

CAREER PATHWAYS

Beginning in 2007, the Iowa legislature began requiring that students in public schools exit eighth grade and enter high school with a 4-year career plan. In the Davenport Community School District (DCSD), eighth grade students select a career pathway that most interests them and complete an **Academic Career Plan (ACP)** that identifies the high school courses that align with it. With the help of school personnel, parents, and other caring adults, students complete their ACP being careful to ensure that all high school graduation and college entrance requirements are met. Each year students have an opportunity to revise their ACP and change their Career Pathway as their career goals become more focused and their interests and needs change. A complete listing of the high school requirements, along with the entire 'Course Guide' of high school offerings, can be found on the district web site: <http://www.davenport.k12.ia.us/students.asp>.

Iowa has taken the 16 national career clusters and has "generalized" them into 6 career pathways.

- For our purposes in the DCSD, we are considering the 6 career pathways (represented with numbers below) to be more general and for students who are not as sure about their career choice. These students may want to explore a career pathway and are more likely to "sample" multiple career pathways over time.
→ **Numbers** are **General** Career Pathways
- For our purposes in the DCSD, we are considering the 16 national career clusters (represented by letters below) to be more specific career pathways and for students who have a better idea of which career they want to pursue.
→ **Letters** are **Specific** Career Pathways

1. Agrisciences & Natural Resources

- a. Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources

2. Arts & Communications Career Pathway

- a. Arts, A/V Technology & Communications

3. Business, Information & Marketing

- a. Business, Management & Administration
- b. Finance
- c. Information Technology
- d. Marketing, Sales & Service

4. Engineering, Industrial & Technological Sciences

- a. Architecture & Construction

b. Manufacturing

c. Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

d. Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

5. Family & Human Services

- a. Education & Training
- b. Government & Public Administration
- c. Hospitality & Tourism
- d. Human Services
- e. Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security

6. Health Services

- a. Health Science

Note: The 16 Career Clusters identified at the national level have been arbitrarily placed under the 6 Career Pathways identified by the State of Iowa where they seem to most closely align. In reality, the Career Clusters may have application in multiple Career Pathways.

To assist them in their career planning, students need to do research to become familiar with the full range of opportunities available; the preparation required; job opportunities; salary range; and advantages and disadvantages of each career area. The State of Iowa funds phenomenal web-based career exploration software called "Choices" that will assist students with their research. Students may obtain a password from their school then go to www.collegeplanning.org/iowachoice to use this software outside of a classroom.

The DCSD has developed *Plans of Study* intended to serve as guides, along with other career planning resources, in helping students complete their ACPs. These *Plans of Study* show actual DCSD core courses recommended for each career pathway. The *Plans of Study* are not intended to be complete listings of all the options within the career pathways. They are intended to be flexible and should be individualized to meet each learner's educational and career goals. All of the *Plans of Study* are rigorous enough to prepare students for post-secondary education after high school graduation, should they choose to attend college, and are built upon a solid foundation of core academics. Supplementary materials showing elective course offerings that relate to each career pathway are also available in the schools and on the district web site. If you have questions, please contact your school's guidance department. The *Plans of Study* can be found on the district web site under Academic Career Plans/Career Pathways: <http://www.davenport.k12.ia.us/students.asp>.

POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTION

The Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act is intended to promote rigorous academic pursuits and to provide a wider variety of options to qualified high school students. The act allows students in grades nine through twelve to enroll part-time in nonsectarian courses in eligible postsecondary schools. A ninth or tenth grade student must be identified as a gifted and talented student, according to the school district's criteria, to participate in this act. The following information is intended to respond to frequently asked questions about the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act.

1. Which students are eligible to participate in this act?

Answer: Students in the eleventh or twelfth grade and those ninth and tenth grade students identified as gifted and talented who are prepared to pursue academic studies beyond curricular offerings of the Davenport Community Schools. Students approved to participate in this act are expected to have a well-documented academic history and a well defined career objective. A student who has already earned all the credits needed to graduate from our district (including specific subject area requirements) is **not** eligible for the Postsecondary Enrollment Option. Any college-level courses taken by such a student prior to his/her formal high school graduation are at his/her own expense. Students who have not yet earned all the credits required for graduation are eligible for the Postsecondary Enrollment Option only if they have successfully completed the highest level course our district offers in the area of study they want to pursue or if students want to pursue an academic area not included in our district's curricular offerings.

2. What postsecondary educational institutions may a student enroll in under this act?

Answer: Any accredited Iowa institution, either public or private.