# Fast Track

## Frequently Asked Questions · 2026–27

**Welcome to Fast Track.** Fast Track is a self-paced path that validates how your existing career pathway program aligns with the NAF design, offering an accelerated timeline to joining the NAF network.

## ABOUT FAST TRACK

### 1. What is Fast Track?

An admissions path for schools with a program already aligned with the NAF design. Instead of completing the Year of Planning, your team completes an assessment, submits evidence of what's already in place, and graduates at a validation meeting. Fast Track Application Checklist.

### 2. Is Fast Track right for our school?

Fast Track is a good fit if your program already has a career-themed program of study, an engaged advisory board or industry partners, work-based learning, and a dedicated team. If you're building those pieces, the Year of Planning offers Portfolio Manager coaching as you build them.

### 3. How long does it take?

About 90 days. The Fast Track Pacing Guide shows a sample timeline that can be adjusted to fit your target launch year:

- Getting started: build your team and define expected outcomes
- Assessment: complete the Fast Track Assessment
- Evidence: submit evidence of alignment
- Adjustments: address feedback; NAF completes a final review
- Membership: sign the Membership Agreement and pay the application fee
- Graduation: validation meeting

### 4. What does it cost?

The Fast Track application fee is $4,000. The fee and a signed Membership Agreement are due before your graduation meeting to finalize admissions. Once your academy launches, annual membership is $2,000.

## YOUR TEAM AND SUPPORT

### 5. Do we still need an academy team?

Yes. Whether you take the Year of Planning or Fast Track, your team works with NAF the same way in launch year and beyond. Use the ADT Prep Guide to confirm a multidisciplinary team and designate an academy lead, who serves as NAF's primary contact.

### 6. What is the Portfolio Manager's role?

Fast Track is largely self-paced. Your Portfolio Manager engages primarily at graduation and becomes your ongoing partner once your academy launches, with coaching, check-ins, and support through the annual quality review.

### 7. Who needs a NAF account?

Every team member who will use ASH or enter academy data, such as the academy lead, school administrators, teachers, and district leaders, needs a NAF account. Create a NAF account. Send your team's names and email addresses to NAF so we can set up access. A NAF account is required to submit the Fast Track Assessment and receive a score.

## ASSESSMENT AND EVIDENCE

### 8. What is the Fast Track Assessment?

An online self-assessment in ASH that shows how your academy aligns with the NAF design. A provisional score of 15 or higher is required to continue. Review the Fast Track Assessment sample (PDF) to prepare, and let NAF know once your score appears.

### 9. What evidence do we submit?

Documentation that shows what's already in place for each element of the NAF design. Use the Fast Track Evidence Checklist & Planner as your guide. Existing documents are welcome, and NAF templates are optional. NAF reviews your evidence and identifies any adjustments needed.

## GRADUATION AND LAUNCH

### 10. What happens at graduation?

A 60–90 minute virtual validation meeting with NAF and your Portfolio Manager. Together, you'll finalize the assessment; a score of 15+ confirms eligibility for NAF membership. You'll also set launch-year goals and plan how to celebrate your launch.

### 11. What happens after graduation?

Your academy joins the NAF network and begins launch year with full membership benefits. Start with Launch Year Tips & Resources. Use your assessment results to set launch-year goals with the 90-Day Launch Strategy – Action Plan, and join NAF's annual quality review process.

### 12. What are NAF's annual membership requirements?

An academy in good standing:

- Pays annual membership fees
- Submits required academy and school-level data and evidence in ASH by the annual deadline

### 13. What is the Quality Level process, and when do we start?

NAF's annual process for measuring how academies are implementing the NAF design. It has two parts:

- **Data Collection:** completed every year by all operating academies, including those in launch year.
- **Academy Assessment:** begins in an academy's second year of operation. Launch year academies are exempt unless they choose to complete it or their district requires it.

### 14. Can students get started before we launch?

Yes! KnoPro is a free digital work-based learning platform for students ages 13–20, with no membership required. Emerging academies in the Fast Track process can also enter a $500 raffle by piloting a KnoPro challenge before officially opening as a NAF academy (KnoPro for Emerging Academies).

### 15. Where can we get help?

Contact support@naf.org or your NAF contact. Save the date for NAF Next, July 19–22, 2027, in Anaheim, CA, where we celebrate new academies joining the network.