology

A/V Technology & Communications; Business, Management & Administration; Information Technology; Marketing; Finance

#### Culinary Arts, Education, Health Sciences & Leadership/Military

Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources; Education & Training; Government & Public Administration; Health Science; Hospitality & Tourism; Human Services; Law, Public Safety & Security



#### Automotive, Aviation & Technical Services

Architecture & Construction; Manufacturing; Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM); Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

## 4. College Visits - Spring

In early spring, freshmen will take a tour of a two-year and four-year college. RUSD collaborates with our post-secondary partners to offer every freshman the opportunity to tour their facilities. During the college tours, you will have an opportunity to learn the differences between a two- and four-year college. You will also learn about admission requirements as well as daily student life on campus.



## 5. Declaration Day - Spring

Near the end of the school year, your school will hold a ceremony celebrating your Academy selection. As you complete the Freshman Seminar course, you will have the tools necessary to choose your Career Academy Pathway. Identifying your personal interests will guide you to the best Academy for you, making high school and your future education/ career motivating and enjoyable.

You will choose from the following three Academies, depending on the high school you attend:



- Academy of Health Sciences & Education
- Academy of Business & Culinary Arts
- Academy of IT & Technical Services



- Academy of Health Sciences & Aviation
- Academy of Business & Culinary Arts
- Academy of Education & Technical Services



- Academy of Health Sciences & Education
- Academy of Business & Culinary Arts
- Academy of Leadership, Automotive & Technical Services\*

## Career Pathways

- Army JROTC\*\*
- Automotive
- Aviation
- Biomedical Sciences
- Business
- Construction
- Culinary Arts
- Early Childhood & Education
- Engineering
- Finance
- Health Services
- Information Technology
- Manufacturing
- Marketing

*\*Case and Horlick students interested in the Automotive Pathway should speak with their counselor.*

*\*\* Offered at Park High School*

# How do I choose a Career Academy?

Choosing a Career Academy can be an overwhelming task, but don't fret, that is what your Freshman Seminar course is for! You will review the different Career Academies and Pathways during your freshman year. In the meantime, review these steps to get an idea of which Career Academy is right for you:

## Step 1. Identify your interests.

Identifying your personal interests (hobbies and areas of study) will guide you to the best Academy for you.

For example, do you enjoy building things, solving puzzles, learning about cars and working with tools? Then the Academy that includes Technical Services may be right for you.

## Step 2. Review your Career Pathway options.

Review the Career Pathway descriptions during your Freshman Seminar course and determine which best fits your interests!

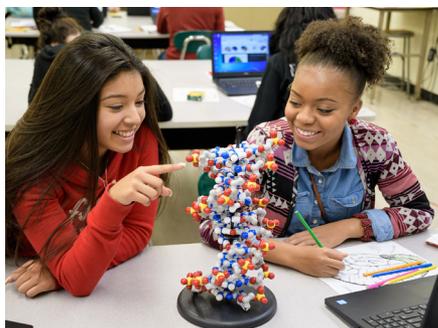
## Step 3. Select your electives.

In addition to selecting an Academy and Pathway, most students have room in their schedule for an elective or two (or three)! Electives can be taken across all Academies.

## What if I change my mind?

You will be exposed to a great deal of information through community and workplace experiences. This will prepare you to make an informed decision on your Career Academy.

Students are allowed to change their Academy selection **once**.



Pathways will require students to earn a certification or industry credential for completion. You will need to plan for this if considering switching Pathways to complete these requirements.

# Career Academy Pathway EXAMPLE - Business

**Business:** Planning, organizing, directing, and controlling business operations. Those who work in this field use a broad range of ideas and practices to maintain and grow their business through the management of materials, equipment, workers and other financial resources.

## Potential Careers in Business

- Advertising sales person
- Business consultant
- Corporate trainer
- E-commerce analyst
- Entrepreneur
- Facilities manager
- Human resources manager
- Business operations manager
- Compliance officer
- Financial advisor
- Insurance agent
- Management analyst

## High School Pathway Courses

Grade 9: Freshman Seminar

Grade 10: Business Seminar  
Computers for Professionals\*

Grade 11: Entrepreneurship  
Business Law\*

Grade 12: Accounting Principles\*  
And an Option for Co-operative  
Business Occupation Work Placement

\*Dual credit courses with Gateway Technical College

## Examples of Post-Secondary Degrees

### Associate's Degree

Associate in Applied Science in Business Management  
*Gateway Technical College*

### Bachelor's Degree

Bachelor of Science in Business Management  
*University of Wisconsin at Parkside*

Bachelor of Arts in Management  
*Carthage College*

### Master's Degree

Master of Business Administration  
*University of Wisconsin at Parkside*

## Possible Certifications Earned

- General Management Certification (Gateway Technical College)
- Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) - Word, PowerPoint & Excel
- Wisconsin DPI Skills Standards Certificate in Business



# Core Curriculum & Graduation Requirements

**All Academies require a Core Curriculum of English, Math, Science, Social Studies, PE/Health and Global Electives as a requirement for graduation.**

A total of 26 credits is required to meet graduation requirements. The minimum graduation requirements include:

Subject	Carnegie units required	Notes
English	4.0	Writing Composition is required; Excludes Yearbook Publication, Publications Photography and Newspaper Publication
Mathematics	3.0	Courses must be Algebra 1 or higher; Computer sciences can qualify; Digital Electronics can qualify
Science	3.0	Courses must be 9th Lab Science or higher; Principles of Engineering can qualify
Social Studies	3.5	Required: US History, World History, American Gov't, Economics, Sociology
Physical Education	1.5	Requirement for the number of years
Health Education	0.5	Freshman year
Fine Arts	1.0	
Electives	7.5	
Career and Technical Education (CTE)	1.0	
Freshman Seminar	1.0	
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>26.0</b>	

**Additional Notes:** Students must correctly answer at least 60 out of 100 questions from the INS Citizenship Test to successfully complete the Wisconsin Civics Examination requirement (includes students receiving LEP or 504 services).

Every Racine Unified graduate must meet the following requirements:

- District graduation requirements
- Participate in a Career Pathway course sequence
- Complete an Academic and Career Plan

To be college and/or career ready, graduates must also accomplish indicators as described below.

## Career Ready Indicators<sup>1</sup>

**Career Ready** graduates identify a career cluster interest and meet **two** or more of the benchmarks below:

- 97% Attendance
- 80 hours of community service or a service learning project
- 160 hours of work experience in good standing
- Wisconsin certified Co-op program or Youth Apprenticeship certification
- Industry credential/certification (high demand area recommended)
- WorkKeys Certificate silver or higher
- Involvement in an approved career and technical student organization
- Two or more organized co-/extra-curricular activities
- Students entering the military meet the passing scores on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) for chosen military branch

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<sup>1</sup>Please note that each individual employer and job will have individual criteria

Source: <http://www.redefiningready.org/>

<sup>2</sup>Please note that each college or university has individualized admission requirements  
These readiness indicators begin with the class of 2020.

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## College Ready Indicators<sup>2</sup>

**College Ready** graduates maintain a minimum GPA 2.8 out of 4.0 and **two** or more of the following benchmarks:

- ACT reading score of 22 or ACT math Score of 22
- AP exam (3+) or AP course (C or better)
- IB exam (4+) or IB course (C or better)
- PLTW end of course exam (6+) or PLTW course (C or better)
- Algebra II (C or better)
- Dual credit Career Pathway course (C or better)
- Dual credit College English and/or math (C or better)

Other Factors that Contribute to College and Career Readiness:

- College academic advising; including FAFSA completion
- Participation in an approved College Bound Program
- Completion of a 4th credit of math and/or science or 2 credits of world language
- Seal of Biliteracy
- Completion of an online course

## Life Ready Indicators - Critical for both College & Career Ready graduates

- Completion of a financial literacy curriculum or experience
- Understanding of growth mindset
- Effectively advocating strengths and weaknesses
- Demonstrating grit and perseverance to achieve goals
- Demonstrating use of employability skills
- Demonstrating ability to express viewpoints and interpret diverse perspectives



# Notes:





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