



To help students prepare for life after high school, the Waterloo Schools offer Career Interest Academies (CIAs). CIAs are small learning communities of students taking courses with a career theme.

The District has formed partnerships with employers, the community, and higher

education to incorporate work-based learning opportunities into the Academies. Students take required academic classes for graduation and elective/CTE classes. The electives are closely aligned to the academies. Students have access to the full range of classes offered at the high schools. Counselors and staff work closely with

students to determine their career interest area and choose the courses that align with their interests. Several of the career interest areas connect with Hawkeye Community College career pathways allowing students to earn high school and college credit. Post secondary options are also available.

Career Interest Areas & Jobs

Arts, Communication, & Business (ACB) Academy

- Arts, AV Technology, & Communications
- Information Technology
- Marketing, Sales, & Service
- Business, Management & Administration Finance

Engineering, Technology, & Manufacturing (ETM) Academy

- Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics
- Architectural & Construction Technology
- Manufacturing
- Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics
- Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources

Health Services Academy

- Therapeutic, Diagnostic and Support Services
- Health Information & Biotechnology research
- Development for human and animal sciences

Human Services Academy

- Human Services, Career Pathways related to family and human needs
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Education & Training
- Government & Public Administration
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security

Why Career Interest Academies?

CIAs build skill sets for future employees and post secondary education. Whether you go straight into the workforce or attend higher education, the academies prepare you for both.

CIAs are flexible, as a student's interests may change throughout their education. Students can change academies at the end of the year and electives at semester.

Gaining Local Perspective

Each academy has a Career & Technical advisory board of local community members representing businesses in the Cedar Valley. They review the curriculum and offer guidance on the types of employable skills students will need for the future.

Students in the academies gain real world exposure and have the opportunity to gain professional experience as they progress in the CIAs through:

- Field experiences
- Job shadowing
- Guest Speakers
- Mentoring
- Internships
- Field Trips





The academies are committed to the mission of creating students who are prepared for career, college, and citizenship.

*ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS*

- | | |
|---|--|
| ACES | Manpower |
| Allen College–
Iowa Health Systems | MidAmerican Energy |
| Barmuda | Natural Resources
Conservation Service |
| Bertch Cabinet | Newton's Paradise Café |
| Black Hawk County
Extension–
Iowa State Extension | Northeast Iowa Area
Education Center |
| Black Hawk County
Sheriff's Office | Northeast Iowa Food Bank |
| Cedar Valley United Way | Peters Construction |
| GMT Corporation | Power Engineering &
Manufacturing Ltd. |
| Hawkeye Community
College | StruXture Architecture |
| Hy-Vee | Sturgis Falls Broadcasting |
| International Brotherhood
of Electrical Workers | The Grout Museum District |
| Iowa State Extension | University of Northern Iowa |
| IowaWORKS | Upper Iowa University |
| Isle Casino Hotel Waterloo | Wartburg College |
| John Deere | Waterloo Center
for the Arts |
| Kaplan University | Waterloo Community
Playhouse / Black Hawk
Children's Theatre |
| KBBG | Waterloo Police Department |
| Lincoln Savings Bank | Wheaton Franciscan
Healthcare |

*Engaged Learners
Ready for the Future*



How can the Career Interest Academies help your student?

- Allow students to engage in relevant experiences and real-life applications of learning.
- Affect grades, test scores, and graduation rates positively within the personalization of smaller learning communities and the career interest areas of the student.
- Build resumes with mentoring, job shadowing, and internships.
- Enhance core curriculum by infusing career interest topics. (for example-during math classes for ACB academy, problems will sometimes use accounting examples.)
- Provide more opportunities for college courses taken in the high school and at local colleges/ community colleges.
- Work with local community members and curriculum to ensure students are learning employability skills needed for the future.



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