



Career Academies in DCPS: Overview

Overview: In 2013, Mayor Vincent C. Gray announced the establishment of seven new National Academy Foundation (NAF) Career Academies at six DCPS high schools. The Academies will begin enrolling students in School Year 2014-15. The Academies center around three themes: Engineering, Hospitality, and Information Technology (IT), which align closely with high wage and high demand jobs in the District. Embedded within the Academy model are strong college and industry partnerships, internships, and rigorous curricula that culminates in industry-recognized certification. All Academies are supported by Industry Advisory Boards whose members include local business leaders. **It is our expectation that all Academy graduates continue on to college before pursuing a career.**

#	School Name	Academy Type	Industry & College Partners	Industry Certification	2014-15 Projected Enrollments
1	Cardozo EC	IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DC IT Industry Advisory Board (Chair: Marullus Williams, CEO, Limbic Systems) Developing College Partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adobe ACA Printshop, Dreamweaver, Flash, & Premier Maya 	49 9 th & 10 th graders
2	Columbia Heights EC	Hospitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DC Hospitality Industry Advisory Board (Chair: Thomas Penny, Chairman, Hotel Association of Washington, DC) Dual Enrollment at UDC and Montgomery College(Proposed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified Guest Service Professional & Front Desk Representative Certifications (American Hotel & Lodging Association) Customer Service Certification (National Retail Federation) 	81 9 th – 12 th graders
3	Dunbar	Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DC Engineering Industry Advisory Board (Chair: Deryl McKissack, CEO, McKissack & McKissack) Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Exams Eligible for College Credit College Partnerships through PLTW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autodesk Certified User Certification 	46 9 th & 10 th graders
4	McKinley Tech	Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DC Engineering Industry Advisory Board Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Exams Eligible for College Credit College Partnerships through PLTW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autodesk Certified User Certification 	23 10 th graders
5	McKinley Tech	IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DC IT Industry Advisory Board Developing College Partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adobe ACA Printshop, Dreamweaver, Flash, & Premier Maya CompTIA A+ & Security+ Cisco CCENT 	77 10 th graders
6	Phelps ACE	Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DC Engineering Industry Advisory Board Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Exams Eligible for College Credit College Partnerships through PLTW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autodesk Certified User Certification 	66 9 th & 10 th graders
7	Wilson	Hospitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DC Hospitality Industry Advisory Board Dual Enrollment at UDC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified Guest Service Professional & Front Desk Representative Certifications (American Hotel & Lodging Association) Customer Service Certification (National Retail Federation) 	38 9 th & 10 th graders

DCPS Contact: Dr. Erin Bibo, Director of College and Career Education (erin.bibo@dc.gov)

Career Academies: NAF Outcomes, Locations, & the Student Experience

NAF Academy Outcomes:

- Students in NAF Academies tend to have higher high school graduation rates than their peers.
- Students in NAF Academies tend to have higher college enrollment rates than their peers.
- 52% of NAF graduates earn bachelor's degrees in four years—compared with 32% nationally.
- Of those who go on to postsecondary education, more than 50% are the first in their families to go to college.
- 90% of students report that the academies helped them to develop career plans.
- 85% of alumni are working in a professional field.
- Academy graduates sustained \$16,704 more in total earnings over the 8 years following high school than non-academy group members who were also studied—11% more per year.

NAF Academies Across the Country:

- There are 565 NAF Academies across the US, in:
 - 38 states, the District of Columbia, and the US Virgin Islands
 - 177 School Districts, including New York City, Miami-Dade County, Los Angeles, and Dallas
- 70,259 students across the country attended NAF Academies in SY2013-14
 - 65% are from underrepresented minority groups
 - 61% qualify for Free and Reduced-Price Lunch
 - 14% are English Language Learners

The Student Experience at NAF Academies in the District of Columbia:

- Depending on their high school, DC students will enroll in their NAF Academy in either the 9th or 10th grade.
 - NAF Academies host recruiting events across the city for middle and high school students.
- Students pursue their standard academic core courses in addition to the 3-4 rigorous, career-focused courses exclusive to their Academy
- Students will take at least one industry-recognized certification exam, typically in the 11th or 12th grade. These certifications are viewed as a student's competency and mastery of a skill within their field, and are valued by employers.
- Students will have the opportunity to take courses on college campuses during their Academy experience.
- Upon successful completion and graduation of a NAF Academy, students will receive a NAFNext Certification. Major national companies including AT&T, Cisco, EMC, HP, JPMorgan Chase, Juniper Networks, KPMG LLP, RBC Capital Markets US, Verizon, and Xerox have promised to give special consideration to job applicants holding a NAFNext Certification. As such, this will give NAF Academy graduates a significant leg up in the job market.
- NAF Academy Students Can Expect to Benefit from the Following Work Based Learning Opportunities:
 - Mentorships from professionals in students' career area of interest
 - Paid internships in students' field of interest
 - Site visits to and job shadowing opportunities at dynamic workplaces in the District

For More Information, Please Contact:

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