

# Academy Quality Process 2023-2024: What's New in the Academy Assessment?



Academy Assessment (AA) changes for 2023-2024 include several updates to Model and Distinguished quality level thresholds and updates to evidence requirements and specific strategic actions in the AA.

## Model and Distinguished Thresholds

The following adjustments to thresholds will be implemented for the 2023-2024 school year:

- A new Model threshold for enrollment was added – *enrolls 20 students per grade level*.  
Note: The threshold is independent of the Distinguished threshold, which also includes a total enrollment component.
- Enrollment waivers will be replaced with an alternative option to meet the Distinguished enrollment threshold – *enrolls 80% of school enrollment in one or more NAF academies and the academy enrolls at least 10 students per grade level*.
- A new **Program of Study** threshold will be automatically populated from the new Program of Study annual data collection form in ASH.
- The threshold for the Work-Based Learning (WBL) element (i.e., % of 2023 seniors who met the NAFTrack Certification internship requirement) increased from 11% to **15% for Model** and from 21% to **25% for Distinguished**.
- A new (optional) alternative to meet the WBL element threshold is open to academies that used the WBL Participation Tracker (i.e., % of 2023 seniors who completed work-based learning activities in at least two different phases of the WBL continuum in any year) – **25% for Model** or **35% for Distinguished**.
- Quality Reviews are no longer required for academies to reach Model quality level beginning in 2023-2024.

See [2023-2024 Model and Distinguished Academy Requirements](#) for detailed threshold descriptions and requirements for academies to become or maintain a Model or Distinguished quality level this school year.

## AA Evidence

Evidence requirements within [NAF's Academy Assessment](#) will vary depending on the quality level an academy aspires to attain. Each strategic action indicates one of the following four evidence types:

1. **Automatically populated** – automatically populated from annual data collection in ASH or NAFTrack
2. **Required for All** – all academies completing the AA must submit evidence
3. **Required for Model +** – academies striving for Model or Distinguished level must submit evidence
4. **Optional** – evidence is optional to submit for all academies

In addition, academies will have the option to use the AA **Notes feature** to submit evidence instead of uploading a document (when applicable).

## AA Strategic Actions

Updates were made to the following strategic actions in [NAF's 2023-2024 Academy Assessment](#):

Strategic Action	Updated for 2023-2024
<p><b>1.4.c District, school, and academy leaders are ambassadors for the academy. The academy leaders (select all that apply):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Use social media to promote academy practices and events.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Share impact stories/data to increase support and advocacy for their academy programs.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Share college and career readiness best practices with other leaders at local, state, or national levels.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> None of the above</li> </ul>	<p>Minor language update.</p>
<p><b>2.3.a The advisory board works to engage community, post-secondary and civic leaders to promote and sustain academies as an integral part of the local workforce and economic development systems. The advisory board members (select all that apply):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Promote NAF academies as a local workforce development strategy in their communities.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Raise funds for paid internships, work-based learning activities, and/or scholarships.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Recruit other business partners and postsecondary institutions to support WBL and college and career readiness.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> None of the above</li> </ul>	<p>Minor language update.</p>
<p><b>3.1.a The academy offers at least one career-connected program of study consisting of a sequence of courses within one of <a href="#">NAF's Future Ready Learning</a> career pathways or aligned with the US Department of Education's <a href="#">16 career clusters and associated pathways</a>.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes</li> <li><input type="radio"/> No</li> </ul>	<p>Automatically populated from the NEW Program of Study data collection form in ASH.</p>
<p><b>3.1.b Students demonstrate attainment of career-readiness competencies through authentic project learning experiences, like NAF Expeditions, with industry professionals to solve real-world challenges. Academy students (check all that apply):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Complete extended-length (10+ days) authentic project learning experiences that provide innovative solutions to real-world challenges.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Engage industry professionals in completing authentic projects.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Showcase original, relevant, and career/community-connected outcomes using dynamic presentation media or technology apps.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> None of the above</li> </ul>	<p>Minor language update.</p>
<p><b>(REMOVED) The academy prepares students to meet NAF's Program of Study requirements to achieve NAFTrack Certification. The proportion of the (prior school year) seniors meeting all Program of Study requirements for NAFTrack Certification is:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> 71-100%</li> <li><input type="radio"/> 41-70%</li> <li><input type="radio"/> 21-40%</li> <li><input type="radio"/> 11-20%</li> <li><input type="radio"/> 1-10%</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Less than 1%</li> </ul>	<p>Strategic actions related to student course completion are no longer measured in AA for 2023-2024.</p>

Strategic Action	Updated for 2023-2024																											
<p><b>4.1.a The academy's work-based learning experiences include a continuum of career awareness, exploration, and preparation activities that build in sophistication, duration, and intensity. The academy provides (select all that apply):</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="142 317 370 344"><b>Career Awareness</b></td> <td data-bbox="415 317 643 344"><b>Career Exploration</b></td> <td data-bbox="786 317 1013 344"><b>Career Preparation</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="142 352 370 380"><input type="checkbox"/> Career Fairs</td> <td data-bbox="415 352 732 380"><input type="checkbox"/> Informational Interviews</td> <td data-bbox="786 352 1062 380"><input type="checkbox"/> Apprenticeship/Youth</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="142 388 370 415"><input type="checkbox"/> Guest Speakers</td> <td data-bbox="415 388 597 415"><input type="checkbox"/> Job Shadows</td> <td data-bbox="786 388 1013 415">Apprenticeships</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="142 424 370 451"><input type="checkbox"/> Worksite Tours</td> <td data-bbox="415 424 597 451"><input type="checkbox"/> Mentorships</td> <td data-bbox="786 424 915 451"><input type="checkbox"/> Clinicals</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td data-bbox="415 459 643 487"><input type="checkbox"/> Mock Interviews</td> <td data-bbox="786 459 948 487"><input type="checkbox"/> Internships</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td data-bbox="415 495 691 522"><input type="checkbox"/> Partner Engagement</td> <td data-bbox="786 495 1029 522"><input type="checkbox"/> Mentored Industry</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td data-bbox="415 531 548 558">Projects</td> <td data-bbox="786 531 915 558">Projects</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td data-bbox="415 567 753 594"><input type="checkbox"/> Resume Coaching/Review</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td data-bbox="415 602 646 630"><input type="checkbox"/> Skills Workshops</td> <td data-bbox="786 602 1029 630"><input type="checkbox"/> None of the above</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Career Awareness</b>	<b>Career Exploration</b>	<b>Career Preparation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Career Fairs	<input type="checkbox"/> Informational Interviews	<input type="checkbox"/> Apprenticeship/Youth	<input type="checkbox"/> Guest Speakers	<input type="checkbox"/> Job Shadows	Apprenticeships	<input type="checkbox"/> Worksite Tours	<input type="checkbox"/> Mentorships	<input type="checkbox"/> Clinicals		<input type="checkbox"/> Mock Interviews	<input type="checkbox"/> Internships		<input type="checkbox"/> Partner Engagement	<input type="checkbox"/> Mentored Industry		Projects	Projects		<input type="checkbox"/> Resume Coaching/Review			<input type="checkbox"/> Skills Workshops	<input type="checkbox"/> None of the above	<p>WBL options added; check 8+ options for full points on the strategic action for 2023-2024.</p>
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<p><b>4.1.b New for 2024-25 (unscored) The academy's work-based learning plans intentionally focus on supporting the development of students' aspirations, skills, and connections. The academy's work-based learning plans support students' (select all that apply):</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Aspirations</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Skills</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Connections</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None of the above</p>	<p>NEW strategic action for 2024-2025; unscored in 2023-2024.</p>																											
<p><b>4.1.c New for 2024-25 (unscored) Student voice and input are solicited and used to guide work-based learning program planning.</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>NEW strategic action for 2024-2025; unscored in 2023-2024.</p>																											
<p><b>4.2.c New for 2024-25 (unscored) The proportion of (prior school year) academy students who completed at least one work-based learning activity during the (prior school year) is:</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> 71-100%</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 41-70%</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 21-40%</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 11-20%</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 1-10%</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Less than 1%</p>	<p>NEW strategic action for 2024-2025; unscored in 2023-2024.</p> <p><b>Work-Based Learning Participation &amp; Equity</b> replaced the <b>Internship</b> standard (4.2)</p>																											
<p><b>4.2.d New for 2024-25 (unscored) The proportion of (prior school year) seniors who completed work-based learning activities in at least two different phases of the WBL continuum in any year (i.e., career awareness, career exploration, career preparation) is:</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> 71-100%</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 41-70%</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 21-40%</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 11-20%</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 1-10%</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Less than 1%</p>	<p>NEW strategic action for 2024-2025; unscored in 2023-2024.</p> <p><b>Work-Based Learning Participation &amp; Equity</b> replaced the <b>Internship</b> standard (4.2)</p>																											