

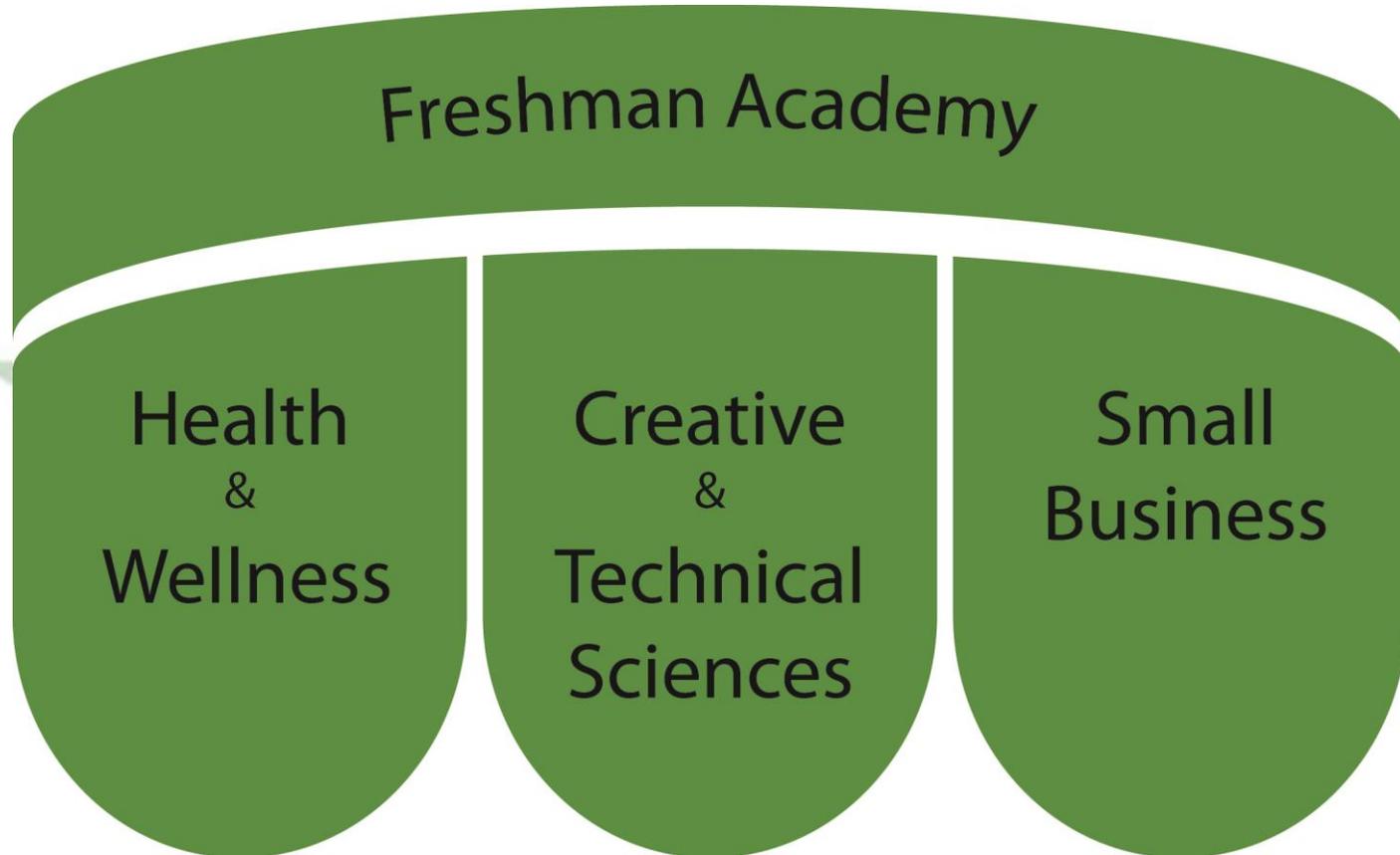


The Academies
at
Benson High School Magnet

Defining Career Academies

- The purpose is to create an entire school focused on both the rigor of college preparation and the real-world application of career skills.
- A career academy includes the following essential elements:
 - A small learning community
 - A college-prep curriculum with a career theme
 - Partnerships with employers, the community, and higher education

Academy Structure



Freshman Academy



Key Concepts in Academy Development

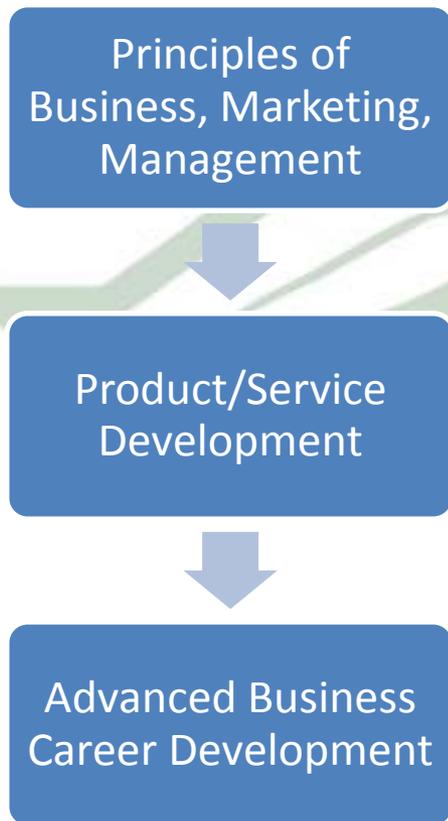
Key Component	Critical Level
Teacher common planning time	More than 1x per week for more than 40 minutes
Teacher/Student Ratio	Less than 25:1
Students per teacher team	Less than 140
Team continuity	Teachers have worked more than 3 years within academy
Separate Identity	Floor/wing within school
Decision-making	Academy decisions made autonomously within academy
Teacher selection	Teachers self-select to teach within program
Strong school leadership	Administrator and counselor assigned to academy
Professional Development	Academy-specific, focus on curriculum

Freshman Academy for 14/15

- Teamed Freshman Offerings (Priority Scheduling)
 - English 1-2
 - U.S. History 1-2
 - GPS
 - Additional Freshman Team Members
 - Math Teachers (non-priority scheduling)
 - Administrator (Kuhns)
 - Counselor (Starks)
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Small Business Academy

Academy Foundation Classes



Paired Electives Pathways

- Graphic Design
- Culinary
- Law/Business Law
- Accounting
- Newspaper/Photography
- Marketing
- JROTC
- Journalism/Yearbook

Creative and Technical Sciences Academy

Academy Foundation Classes

Research Seminar



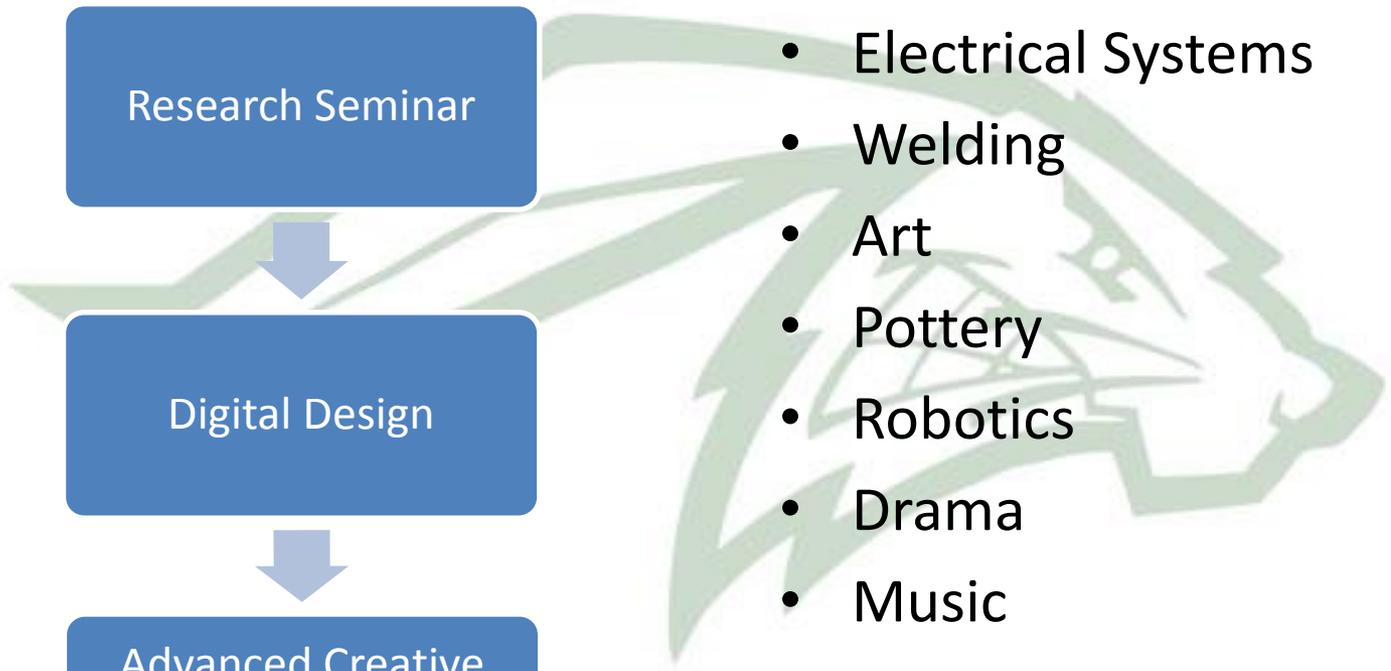
Digital Design



Advanced Creative Portfolio OR Technical Career Development

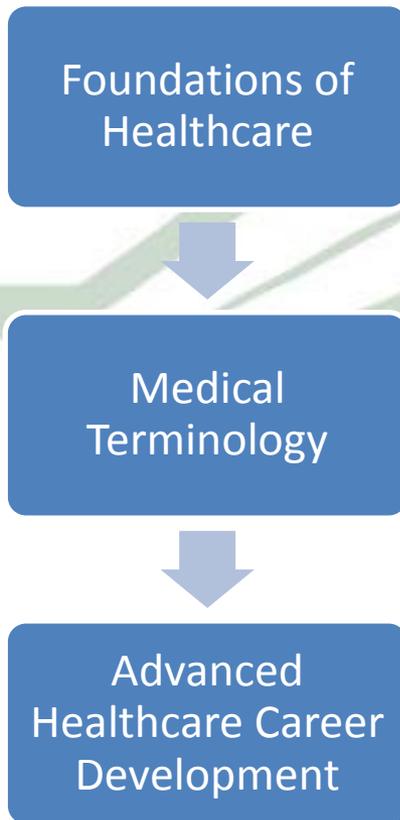
Paired Electives Pathways

- Electrical Systems
- Welding
- Art
- Pottery
- Robotics
- Drama
- Music



Health & Wellness Academy

Academy Foundation Classes



Paired Electives Pathways

- Foods and Nutrition
- Aerobics
- Weight Training
- Sports Management
- Child Development
- Fitness Trainer

Sample Schedule

SBA Sample Schedule

	A – Day	B – Day
B1	English 3-4	Band 3-4
B2	Econ/Geography	Biology 1-2
B3	Economic Development/HGD	Culinary 1-2
B4	Spanish 3-4	Geometry 1-2

Scheduling Rules

- *Students must register for 4 academic cores and academy foundation
- *Students must register for an academy foundation
- *Students must choose 1 academy elective
- Students can choose any area for additional electives

*For Students participating in Career Academies

Sample Personal Learning Plan

Freshman	A – Day	B – Day
B1	English 1-2	PE/Band/ROTC
B2	Algebra 1-2	Physical Science 1-2
B3	US History 1-2	Elective 2
B4	Elective 1	GPS

Sophomore	A – Day	B – Day
B1	English 3-4	PE/BAND/ROTC
B2	Econ/ Geography	Biology 1-2
B3	½ Elective /HGD	Paired Elective
B4	Academy Foundation	Geometry 1-2

Junior	A – Day	B – Day
B1	English 5-6	Band/ROTC/ Elective 1
B2	Algebra 3-4	Chemistry 1-2
B3	World History 1-2	Academy Foundation
B4	Paired Elective	Elective 2

Senior	A – Day	B – Day
B1	English 7-8	Band/ROTC/ Elective 1
B2	Trig/Pre-Calc	Academy Foundation
B3	Govt/ Elective ½	Paired Elective
B4	Elective 3**	Elective 2

** 4 year Benson students must take Science Elective

Curriculum Adaption

- Why?
 - Academies combine a **college-preparatory curriculum with a career theme**
 - Academic courses that meet high school graduation and college entrance requirements need to be linked with technical courses that focus on the academy's field of work.

FAQs

- Why career academies?
 - Academies help students receive a more relevant, rigorous education and make connections to other students, teachers, mentors, and future employers. Career pathways focus on coursework that connects academic learning to real world applications and include Advanced Placement course options. Capstone experiences allow students to individualize their focus with a culminating experience or project. Several pathways include industry certification indicators or affiliation with national or regional professional associations.
 - Academies promote teamwork among teachers, relationships among students with common interests and link high schools to career professionals, communities and higher education. Each Career Academy will have multiple business, education and community partners who support student success through mentorship or contribution of resources.

FAQs

- Who makes the decision about which academy a student enters?
 - Students and parents make the academy choice, with guidance from teachers and counselors.
 - The interests and needs of each student determine what academy program they enter and what courses they choose to take. Each Career Academy offers many pathways to careers, with courses focused on information and skills that support further academic study and future employment. The pathways guide students in selecting courses that support their personal and academic goals.

FAQs

- What happens when a student wants to change?
 - If a student chooses to change from the H&W academy to the SB academy, they can. They will take the sophomore level academy course and cannot enter a pocket academy
- Can a student choose an academy foundation as an elective? (Ex. Can a SB student choose Anatomy & Physiology)
 - No. The academy foundation curriculum is closely tied to the previous academy foundation and loosely tied to paired electives. We provide plenty of other rigorous non-academy courses to choose from. From the example: AP Biology or AP Chemistry instead of Healthcare Skill Development. Further, hopefully all of those students with an interest in the academy foundation are in that academy.

FAQs

- What about electives not listed?
 - Students still have every opportunity to take Band, ROTC, Choir, etc... They will need to make those choices with their additional elective options. Students in pocket academies, making up credits or in remediation programs will have fewer options.
- Are students required to complete a program of study?
 - No. While not preferred, students can choose any paired elective at any time. Ex. SBA student takes Culinary 1-2, Graphic Design 1-2, Accounting 1-2, with other non-academy electives.

FAQs

- Why 4 academic cores for 4 years?
 - Academy students are expected to participate in rigorous curriculum. With our emphasis on careers, we need to ensure students are prepared for college if that is the path they choose. Our academies are about opening more doors for students, not closing them.
- What do educational researchers say about career academies?
 - Career academies, after more than four decades of development and three decades of evaluation, have been found by a conclusive random assignment study to be effective in improving outcomes for students during and after high school. Career academies have therefore become the most durable and best-tested component of a high school reform strategy to prepare students for both college and careers.