

The Career Academies of Lawrence High School

The Academy of Arts and Humanities

The Academy of Business and International Studies

The Academy of Science and Technology

<http://www.ltps.org/HighSchool>

ACADEMY DEFINITION/PURPOSE

1. *What is a career academy?*

A career academy is a small learning community that links students with peers, teachers, and community partners in a disciplined and nurturing environment.

Students participate in a college preparatory curriculum with a career theme, which will include core academic required courses, a variety of electives, career-related experiences through community partnerships, and the possibility of certain certifications.

Career Academy Teachers make a commitment to meet with each other on a regular basis, and share in decision-making related to administrative policies, curriculum content, and instruction.

Community Partners will help build connections for students between school and work, providing students with a range of career, academic, and other learning opportunities.

2. *What are the benefits of joining a career academy?*

- Students will have a more focused course of study with a core team of teachers
- Students will be able to pursue a rigorous core course of study (including AP and honors courses) and take more focused academy electives
- Students will experience the benefits of career driven partnerships with employers, community, and higher education, building connections between school and work

3. *What are the academy options?*

- At Lawrence High School, students may opt to join any one of three career academies.
 - The Academy of Arts & Humanities (Jill Vaughn / jvaughn@ltps.org)
 - The Academy of Business & International Studies (Jeff Rick / jrick@ltps.org)
 - The Academy of Science & Technology (Chiara Shah / cshah@ltps.org)
- If a student elects not to join an academy he/she may remain in the comprehensive program.

CHOOSING AN ACADEMY

4. *How do I choose my academy?*

- Students should make voluntary choices based on personal interests and goals as well as insight from their counselors.
- Enrollment will occur midway through sophomore year during course scheduling with counselors.

5. **Do academies lock students into a career path?** Absolutely not. Academies will allow students to explore and make more informed decisions prior to college or work.

PARTICIPATION

6. **Do I have to be in an academy?** Career academies are not mandatory. If a student chooses not to join an academy, he/she will remain in the LHS comprehensive program.

7. **What if I don't get into the academy of my choice?** Every effort will be made for all students to participate in the academy of their choice.
8. **Can I be in two academies?** No, but students can take courses outside of their academy if they choose.
9. **What are the requirements for joining an academy?** Student interest.

CHANGING ACADEMIES AND OTHER COURSES

10. **Do I have to stay in one academy for both junior and senior years?** At this time, if a student does not wish to remain in an academy after one year (junior year), he or she may make a different choice. Students may not switch academies in the middle of a school year.

COURSES/SCHEDULE

11. **What type of courses will be offered in each academy?**

The course of study for each academy is provided in the Lawrence High School Course Catalog. The course of study for each academy includes a mix of core required courses and electives, including rigorous AP and honors courses. In fact, Lawrence High School provides one of the richest electives offerings in Mercer County.

12. **Will there be different graduation requirements? Do I still have to take four years of English?**

Students in career academies will not have different graduation requirements, particularly in terms of the state and district required graduation requirements. The difference will be in the choice of electives and the career-themed experiences provided. Once the academies evolve, however, this may change.

COLLEGE AND EMPLOYMENT

13. **How does being in an academy help shape my future?**

- Students will complete college entrance academic requirements while being exposed to a variety of occupations within a career area.
- The academy will support students to increase their achievement in high school. This comes through close relationships with teachers and fellow students; rigorous and relevant curriculum; and exposure to career and educational options outside of the high school walls.
- Employers will value academy participation (for example, internships, certifications, etc.) of those entering the workforce.

14. **Will I have an internship?**

In the 2011-12 school year, the academies will pilot the new Lawrence High School "Senior Experience" in order to develop it purposefully for years to come. Internships are one way to fulfill the Senior Experience graduation requirement. The components of the Senior Experience may include:

- Career-based learning (for example, job shadowing/internships, community work-study/cooperative education, or Teacher's Assistant Program)
- Leadership Opportunities (for example, senior retreat, transition project, Teen PEP, or other peer mentoring opportunities)
- Service (for example, community service for in-school and after-school projects)
- Courses (for example, online courses, college/university classes, or independent study)