



*BE FUTURE
READY*

COUNSELOR'S PACKET

DIVE INTO ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NAF
TO HELP YOUR STUDENTS #BEFUTUREREADY

@NAFCareerAcads | naf.org

A STUDENT EXPERIENCE

NAF is an option for your students - help us remind them! Our students are making life-changing decisions, it's up to us to help them explore their possible career journeys.



The School Counselor and Career and Technical Education

"School counselors provide all students with counseling that facilitates academic, career and social/emotional development, helping all students develop plans for choosing a career. School counselors demonstrate their understanding of rigorous career technical education (CTE) programs when they join with other CTE stakeholders to advocate for these programs, which are designed to guide students to success in their chosen careers." - [American School Counselor Association](#)

NAF Alumni

There are over 110,000 academy students annually that benefit from being a part of NAF, but the NAF experience doesn't stop after high school. NAF is a lifelong experience, full of opportunities to network, discover exciting new industries, and give back to NAF academies!

Alumni bring to life the promise of NAF academies. Their examples help to engage parents, students, and potential partners.

View our [NAF Alumni playlist on YouTube](#) to hear about their experiences!



NAF.ORG



COPYRIGHT © 2022 NAF. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

ABOUT NAF

NAF is a national network of education, business, and community leaders who work together to ensure high school students are college, career, and future ready.

Our educational design, in alignment with the National Career Clusters Framework, focuses on growing industries and those that support the workforce needs and interests of local business communities.

There are 16 Career Clusters, representing 79 Career Pathways to help learners navigate their way to greater success in college and career. This acts as a useful guide in developing programs of study, bridging secondary and postsecondary systems, and for creating individual students' plans of study for a complete range of career options.

NAF connects the high school classroom with the working world through career-relevant curriculum and a series of work-based learning activities. Work-based learning enables students to learn about careers through job shadows, mock interviews, paid internships, and more. For many businesses, partnership with NAF helps to fulfill workforce development and community engagement goals. NAF's educational design provides employers with multiple ways to expose students to specific industries and develop their future workforce pipeline with the talent that reflects the communities these companies serve.

[NAF Career Pathways](#) focus on growing industries and those that support the workforce needs and interests of local business communities. Click on the green circles below to learn more about each theme.



ENGINEERING



FINANCE



**HEALTH
SCIENCES**



**HOSPITALITY &
TOURISM**



**INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY**

WORK-BASED LEARNING

NAF academy students complete an intentional sequence of workbased learning activities which prepares them to make informed college and career choices and enables them to acquire necessary college and career readiness skills.



WHAT IS WORK-BASED LEARNING

Work-based learning is an instructional strategy that:

- Connects what students are learning in class with the world of work
- Involves interaction with business partners
- Provides students with career awareness, career exploration, and career preparation
- Includes a continuum of experiences
- Aligns with intentional student learning outcomes
- Prepares students for success in post-secondary education and careers
- Benefits the student, the business partner, and the high school

NAF's approach to work-based learning is centered on a continuum of work-based learning experiences beginning with career awareness activities, progressing to career exploration activities, and culminating in career preparation activities, including internships. Businesspeople guest speak in classrooms, host college and career skills workshops, and take part in mock interviews. Students have the opportunity to tour worksites, network with, and shadow business professionals. Work-based learning culminates in an internship that allows students to apply their classroom skills and learn more about what it takes to succeed.



CONTINUUM

AWARENESS

GUEST SPEAKER
WORKSITE TOUR
CAREER FAIR

EXPLORATION

INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEW
JOB SHADOW
MOCK INTERVIEW

PREPARATION

PAID INTERNSHIP



NAF.ORG



COPYRIGHT © 2022 NAF. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

CURRICULUM

NAF provides rigorous, career-pathways curricula that incorporates current industry standards and practices, project-based learning, and performance-based assessment. *NAF empowers teachers to expand the classroom boundaries by providing opportunities for students to gain awareness of real-world issues.* Students acquire essential workplace skills and 21st-century competencies to be future-ready. NAF academies offer multiple career pathways and enhance the academic rigor of their program of study, by applying for dual enrollment/early college and state-approved, career-cluster courses to meet the curricular requirements of NAFTrack Certification.

What is NAFTrack Certification?

NAFTrack Certification, designed by education and business leaders, is an employability credential that serves as NAF's seal of college and career readiness. NAF assesses student performance through the completion of career-themed courses, internship assessments, and high school graduation. NAFTrack Certification helps put students in control of their progress and allows them to make connections between their high school coursework and their futures and reflect on their own learning to set goals for personal and professional development. [Click here to learn more.](#)



NAF's College & Career Readiness Index Lessons (CCRI):

CCRI is implemented throughout existing courses, making lessons more collaborative and engaging through a teaching team, rather than one individual instructor. When working to implement CCRI, consider involving other team teachers, counselors, designated college and career readiness personnel, or advisory board and community partners in lesson delivery. Learn more in the [NAF Curriculum Library!](#)

BENEFITS OF NAF

NAF serves more than 120,500 students across 32 states, plus DC, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. As of 2021, 67% of NAF academy students receive free/reduced price lunch, 71% are students of color, and nearly half are female. Last year, 99% of seniors graduated, 87% were college-bound, and nearly 30% of seniors had an internship—that's thousands of students who wouldn't otherwise have been exposed to transformative work-based learning opportunities.

Students in NAF academies are also far likelier to graduate than their peers who are not involved with NAF, and the long-term impact of high school graduation cannot be understated. Earning potential increases and incarceration rates decrease, helping to break the cycle of poverty while contributing to a stronger economy.

ICF, recently released a study showing that the NAF educational design makes a difference for all high school students, especially those at-risk of not graduating, with its highest success in four-year, full-program participation. With full-program participation, NAF students graduated at a rate of 87% against a non-NAF student rate of 81%. For students categorized as "at-risk" who participate in the full program, NAF students graduate at more than 10% of a higher rate than non-NAF students.

NAF invests significantly in *research and innovation* that enhances the NAF educational design to ensure curriculum is on the cutting edge of industry standards and to best supports the needs of the network. Check out our latest publications:

Visit naf.org/results to see more of our findings.

THE NAF ADVANTAGE

99%
of seniors
graduate
87%
are college-
bound

As a student in the NAF network, you have access to exclusive opportunities guaranteed to give you a leg up in college and in your career.

- Scholarships
- Industry-focused curriculum
- Opportunities to explore career paths
- Paid internships
- Networking opportunities with businesspeople
- Mentorship opportunities with successful NAF alumni
- Exclusive NAF networking and alumni events



"FIELD GUIDE"
STUDENT REFLECTIONS



NAF GRAD SURVEY



COPYRIGHT © 2022 NAF. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

STUDENT RECRUITMENT

90% of American teenagers report bullying is a problem. With increased stress and mental health conditions exhibited by high school students, it is critical schools find ways to create healthier and safer learning environments so students can succeed in the classroom as they enter adulthood. By fostering small learning communities with a culture of acceptance and belonging in high schools, NAF academies are building a foundation for students to thrive in the classroom, workplace, and community. [Explore our Equity, Inclusion & Safety Case Study to learn more!](#)



EQUITY, INCLUSION & SAFETY



Our Student Recruitment Guide provides resources and strategies to support student recruitment and selection processes. Read through for recommended steps to build your recruitment team, market your academy with recruitment materials, host events, and more!

For more resources visit the Marketing Library in the Academy Support Hub.



STUDENT FLYERS



Facebook Educators Group

You don't have to navigate it alone! To help you stay connected to your peers and share great advice from you or your students we launched our NAF Educators Facebook Group. Visit <https://go.naf.org/2ZEwt4L> to join!



**STUDENT
ORIENTATION
RESOURCES**



NAF.ORG



COPYRIGHT © 2022 NAF. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.