What is Omaha Public Schools Career Education?

Career Education has a long history of preparing students to be college and career ready. Over 16,000 students enroll in career education courses each year. In addition, students take part in student organizations and internships.

What students are saying about OPS Career Education:

“Career education courses prepared me for demanding college courses and opportunities. By learning basic business fundamentals before entering college, I had a head start on my higher education that I use on a daily basis and will continue to use in the future.”

- Kristy, Business, Central H.S.

“After high school I plan on going to college to study pre-med. I now understand that to become a pediatrician, I have to be very dedicated to what I want to do. My teachers greatly encourage me. They never give up on me and are always there to make sure I am on the right track.”

- DaNeisha, Child Development, Bryan H.S.
Programs of Study
A program includes Career Education, core and other required/supportive courses that prepare a student for their career area. It also identifies extended learning opportunities such as career student organizations, work-based learning and other school and community activities.

Career Center • The Omaha Public Schools Career Center is a unique facility located at the Teacher Administrative Center (TAC) which offers career oriented courses for sophomores, juniors and seniors. Industry certification and college credit are offered in many of the different career programs.

The UNMC High School Alliance is a partnership between the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and 19 high schools in 10 school districts including the Omaha Public Schools. It offers unique and innovative health science classes to high school juniors and seniors on the UNMC campus.

The Zoo Partnership is a partnership between Henry Doorly Zoo, Papillion-LaVista Schools and OPS to offer unique and innovative science classes to high school juniors and seniors at the Zoo campus.

Career Academy Programs • Several OPS high schools have implemented career academies. Career Academies are small learning communities within the larger high school, interested in a particular career theme. These student cohorts take academic and career education courses together centered around a career field.

Career Education Student Organizations provide valuable leadership, career related experiences and support for students.

DECA an international association of high school and college students studying marketing, management and entrepreneurship in business, finance, hospitality, marketing sales and service.

FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) brings business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs.

FEA (Future Educators of America) supports young people interested in education-related careers.

FFA The National FFA Organization (formerly Future Farmers of America) is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) is a career student organization for young students in Family and Consumer Sciences.

HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) promotes career opportunities in health care to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people.

SkillsUSA serves teachers and high school/college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations.

The VEX Robotics program offers students an exciting platform for learning about areas rich with career opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Beyond science and engineering principles, a VEX Robotics project encourages teamwork, leadership and problem solving among groups.

The Nebraska Career Education Model is a visual map of “career fields” and “career cluster/pathways.” The model organizes the 16 National Career Clusters into six broad sectors of entrepreneurship and employment:

- Agriculture, Food, Natural Resources
- Business, Marketing and Management
- Communication and Information Systems
- Health Sciences
- Human Services and Education
- Technical Sciences

OPS Career Education Dual Enrollment • The Omaha Public Schools offer Career Education dual enrollment opportunities taught by certified staff at schools or at offsite locations. Students receive both OPS credit and college credit.

Internships • Paid and unpaid internships provide a short-term work experience in a chosen field of interest. These opportunities include structured experiences in the 11th and 12th grade that prepare students for a smooth transition into the workforce or postsecondary education upon high school graduation.

NCE Career Education Model
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- Agriculture, Food, Natural Resources
- Business, Marketing and Management
- Communication and Information Systems
- Health Sciences
- Human Services and Education
- Technical Sciences

These fields further break down into specific Career Clusters, Pathways and Occupational Specialties. The model provides a way for:

- Students to explore the diversity of career options available
- Students to prepare for future career plans
- Schools to organize curriculum into programs of study that prepare students for opportunities in Nebraska’s economy