



## KENMORE-TONAWANDA UFSD

### CAREER ACADEMIES & CTE PROGRAMS



### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**1) *Who is eligible to participate in a Career Academy?***

Ideally, students will enroll in Career Academies starting with their freshman year. However, any student may enroll in a Career Academy provided they have already completed some program requirements prior to enrollment and/or have the ability to meet program requirements prior to graduation. Additionally, Academy applicants must have demonstrated sufficient academic achievement prior to enrollment to adequately predict future success as a program participant.

**2) *How do you sign-up for a Career Academy?***

To enroll in a Career Academy students must complete the appropriate application with required signatures from parents or guardians. Applications will be made available to all students during scheduling, both at the middle school and high school level. See your guidance counselor if you have any questions.

**3) *What are the benefits of participation?***

Academy participants benefit in many ways from their experience. Opportunities available to Career Academy students include (but are not limited to):

- ✓ Integrated credit (mathematics, science and social studies options available)
- ✓ Ability to earn a five unit CTE sequence in place of LOTE requirement.
- ✓ Work-based learning opportunities such as internships.
- ✓ Opportunity to interact with career professionals both in and out of the classroom.
- ✓ Diploma endorsement attesting to a high level of career preparation.

**4) *What is a CTE program?***

A Career & Technical Education (CTE) program is a sequence of study designed to prepare participants for careers in a chosen field. All CTE programs are approved by the New York State Education Department and are reviewed periodically. Each of the four Career Academies was planned and reviewed by district faculty, representatives of industry, the Board of Education, and the NYSED. Detailed information related to CTE programs is available at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/cte/>.

**5) *How will participating in an Academy distinguish students from other graduates moving into postsecondary education and the 21st century job market?***

Students completing CTE programs have had the opportunity to develop real-world career skills in preparation for college, apprenticeships, and other forms of on-the-job training. Future employers and postsecondary institutions will see evidence of a quality sequence of study through high school transcripts and diploma endorsement.

**6) *What is the benefit to completing a five unit CTE sequence?***

Students completing a sequence of not less than five units of credit in Business or Technology Education are not required to complete the additional two units of LOTE (foreign language) or to pass the Regents Comprehensive Examination in that language to earn a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation.

**Continued on back!**

**7) *Is a student locked-in to an Academy once they enroll?***

No. Students may stop participating in a Career Academy provided they are still able to meet current graduation requirements. Career Academy participants considering changing courses of study will be required to meet with teachers, guidance counselors, and administrator to explore the opportunities available and discuss how specific learning needs may be met.

**8) *Who should use integrated credit?***

All students may take advantage of earned integrated credit. Integrated credit is course-specific and typically may substitute for one unit of credit in science, mathematics, or social studies. Students must consider what courses are necessary to meet future career plans as they decide how to use earned integrated credit. Consultation with teachers and guidance counselors will help students determine how to best meet specific future career plans.

**9) *Can a student take PLTW courses without being part of a Career Academy?***

Yes. Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses are open to all students. PLTW IED/DDP may be used to satisfy the art/music requirement. Also, PLTW courses may be taken as electives or as part of a five unit sequence. Applicable PLTW courses may be used for integrated credit.

**10) *Can students take Networking 1 & 2 without being part of an Academy?***

Yes. Networking 1 & 2 may be taken as electives by any student. Networking 1 may be used to substitute for one unit of mathematics credit. Students taking Networking 1 are not obligated (but encouraged) to enroll in Networking 2.

**11) *How does a student earn college credit?***

The requirements for college credit vary depending upon the course being taken and the institution awarding credit. Requirements for college credit are outlined at the beginning of each course. If you have any specific questions related to college credit feel free to contact the appropriate department faculty member.

**12) *Are there any special examinations for Career Academy participants?***

Yes. Each Career Academy requires successful completion of an industry standard assessment. Career Academy assessments are outlined below:

Computer Networking & Technology Academy: Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)

Information Technology Academy: NOCTI Computer Technology

Pre-Engineering Academy: NOCTI Pre-Engineering/Engineering Technology

Virtual Enterprise & Finance Academy: NOCTI Accounting Basic

All assessments will be taken at the completion of Career Academy coursework. Successful completion of the industry standard assessment will determine whether or not a student receives a CTE endorsement – it will NOT affect graduation.

**13) *What types of career fields do academies prepare students for?***

The four available Career Academies will prepare students for a wide variety of career fields. See individual Career Academy pamphlets for examples of the various career fields. Go to: [tinyurl.com/kentonschools](http://tinyurl.com/kentonschools).

**14) *Is there any flexibility in a course academy schedule?***

Yes. All Career Academies allow for varying amounts of credit to be earned through electives. Additionally, students may choose to earn integrated credit allowing for greater schedule flexibility. However, students must complete the main sequence of study of each Career Academy

**Detailed Career Academy information may be found at: [tinyurl.com/kentonschools](http://tinyurl.com/kentonschools)**