Oakland Tech 9th Graders,

Today, we'll share information about the many great Academy options we have at Oakland Tech for 10-12th grade students. We'll briefly introduce you to the different Academies available, and overview the timeline for the application process.

One of the great strengths of Oakland Tech is our academy system. Each Academy has a different theme: **Computer Science**; **Engineering**; **Fashion, Art, & Design** (FADA); **Health**; and **Race, Policy, & Law** (RPL). (*Note: Paideia is an advanced Humanities program, not an Academy.)* These Academies have different required classes, from Graphic Design in FADA to Architecture in Engineering, and different work experiences they offer. .

The focus of Academies is on combining education and career-focused learning opportunities. Starting in 10th grade, students in Academies are grouped together into a cohort. This allows teams of teachers to develop supports for their shared students. Academy teachers plan cross-curricular projects, and set-up work-based learning (e.g. internships, mentorship programs, field trips, etc). The focus of our academies is to help all Oakland Tech students graduate ready for college and careers.

Today, we'll start introducing you to the Academies. And over the course of this semester, you'll learn more about each Academy in your Exploring Computer Science class. Then, in January you'll have a chance to apply.

Every 9th grade student will submit an application. The application process will ask you to rank each Academy, and then to pick your 3 favorites. For each, you'll briefly explain why you want to be in that Academy. Some students might be invited to brief follow-up interviews for more information. Then, the directors of the Pathways will select students to accept. They will focus on matching your interest and on making sure each academy represents the diversity of Tech. Finally, we'll have acceptance interviews to ensure the placement is a good fit and that you are happy with your Academy.

Thank you for participating in this process! While we would like to see all of you get your first choice, unfortunately, it might not be possible due to space limitations. However, every academy is equipped to support students with diverse interests and skills, and you will be supported no matter which Academy youjoin. Our primary goal is to ensure that all of you are supported, challenged, and have the opportunity to be successful!

Thank you for partnering with us,

Staci Ross-Morrison
Principal

Martel Price
Assistant Principal,
9th grade

Theresa Langston
Counselor,
9th Grade

Nick Rey
Pathway Coordinator,
9th Grade

Pathway Outreach/Application Process

Important Dates:

October 5th — written as — **October 5th**   <u>**Academy Video Introduction**</u>

January 14th-18th   <u>**Academy Week!**</u>
- **Academy Outreach events and lunchtime info sessions for students (Students provided lunch).**
     -Mon: RPL   -Tues: Health   -Weds: Computer
         -Thurs: FADA   -Fri: Engineering

Mon, January 21st   <u>**Upper Campus Tours for Interested Students**</u>

Tues, January 22nd   <u>**Overview Applications (in ECS)**</u>

Thurs, January 24th   <u>**Applications Due**</u>

Tues, January 28th   <u>**Directors Place Students Based on Applications**</u>

February 4-8   <u>**Acceptance Interviews**</u>
     -to ensure best fit for students and allow students to meet lead teachers, express interest, and ask questions

February 11th-13th   <u>**Notification of Academy placement via OUSD student email**</u>

Frequently Asked Questions about Oakland Tech Academies

1. **What grade levels can enroll in the academies/pathways?**
   Academies are open to 10th - 12th grade students. Most students join in 10th, but if there are open spots, students can join in 11th.

2. **What are advantages of taking an academy course?**
   There are 3 main benefits:
   i. **Meaningful Career/Work-based Learning Experiences**: eligible academy students have the opportunity to participate in career-related courses, internships, mentorship programs, field trips and other meaningful experiences in the local business community!
   ii. **Cross-curricular Collaboration:** Academy teachers work together to plan thoughtful overlaps across classes, creating cross-curricular projects and units
   iii. **Teacher Driven Student Supports:** Academy teachers share students, so they are able to meet and discuss how to best support students who might need interventions or additional challenges in class

3. **Can students join an Academy and be in Paideia?**
   In 10th grade, some Academies do not allow students to also take Paideia course, but some do.

   Academies that **allow overlap** include: Computer Science, Engineering, & FADA.
   Academies that **do NOT allow overlap** with Paideia include: Health & Race, Policy, & Law

   These Academies do not allow overlap with Paideia because they have spent a great deal of time thoughtfully crafting an English curriculum that supports and deepens the work that students engage in

across the Academy.

4. **Can I enroll in an Academy and other AP/HP courses?**
   Yes! With careful planning between the student, their family, and the school counselor, students can enroll in AP/HP classes in addition to their Academy. The academy director/counselor may also be consulted to assist the student and the family to plan an appropriate schedule.

5. **What does the curriculum of each Academy cover?**
   Please see the Academy Fliers for specific information on each Academy!

6. **What is the process for applying to an academy?**
   i. All students participate in Academy Outreach events during January.

   ii. Applications will be available at the end of Academy Week and will be due no later than Thursday, January 24th. Students will have the opportunity to rank their preferred top 3 academies.

   iii. A list of interested students will be given to academy directors and invitations for academy interviews will be given to students.

   iv. After the interviews, a committee composed of academy directors and teachers will meet to review the student information. Factors considered *may* include grades, life experiences, recommendations, extracurricular activities, and responses to personal statements/questionnaires (as part of the application).

   v. By February 13th, students will then be notified about their placement in an academy and will be given the forms needed to complete the process

7. **Do I have to join an academy?**
   All students are required to apply and are encouraged to go through the process At Oakland Tech, we believe that being part of a small learning community with a focused, engaging curriculum helps ensure that student learning is successful. But, students are not required to join Academies.

   We highly recommend taking advantage of the opportunities that academies have to offer. Field trips, internships, mentorship programs are just a few of the exciting possibilities!

8. **Who can I contact if I have more questions about a this process or about a specific Academy?**
   Please reach out to the Pathway Coordination Team at pathway-coordination-group@ousd.org