

Career Edge[®] Career Academies

Kirkwood annually enrolls more than 1,300 high school students in its 11 Career Edge[®] Academies. The academies enable qualified students to earn college credit while in high school, follow a career pathway plan, and to explore related careers in a wide range of work-based learning experiences. Career Academies

are developed and improved with support from the State of Iowa's Grow Iowa Values funds and the U.S. Department of Education's Carl Perkins funding for Tech Prep programs.

Kirkwood offers Academy programs in these areas: Advanced Manufacturing, Automotive Collision, Automotive Technology, Local Area Networking, Health Sciences, Education and Human Services, Computer Programming, Engineering and Engineering Technology, Graphic Communication, Information Systems Management, and Welding Technology.

IT-Career Edge[®] Academy Project: Information Systems Management (ISM)

Kirkwood received a three-year, \$728,000 grant supported by H1-B Visa dollars through the Education and Training Administration to establish an Information Systems Management Career Academy. Kirkwood's partners in this project include 28 area high schools, the Workplace Learning Connection, Region Ten Iowa Workforce Development, and regional employers. More than 560 area high school students are enrolled in the ISM Academy.



The ISM Academy is designed to provide workplace learning experiences for students, and to supplement and reinvigorate area high school business education programs with high

quality, industry-driven and technology-enhanced course offerings.

The project has funded 200 scholarships to qualified students to help them pursue the IT-Career Pathway from high school to college. Participating area high school teachers receive training and on-going support from Kirkwood instructors.

Kirkwood's future Career Edge[®] Academy initiatives include the development of a Science Academy in Iowa City and Cedar Rapids high schools with funding support from the National Science Foundation STEP (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program) initiative.

State of Iowa – Grow Iowa Values Fund

Several Career Edge Academy programs have been developed or improved through the innovative Grow Iowa Value funds. More than \$300,000 support the following:

- A. Implementation of the nationally-recognized Project Lead The Way curriculum for the Engineering and Engineering Technology Academy.
- B. Development and implementation of a new Pharmacy Technology Academy.
- C. Expansion of the Automotive Technology Academy to two counties, now serving seven area high schools.
- D. Development and support of the new Center for the Advancement of Career Edge Academies funding professional development for academy teachers and infrastructure improvements.
- E. Expansion of the NSF STEP grant to eight rural high schools to increase the number of students pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.



Kirkwood Community College has created Career Edge Academy programs that feature articulated and college credit courses for high school juniors and seniors that provide career exposure to highly technical fields. Academy programs build upon an existing vocational pathway. Academies provide opportunities for work-based learning in the form of job shadows and internships. Academies offer high school students advanced placement into related college programs. Academy programs are designed to offer rigor, keep high school juniors and seniors engaged in learning and facilitate career decisions and college choice. Career Academy Programs include:

Business & Information Technology:

Computer Programming: Learn the fundamentals of database management and Java technology to gain the skills necessary to pursue academic and professional computer programming opportunities. Courses include: Database fundamentals, SQL Server and Object oriented programming with Java.

Information Systems Management: Learn how to use a variety computer software applications. Courses include: desktop publishing, web page design, multimedia, and advanced computer business applications.

Local Area Networking: Learn how to develop, operate and maintain a computer network using Cisco products. Courses include: LAN design, router basics, NetWare routing, wide area telecommunications.

Graphic Communications: Learn how to blend software and artistic ability in the graphic design and publication industry. Courses include digital drawing, page layout and Photoshop.

Geospatial: learn how GIS mapping and navigation systems are utilized for data sharing. Courses include: Survey of geospatial technology and Introduction to ArcView.

Engineering and Industrial Technology:

Advanced manufacturing: Learn how to operate engine lathes, vertical and horizontal milling machines incorporating modern manufacturing practices.

Automotive Collision: Explore automotive careers and prepare for entry level positions in the industry. Courses include: metalworking and refinishing practices.

Automotive Technology: Begins development of highly skilled technicians for the automotive industry. Courses include: Auto servicing and basic electrical fundamentals, industrial math, and brake systems.

Engineering and Engineering Technology:

Learn about the vast field of engineering from test technicians to drafting, design and technical writing. Courses include: engineering design, principles of engineering and UTC physics, and digital circuits.

Welding: Growing industry demands for welders offer value to students with welding skill essential for manufacturing, transportation, building and bridge construction. Courses include: welding fundamentals, blueprint reading and welding math.

Family and Human Services: Education and Human Services: Develop your talent as a service professional in daycare, social work, teaching and special needs groups. Courses include: early childhood, disabilities services, human services, general and developmental psychology.

Health Sciences: Emergency Medical Services (EMT-B): Learn skills in pre-hospital emergency care. Courses include: medical terminology, first aid, CPR, basic emergency medical technician.

Patient Care: Learn the rewards of patient care. Courses include: medical terminology, nurse aid, CPR, first aid and professionals in health.

Pharmacy Technician: Introduces the skills essential for employment as a pharmacy technician: Courses include: medical terminology, pharmacy technician, math for medications and professionals in health.

Non-patient Care Careers: Presents the skills necessary for employment in a medical office setting. Courses include: medical terminology, professionals in health, medical office management and computer applications.

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