

CAREERS IN ACTION

ADULT, CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY

**Students:
Get a jump start
on YOUR
Career Pathway**

LEARN today, EARN tomorrow, SHAPE your future NOW www.ManateeACT.com

Fast Tracking to the Future with Career Pathways Programs

Did you know that students can earn college credits toward A.S. or A.A.S. degree programs while still in high school? Or that students can earn industry certifications in high school that also serve as the assessment tool for awarding free articulated college credit within various postsecondary institutions throughout Florida? With Career Pathways programs, high school students can save time and money as they fast track towards a prosperous future in their career of choice. To take advantage of Career Pathways, high school students must plan their career and technical electives carefully, taking a defined sequence to courses in order to earn college credit.

“Successful people are passionate about what they do,” stated Carol Lewis, Career Pathways Coordinator for Manatee County. “Career Pathways provides students with the opportunity to prepare for a career in line with their interests and abilities—a career reflecting their excitement and passion. Students can choose from many career interests such as industrial technologies; health, human and public services; business and marketing; agriculture; environmental and natural resources; or high technology communications, arts and media.”

A Career Pathway is a rigorous series of academic and career courses beginning in high school and transitioning into postsecondary education. The Suncoast Career Pathways Consortium is an organization that oversees the Career Pathways program for Manatee County schools and State College of Florida. The Suncoast Career Pathways Consortium has developed partnerships for articulation programs between the school district and several area postsecondary institutions, including Manatee Technical Institute, Sarasota County Technical Institute, and the University of South Florida.

An articulation agreement is defined when two or more secondary and postsecondary educational institutions bring together groups of educators, administrators, program coordinators, and business and industry representatives for each career pathway. Together, they study curriculum frameworks, syllabi, coursework, industry needs, and available certifications. The end result is an agreement reflecting the amount of college or postsecondary credit students can be awarded for their high school career pathway program. Often a student can eliminate anywhere from one class to a complete semester of college classes by taking advantage of this agreement.

“Students participating in Career Pathways take a sequence of career and technical education classes in high school,” Carol continued. “After completing these courses, along with core academic courses and passing required assessments, students are eligible to enroll in one of the partnering community colleges or technical institutes and receive from 3 – 20 college credits in that field.”

The Career Pathways program is valuable not only to the students who benefit both financially and by saving time spent in school, but also to the workforce community. Because all stakeholders have met at the table and discussed the real workforce need, skills, etc., the end result is a better trained worker who can walk out of the classroom and into the job equipped to be a valuable asset to the company and the community as a whole.

Is your student interested in fast tracking to the future? To find out more information and a list of participating programs and schools, visit www.CareerPathways.me.



Carol Lewis, Manatee County's Career Pathways Coordinator and EdVantage Ambassador.



Representatives from Manatee County School District, Sarasota County School District, and State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota hammered out Career Pathways articulation agreements

JOBS



Bookkeepers
Workplace: small businesses, private practice
Hours: daytime
Salary: \$23,600 – \$37,900



Insurance Claims Adjusters
Workplace: insurance companies
Hours: daytime
Salary: \$40,200 – \$69,100



Accountants
Workplace: corporations, private practice
Hours: daytime
Salary: \$40,600 – \$75,700



Career Pathways is an exciting program that links high school students to their college and career interests through their course of study. It allows students to begin a college-level technical major in high school, giving them a big head start in postsecondary education. By appealing to each student's unique interests, Career Pathways motivates them to achieve and succeed.

PARENT CORNER

- Discussion starter: does your child understand the connection between high school and a career? Talk to your child about the importance of choosing career and technical electives to better prepare them for college and careers.
- Do you have a child in middle school? Parents, become informed about how a planned sequence of career and academic classes in high school can earn college credit and save your tuition dollars later.
- “Career Pathways is presented to every eighth grader and to Career and Technical Education (CTE) students in high school. I talk with the students about their future and how their electives can help define their future. It’s always a great exercise when we talk about a year’s budget and how far it goes with a minimum wage salary. That’s when students really see the connection between education today and a successful career in their future.” Carol Lewis, Career Pathways Coordinator. For more information about Career Pathways, contact Carol at lewis@manateeschools.net or at (941) 708-8770 ext. 2194.

★ How can a high school student earn college credit through Career Pathways?

Answer: By taking a sequence of career and technical education classes, along with core academic courses and passing required assessments, students are eligible to enroll in one of the partnering community colleges or technical institutes and receive from 3 – 20 college credits in that field.

What's on the WEB?

www.CareerPathways.me
www.ManateeACT.com



EdVantage Core Value #4: Actively engage in global outreach.



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