

# PROGRAMS OF STUDY: OVERVIEW

*“Programs of Study provide a framework to connect rigorous and relevant learning experiences to a wide variety of opportunities after high school.”*

## **What is a Program of Study?**

The School District of Marshfield’s Programs of Study are based on the national Programs of Study framework, which aligns high school and post-secondary education with the demands of the changing global economy. The information provided is customized to the School District of Marshfield in alignment with the Vision of Our Graduate. Programs of Study are designed to provide a context for purposeful conversations with counselors and staff as students develop and revise their Academic and Career Plan over time.

## **Career Clusters and Career Pathways within the Programs of Study**

There are sixteen Career Clusters organized by a common theme or interest. Learning experiences from different Programs of Study often complement each other so it is important to review a variant of them. Career Clusters (for example, Health Science) are often refined further by career pathways (for example, Nursing) for those students who already know which career they plan to pursue. Students can get more information through their account on Career Cruising.

## **Connecting Programs of Study to a Student’s ACP**

We expect every Academic and Career Plan to be as unique as each of our students. For example,

- Students passionate about pursuing a specific career can pursue opportunities aligned to a single Program of Study
- Students can choose to blend portions of one Program of Study with another based on their skills and interest
- Students who are unsure of their long-term career interests can explore opportunities in many different Programs of Study that will help them better understand themselves and the skills and knowledge needed for different careers
- Students may also choose a liberal arts approach to their education by focusing on the course sequences in each of the core subject areas along with coursework in the humanities, fine arts, and world languages. This approach defers certain aspects of career exploration to a student’s postsecondary education.
- All students are advised to select opportunities for rigor (college level coursework in academic and/or technical subjects) in their areas of strength and/or interest to ensure that they continue to develop their knowledge, skills and dispositions for success each year.

## **Coursework in the Programs of Study**

The School District of Marshfield has listed specific courses in each of the Programs of Study to assist students in the process of course selection. **Courses offered are subject to change at any time.** Courses listed in each cluster provide exposure, and help students build skills related to, the careers in that cluster. Recommendations for related post-secondary coursework have also been provided for those up for added challenge. Please note that the courses listed are broad recommendations only and are not intended to direct students away from other areas of interest. All courses are designed to teach valuable knowledge and skills. The courses that are listed are examples of courses that support a given Program of Study. But, which ones you select depends on the goals and action plans you have set for yourself. For example, you will notice that we have included some AP coursework in each of the Programs of Study. Demonstrating success in college level coursework is one way to evaluate college readiness. However, the coursework you choose to challenge yourself with depends, in part, on what you want to learn about, as well as, the education level and Program of Study you plan to pursue after high school. Please refer to the reflective question found earlier in this guide, as well as, the example ‘Career Types by Pathway’ in each Program of Study to assist you in this process. Your counselor can also help you select courses that will help you achieve your personal, academic, social and career goals.

### **Post-Secondary Planning**

Students can utilize Wisconsin's Youth Options/Course Options program, courses that provide Transcribed Credit/Advanced Standing, and Advanced Placement coursework, as well as, Career and Technical Education, to begin some of their post-secondary education while still in high school. Students can also use the 16 Program of Study charts, on the following pages to review what type of education is needed for each career within the cluster.

**For more information** about post-secondary planning in high school, click on the links below:

- Career Cruising
  - <https://public.careercruising.com/en/home/>
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and ACP
  - <http://dpi.wi.gov/acp>
- School District of Marshfield ACP:
  - <https://www.marshfieldschools.org/acp>