

Wake County Public School System

Career Academy
Student/Parent Agreement



Career Academy Overview

A career academy is a small learning community within a large traditional high school. Designed as a four-year high school program, the academy has an open and equitable student recruitment process, resulting in a student body that reflects the community's demographics. However, students must be assigned to Leesville Road High School as their base school to apply. Once accepted into the program, students remain together throughout high school with a core group of specially trained teachers. The academy model provides an environment for these teachers to develop interdisciplinary activities that make learning relevant and capture students' interest. Through real-world, hands-on experiences, the academy exposes students to careers within an academy career theme. The Academy of Game Design is designed to equip students with the personal, analytical, technical, and communication skills they need to thrive in a global economy and, in the process, introduce them to career opportunities in today's workforce. Academy students will be prepared and encouraged to continue their education at the post-secondary level and build their careers with a strong design background.

There are many benefits to being a student in a career academy. Students are introduced to broad career opportunities related to the career theme through courses and exciting enrichment activities only offered to academy students. Students complete an internship with a minimum of 120 hours by the end of their senior year. Graduates acquire the problem-solving, teamwork, and critical thinking skills necessary to succeed in higher education and beyond. Graduates are more prepared for employment and have more positive career outcomes.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

In compliance with federal law, the Wake County Public School System administers all education programs, employment activities, and admissions without discriminating against any person on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

Career Academy Mission and Vision Statements

Vision Statement

WCPSS Career Academies consist of an inclusive, diverse group of future leaders who make a global difference by filling the skills gap and developing a talent pipeline.

WCPSS Career Academies include high-tech classrooms and collaborative workspaces with cutting-edge technology that expose our students to real-world situations.

Local, national, and worldwide businesses, industries, and government agencies commit to, support, and sponsor career academies through consistent partnerships that provide the foundation of our programs.

Mission Statement

WCPSS Career Academies will empower diverse students to become collaborative leaders in a global community.

Values

We value leadership

We value supportiveness

We value empowerment

We value community

Academic Expectations & Policies

The Academy of Game Design at Leesville Road High School is a rigorous academic program that ensures students' success during and after high school. To demonstrate responsibility as a member of the career academy, students are expected to:

- accept responsibility for their actions;
- hold themselves and others to the highest standards of academic, personal, and social integrity;
- practice justice, equality, and compassion in human relations;
- respect the dignity of all persons and accept individual differences;
- respect the environment and the rights and property of others and the school;
- contribute positively to the life of the school campus and the surrounding community.

Students are expected to act in a positive and professional manner and contribute to a productive environment that is free from harassing or disruptive activity. They are expected to be an example of the academy both inside and outside the classroom and to adhere to all Leesville Road High School and WCPSS conduct guidelines.

The following WCPSS Board Policies specifically apply to academy students. Students and parents should read through and become familiar with these policies. Violations of the student code of conduct or WCPSS policies could result in the student being removed from the career academy.

Wake County Public Schools Board Policy is on the website www.wcpss.net with links below.

- 4309 Student Behavior-Code of Student Conduct
- 4310-Honor Code
- 3225/4312/7320 R&P Technology Responsible Use
- 1710/4021/7230 Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment, And Bullying

Automatic dismissal from the program may result from continuing disciplinary problems or after a suspension from school.

Career Academy Student Agreement

I, **[Student Name]**, understand that by accepting my place in the **Academy of [Insert Name]** at **[High School Name]**, I am making a commitment to fulfill all academy requirements throughout my high school career. I acknowledge that this is a four-year program with specific coursework, work-based learning experiences, and professional expectations that must be met to remain in good standing.

Commitments & Expectations

1. Program Commitment

- I commit to completing the full four (4) years of the program, including all required courses outlined in the curriculum sequence.
- My parents/guardians acknowledge and agree to my commitment to the academy for the duration of high school.
- The academy director's goal is to support my successful completion of the program.

2. Academic Expectations

- I must maintain a **minimum GPA of 2.5** while enrolled in the academy. If my GPA falls below this standard, I will be placed on a **performance improvement plan**. Failure to improve may result in dismissal.
- If I fail a course and cannot make it up during summer school, I may not be able to rejoin the academy cohort.
- I understand that all academy students must complete the following requirements to graduate from the academy:
 - Required coursework
 - Job shadowing
 - Internship (120 hours)
 - Off-campus learning experiences
 - Academy nights, expos, mentor meetings
 - Community service

3. Professionalism & Conduct

- I must attend all academy activities, such as job shadowing, internships, and work-based learning experiences, dressed appropriately in **business attire** or the specified academy uniform.

- I understand that I am expected to demonstrate **professional conduct** both inside and outside of school.
- If my behavior **jeopardizes a business partnership**, I may face expulsion from the academy.
- Repeated disciplinary incidents, suspension, or violations of school and academy rules may result in my **dismissal from the program**.
- I have received and read the **[Academy Name] and WCPSS Career Academy Student Handbook**, including policies on:
 - Acceptable student conduct
 - Grading policy and academic standards
 - WCPSS Student Acceptable Use for Electronic Resources (including social networking)
 - Academic integrity, dress code, and the Memorandum of Understanding

4. Communication & Participation

- Regular updates will be sent via email to both my parent/guardian and me. I must maintain a **valid email address on file** and notify the academy director of any changes.
- I am expected to complete an **information form** and provide updates when necessary.
- Participation and support of scheduled **academy meetings and activities** are expected of all members.

5. Financial Responsibility & Fundraising

- I am responsible for any costs associated with **off-campus learning experiences, academy apparel, books, notebooks, and materials**.
- I understand that active participation in **fundraising efforts** (Policy Code: 3320 School Trips) is expected to help offset these costs.
- The academy does have **financial assistance available** for students with demonstrated need.

6. Academy Honor Code

- I acknowledge that I am entitled to an **honest and exceptional learning environment** and must uphold the values of honesty, integrity, and excellence.
- I will respect the integrity of the academy's **business partners** and the academy learning community.
- I understand the Academy Honor Code and the **consequences of violating it**.

7. Dismissal & Appeal Process

- I understand that I may be removed from the academy if I:
 - Repeatedly violate academy or school rules
 - Receive a school suspension
 - Fail to meet academic and professional expectations
- I acknowledge that if I am dismissed from the program, I have the right to **appeal my dismissal**.

8. Acknowledgment & Agreement

By signing below, I confirm that I have read and agree to abide by the conditions outlined in this agreement. I understand that my acceptance into this program is a commitment for the duration of my high school experience.

Student Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____