



**ROOTED IN
VERMILION.
READY FOR THE
WORLD.**

**VERMILION PARISH
SCHOOL SYSTEM
GUIDE TO HIGH SCHOOL
2025-2026**



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A Message from Superintendent Thomas J. Byler

Dear Students and Families,

It is my honor to welcome you to our district's High School Guide. This guide is more than a resource—it is an invitation to explore the many opportunities that await you as you embark on one of the most transformative journeys of your life.

High school is a time of discovery, growth, and preparation for the future. Within these years, students are empowered to make choices that will not only shape their educational paths but also influence the kind of leaders, innovators, and citizens they will become. Our district is committed to providing a wealth of academic programs, extracurricular experiences, and career pathways designed to inspire every student to find their passion and purpose.

As you navigate this guide, I encourage you to look beyond the present moment and envision the future you wish to create. The possibilities before you are vast, and the decisions you make now will open doors to new opportunities. Our educators, counselors, and staff stand ready to guide and support you as you take these important steps.

The future belongs to those who are prepared to embrace it with courage and determination. Together, let us ensure that every student leaves high school equipped not only with knowledge and skills, but also with the confidence to pursue their dreams and the vision to shape a brighter tomorrow.



“Within these years, students are empowered to make choices that will not only shape their educational paths but also influence the kind of leaders, innovators, and citizens they will become.”

Pathways to Graduation

Louisiana high school students have two diploma options from which to choose: the TOPS University Diploma and the Jump Start TOPS Tech Diploma, which is geared toward career and technical education.

Students are asked to choose a diploma pathway by the end of their second year of high school. This important decision is made together—with the student, their parent(s) or guardian(s), and the school—based on the student's unique goals, interests, and future plans.

In addition to meeting the course requirements, students must score approaching basic or higher on LEAP 2025 in one of each of the following pairs: Algebra I or Geometry; Biology or Civics/U.S. History (Civics for '24-'25 9th graders and beyond; U.S. History for others); and English I or English II.



Note to Freshmen:

- You must pass courses with a grade of D or better to earn credit.
- You get a grade for your LEAP scores, and they count for 20% of your course grade.

TOPS University Diploma

24 credits



This diploma track allows students to enroll in advanced courses that prepare them for college-level academics.



Graduates on this pathway may choose to pursue a 4-year degree, attend a 2-year community or technical college, enlist in the military, or enter the workforce.



Along with completing the required courses, students must also meet GPA and ACT/SAT benchmarks for college entry.



Specific college admissions criteria may vary, so it's important to check with each college or university.

**TOPS University
Diploma Pathway
Graduating Classes of 2026 & 2027**

Subjects	# of Units	Courses
English	1	English I
	1	English II
	1	English III
	1	One of the following: English IV Dual Enrollment English
Math	1	Algebra I
	1	Geometry
	1	Algebra II
	1	One unit from the following: Advanced Math Dual Enrollment Math Dual Enrollment Calculus
Science	1	Biology
	1	Chemistry
	2	Two units from the following: Physical Science Environmental Science Biology II Dual Enrollment Biology Agriscience II (Agriscience I is a prerequisite.)
Social Studies	1	Civics
	1	U.S. History
	2	Two units from the following: World Geography Western Civilizations Dual Enrollment Western Civilizations
Health & Physical Education	1/2	Physical Education I
	1/2	Health Education
	1	Physical Education II
Foreign Language	2	Two units from the same language
Art	1	One unit from the following: Art Band Chorus Fine Arts Survey Media Arts Theatre
Electives	3	Electives
Total Units	24	
Note: Course offerings vary by school.		

**TOPS University
Diploma Pathway
Graduating Classes of 2028 & Beyond**

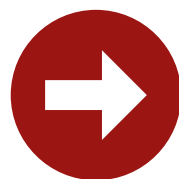
Subjects	# of Units	Courses
English	1	English I
	1	English II
	1	English III
	1	One of the following: English IV Dual Enrollment English
Math	1	Algebra I
	1	Geometry
	1	Algebra II
	1	One unit from the following: Advanced Math Dual Enrollment Math Dual Enrollment Calculus
Science	1	Biology
	1	Chemistry
	2	Two units from the following: Physical Science Environmental Science Biology II Dual Enrollment Biology Agriscience II (Agriscience I is a prerequisite.) Physics
Social Studies	1	Civics
	1	U.S. History
	2	Two units from the following: World Geography Western Civilizations Dual Enrollment Western Civilizations
Health & Physical Education	1/2	Physical Education I
	1/2	Health Education
	1	Physical Education II
Foreign Language	2	Two units from the same language
Art	1	One unit from the following: Art Band Chorus Fine Arts Survey Media Arts Theatre
Electives	2	Electives
Financial Literacy	1	Required for Graduating Classes in 2028 and Beyond
Total Units	24	
Note: Course offerings vary by school.		

Jump Start TOPS Tech Diploma

23 Credits



To earn this diploma, students must complete 23 required high school credits and obtain industry-recognized credentials or certifications aligned with the student's chosen career pathway.



Optional career pathways include: Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources; Architecture and Construction; Arts, Audio/Visual Technology, & Communication; Business Management and Administration; Health Sciences; Hospitality; Information Technology; Manufacturing; and Pre-Educator.

What is Jump Start?

Jump Start is Louisiana's innovative career and technical education (CTE) program. The Jump Start diploma pathway is designed for students who want to focus on career-centered courses and hands-on training. This diploma pathway prepares students to lead productive adult lives, capable of continuing their education after high school while earning certifications in high-wage career sectors.



After graduating, students may choose to enroll in a 2-year community or technical college like LSUE, LSUA, SLCC, SOWELA; enlist in the military, or begin working right away.



While this diploma is geared toward career readiness, students **can still pursue a 4-year college degree** by first attending a community college and transferring through a bridge program.

TOPS Tech Jump Start Diploma Pathway

Subjects	# of Units	Courses
English	1	English I
	1	English II
	2	Two units from the following: Business English English III English IV Technical Writing
Math	1	Algebra I
	1	Geometry
	1	Financial Literacy
	1	One unit from the following: Algebra II Business Math Math Essentials Advanced Math
Science	1	Biology I
	1	One unit from the following: Agriscience II (Agriscience I is a prerequisite.) Chemistry Environmental Science Physical Science
Social Studies	1	Civics
	1	U.S. History
Health & Physical Education	1/2	Physical Education I
	1/2	Health Education
	1	Physical Education II
JumpStart	9	JumpStart Pathway Courses
Total Units	23	

NOTE: A JumpStart pathway course cannot be counted as both a core course and a pathway course.
A minimum of one industry-based credential is required for graduation.
Course offerings vary by school.

Dual Enrollment

Dual enrollment allows high school students to take college/technical school-level courses while still working toward their high school diploma. These courses are offered through partnerships with LSU, LSU Alexandria, LSU Eunice, SLCC, and SLU, giving students the opportunity to earn both high school and post-secondary credit at the same time. Dual enrollment can be a great way to challenge yourself and get a head start on your future.



SAVE TIME & MONEY

One of the biggest benefits of dual enrollment is the chance to save time and money. Because students can earn college credits in high school, they may need fewer classes once they enroll in college, which can shorten the time it takes to earn a degree. This can also reduce tuition costs and make higher education more affordable for families.



PREPARATION

Dual enrollment also helps students build confidence and prepare for the future. By experiencing the expectations of college-level work early, students become better prepared for the rigor of higher education. These courses can improve study habits, strengthen time-management skills, and give students a clearer sense of what to expect in college.



COURSE OFFERINGS

Biology 1001 General Biology I for Non-Majors
Biology 1002 General Biology II for Non-Majors
English 1001 English Composition I
English 2000 English Composition II
Foundations of Education
Math 1021 College Algebra

Math 1022 College Trigonometry
Math 1530 Calculus I
Math 1540 Calculus II
Math 2410 Statistics
Multicultural Learning Communities
Western Civilizations 1001
Western Civilizations 1003

Diploma OR TOPS Opportunity Diploma
Courses



COURSE OFFERINGS

Construction Math
Industrial Machines I
Industrial Machines II
Medical Terminology
NCCER (National Center for Construction Education & Research) Core

Oil and Gas Production Operations
T2 Safety Systems for Oil and Gas Production
Welding I
Welding II
Welding III
Workplace Safety

**Courses offerings may vary by student's high school.*

Career Academy Opportunities



Practical Experience

Attending classes at the Vermilion Parish School System Career Campus is a great opportunity for students to prepare for life after high school while still earning their diploma. The Career Campus offers hands-on learning in real-world settings, giving students the chance to explore career pathways such as healthcare and skilled trades. By gaining practical experience in these areas, students can discover what interests them and build confidence in their future goals.



Industry-Based Certifications

Another advantage of the Career Campus is that it helps students develop valuable skills that employers are looking for. Students have opportunities to earn industry-based certifications, which are credentials that show employers they are ready to work in their chosen fields. These certifications make students more competitive job candidates and can often lead to higher starting pay or better job opportunities right after graduation. Along with certifications, students gain important workplace skills such as problem-solving, teamwork, and communication that go beyond the classroom.



Exploring Career Fields

The Career Campus also supports students who may want to continue their education after high school. By exploring different career fields early, students can make more informed decisions about whether to pursue college, technical school, or direct entry into the workforce. In many cases, the skills and certifications earned at the Career Campus can transfer into future training or education programs, saving both time and money.



Bright Future

Overall, the Vermilion Parish School System Career Campus provides students with a meaningful, hands-on learning experience that connects classroom knowledge to real-world opportunities. It empowers students to explore their passions, earn valuable certifications, and prepare for a bright future—whether that means entering the workforce, enrolling in college, or both.

Classes Offered at the Career Campus

- EKG (electrocardiogram) I
- Industrial Machines I
- Industrial Machines II
- Introduction to Health Occupations
- Medical Assistant I
- Medical Terminology
- Oil and Gas Production Operations
- T2 Safety Systems for Oil and Gas Production
- Workplace Safety

Industry-Based Certifications Available

- Certified Clinical Medical Assistant
- Certified EKG (electrocardiogram) Technician
- CITF (Carpenter International Training Fund) Millwright I (offered during the summer)
- OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health Administration) 10
- Production Safety Systems T-2

Taylor Opportunity Program for Students

Taylor Opportunity Program For Students (TOPS) is a program of state merit-based scholarships for Louisiana residents who attend one of the Louisiana public colleges and universities, schools that are a part of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, Louisiana-approved proprietary and cosmetology schools, and institutions that are a part of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) oversees the administration of TOPS and TOPS Tech scholarships. These scholarships help cover the cost of tuition and

are awarded based on a student's TOPS Core GPA and their highest composite ACT score or WorkKeys level. Unlike a cumulative GPA, the TOPS Core GPA is calculated using only the specific courses required by the TOPS University or Jump Start TOPS Tech Core Curriculum. TOPS has four award levels: Tech, Opportunity, Performance, and Honors. As award levels increase, so do award amounts.

For more information, view the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance's (LOSFA) TOPS Guide at <https://mylosfa.la.gov/students-parents/scholarships-grants/tops>



Tech

2.50 TOPS GPA
ACT Score: 17* OR WorkKeys: Silver Level
Completion of TOPS Tech Jump Start Diploma OR TOPS Opportunity Diploma Courses
2 years of TOPS Award Amount**



Opportunity

2.50 TOPS GPA
ACT Score: 20
Completion of TOPS Opportunity Diploma Courses
8 Semesters of TOPS Award Amount**

*The minimum ACT score is subject to change based on the previous year's state average; however, it will never be lower than 20.
**Award amounts are set each year and subject to change.



Performance

3.25 TOPS GPA
ACT Score: 23
Completion of TOPS Opportunity Diploma Courses
8 Semesters of TOPS Award Amount**



Honors

3.50 TOPS GPA
ACT Score: 27
Completion of TOPS Opportunity Diploma Courses
8 Semesters of TOPS Award Amount**

**Award amounts are set each year and subject to change.



Excellence

3.50 TOPS GPA
ACT Score: 31
Completion of TOPS Opportunity Diploma Courses
8 Semesters of TOPS Award Amount**

**Award amounts are set each year and subject to change.

Nationally Recognized Assessments

Nationally recognized assessments are tests that are accepted across the country as reliable measures of your skills and knowledge. Some of these tests are used by colleges, scholarship programs, and even employers to see how prepared you are for college, vocational education, or the workforce. Because these tests are recognized nationwide, your scores can open opportunities no matter where you plan to go after high school.



Stands for: American College Test

Purpose: Helps prepare for the ACT; provides early feedback on college and career readiness and helps identify academic strengths and areas to improve

Subjects: English, Math, Reading, and Science

Scoring: 1-30 in 9th grade; 1-35 in 10th grade; includes a Career Interest Inventory to explore future career paths

When Taken: 9th and 10th grades

Why Take It? Familiarity with the ACT format and time limits; predicts ACT scoring range

PSAT/NMSQT®

Stands for: Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/**National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test**

Purpose: Practice for the SAT and qualifying test for National Merit Scholarships

Subjects: Reading, Writing and Language, and Math

Scoring: 320–1520 total score

When Taken: 11th grade

Why Take It? Helps students prepare for the SAT and may lead to scholarship opportunities



Stands for: American College Test

Purpose: College admissions and scholarship eligibility

Subjects: English, Math, Reading, and Science (Writing is optional. Science is optional on national testing tests; however, the Science section will be administered during state-wide testing, which occurs during students' junior year.)

Scoring: 1–36 for each section; averaged for a composite score

When Taken: Typically in 11th and 12th grades, but can be taken at any time

Why Take It? Accepted by all U.S. colleges; often required for TOPS and other scholarships in Louisiana

Nationally Recognized Assessments



Stands for: Scholastic Aptitude Test

Purpose: College admissions and scholarship eligibility

Subjects: Reading, Writing and Language, and Math (no Science section)

Scoring: 400–1600 total score

When Taken: Typically in 11th and 12th grades, but can be taken at any time

Why Take It? Widely accepted by colleges; may better suit some students' strengths than the ACT



Purpose: Measures career readiness and workplace skills, which is attractive to employers

Subjects: Applied Math, Graphic Literacy, and Workplace Documents

Scoring: Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum levels

When Taken: Often in 11th and 12th grade (especially for Jump Start students)

Why Take It? For TOPS Tech scholarship and recognized by employers to show you're ready for the workforce



Stands for: Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery

Purpose: General career exploration and measures aptitude for military careers

Subjects: Arithmetic Reasoning, Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension, Mathematics, and more

Scoring: Provides a Career Exploration score and determines military eligibility

When Taken: Typically during 11th and 12th grades

Why Take It? Helpful for exploring career strengths; required for joining the military

Exploring Career Pathways

Start Now, Shape Your Future

High school is the perfect time to start thinking about your future career—even if you're not sure what you want to do yet. Exploring different careers helps you discover your interests, strengths, and the many opportunities available after graduation. Whether you love working with your hands, solving problems, helping others, or being creative, there's a path for you.



Begin with a Self-Assessment

A great first step is to take a career self-assessment. These short quizzes help you learn more about your interests, values, and strengths, and they suggest careers that match your personality. There are tons of them out there, but here are a few free tools for you to try.

[The College Board Big Future](#) 🔗

- Make sure if you create an account to save your login information.

[My Next Move: O*NET Interest Profiler](#) 🔗

[CareerOneStop Interest Assessment](#) 🔗

[Louisiana's Unlock My Future Tool](#) 🔗

- Make sure if you create an account to save your login information. This is really really important because you may access LOFSA to help pay for post-secondary education via TOPS.



Explore Your Options

After taking a self-assessment, dive deeper into the careers that interest you. Ask yourself:

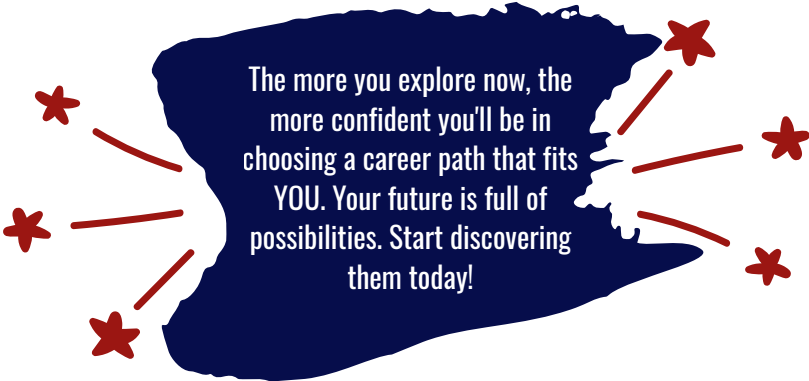
- What education or training is required?
- What skills are needed?
- What does a typical day look like?
- What is the salary range and job outlook?



Take Action at School

You can also explore careers through your high school:

- Choose electives like art, agriculture, business, or welding.
- Earn industry-based certifications.
- Join clubs that match your interests like FBLA, 4-H, ProStart, and FFA.
- Use your school counselor as a resource. He or she can help guide you.



The more you explore now, the more confident you'll be in choosing a career path that fits YOU. Your future is full of possibilities. Start discovering them today!

Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources

Exploring
Career
Pathways



OVERVIEW

The Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources career pathway focuses on the science, business, and technology of producing food, managing natural resources, and caring for animals and the environment. This field is perfect for students who enjoy working outdoors, learning about plants and animals, using modern technology in agriculture, or helping to solve environmental challenges. Whether it's growing crops, raising livestock, conserving forests, or managing water resources, this pathway offers many hands-on and high-tech career options.

Coursework in this pathway might include animal science, plant science, agribusiness, forestry, environmental science, and agricultural mechanics. Careers in this area range from farmers and ranchers to wildlife biologists, agricultural engineers, and environmental technicians. With advancements in sustainable farming, biotechnology, and food production, there are increasing opportunities in both traditional agriculture and emerging green careers. Whether students want to go straight into the workforce, complete technical training, or pursue a college degree, this pathway opens the door to meaningful work that supports communities and the planet.



JOB CONNECTIONS

Typically Require a College Degree:

- Agricultural Engineer
- Agronomist
- Environmental Scientist
- Food Scientist or Food Safety Specialist
- Forester or Conservation Scientist
- Soil and Plant Scientist
- Veterinarian
- Wildlife Biologist

Typically Require an Associate's Degree or Vocational/Technical Training:

- Agricultural Equipment Technician
- Environmental Technician
- Farm Equipment Operator (with technical training)
- Forestry Technician
- Greenhouse or Nursery Manager
- Livestock Technician
- Veterinary Technician

Typically Require On-the-Job Training/Certifications:

- Agricultural Produce Packer
- Animal Caretaker or Kennel Assistant
- Farmworker or Ranch Hand
- Greenhouse or Nursery Worker
- Groundskeeper or Landscape Laborer
- Pest Control Technician
- Tree Trimmer or Arborist Assistant



Some high school classes you can take in this area include: Agriscience I-IV, Agriscience Leadership, Biology I, Chemistry, Environmental Science, and Physical Science.

TOPS Tech Jump Start Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Courses

Courses are open to students on both the University diploma track and Jump Start diploma track.

Jump Start Students:

In addition to fulfilling the Jump Start core course requirements, students are required to earn 9 credits from the lists below.

One of the 9 must be a career readiness course.

Courses denoted with an * may not count both as a core course and a pathway course.

Within the Jump Start framework, certain courses are designated as "universal." These courses are designed to provide foundational knowledge and skills that are relevant across all of the Jump Start pathways.

Universal Jump Start Courses

Agriscience I (career readiness)	Introduction to Health Occupations (career readiness)
Business Computer Applications	NCCER Core or Pre-Apprenticeship I
Career Success Skills (career readiness)	Personal Finance
CDF Qualifying CTE Internship	Principles of Business
Customer Service	Quest for Success (career readiness)
Cyber Society or Cyber Security	Speech I
Entrepreneurship II	Study Skills I (SPED only)
Financial Literacy *	Study Skills II (SPED only)
First Responder/Emergency Medical Responder	Study Skills III (SPED only)
Foreign Language I (same language)	Study Skills IV (SPED only)
Foreign Language II (same language)	Technical Writing *
General Technology Education	Workplace Safety
Introduction to Business Computer Applications	

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Pathway Courses

Advanced Food & Nutrition	Environmental Science *
Agriscience Elective	Food Science
Agriscience II	NCCER Carpentry I
Agriscience III	NCCER Carpentry II
Agriscience IV	NCCER Welding I
Agriscience Leadership	NCCER Welding II
Basic Wood Technology/Carpentry	Nutrition and Food
Business Math *	Pre-Apprenticeship II Carpentry
Chemistry *	Pre-Apprenticeship II Welding
Digital Media	

Students Must Earn at least ONE of the Following Credentials

Ducks Unlimited Ecology Conservation & Management Certification (basic credential)
Louisiana Agritechnology (basic credential)

NOTE: CIFT = Carpenter International Training Fund
NCCER = National Center for Construction Education & Research
OSHA = Occupational Safety & Health Administration
Course offerings vary by school.

Agriculture, Food, &
Natural Resources

Architecture & Construction

Exploring
Career
Pathways



OVERVIEW

The Architecture and Construction career pathway is ideal for students who enjoy designing, building, and working with their hands. This pathway includes careers related to designing buildings and structures, managing construction projects, and using tools and technology to build or maintain homes, schools, roads, and commercial properties. Students interested in architecture and construction often enjoy problem-solving, math, drawing, working with tools, and seeing the results of their work take shape in the real world.

Coursework in this pathway may include drafting, blueprint reading, carpentry, electrical systems, HVAC, construction safety, and engineering basics. Students can explore careers such as architect, civil engineer, construction manager, electrician, plumber, welder, or heavy equipment operator. Whether you dream of designing the next big skyscraper or wiring a house for electricity, this career field is full of exciting opportunities. No matter the path, whether it's college, technical training, or jumping straight into a job after high school, here's a place for everyone in this growing industry.



JOB CONNECTIONS

Typically Require a College Degree:

- Architect
- Civil Engineer
- Construction Manager
- Environmental Design Specialist
- Landscape Architect
- Mechanical Engineer (HVAC systems, etc.)
- Structural Engineer
- Surveyor

Typically Require an Associate's Degree or Vocational/Technical Training:

- Building Maintenance Technician
- CAD (Computer-Aided Design) Technician
- Carpenter
- Heavy Equipment Operator
- HVAC Technician
- Plumber

Typically Require On-the-Job Training/Certifications:

- Apprentice in skilled trades (plumbing, electrical, etc.)
- Assistant Surveyor or Site Crew Member
- Construction Laborer
- Drywall Installer
- Flooring Installer
- Painter (commercial/residential)
- Roofing Installer



Some high school classes you can take in this area include: Advanced Math, Algebra, Basic Wood Technology, Carpentry I & II, Geometry, Industrial Machine Shop I & II, Principles of Business, and Welding I & II.

TOPS Tech Jump Start Architecture and Construction Pathway Courses

Courses are open to students on both the University diploma track and Jump Start diploma track.

Jump Start Students:

In addition to fulfilling the Jump Start core course requirements, students are required to earn 9 credits from the lists below.

One of the 9 must be a career readiness course.

Courses denoted with an * may not count both as a core course and a pathway course.

Within the Jump Start framework, certain courses are designated as "universal." These courses are designed to provide foundational knowledge and skills that are relevant across all of the Jump Start pathways.

The Vermilion Parish School System Career Campus is located at Abbeville High School.

Universal Jump Start Courses

Agriscience I (career readiness)	Introduction to Health Occupations (career readiness)
Business Computer Applications	NCCER Core or Pre-Apprenticeship I
Career Success Skills (career readiness)	Personal Finance
CDF Qualifying CTE Internship	Principles of Business
Customer Service	Quest for Success (career readiness)
Cyber Society or Cyber Security	Speech I
Entrepreneurship II	Study Skills I (SPED only)
Financial Literacy *	Study Skills II (SPED only)
First Responder/Emergency Medical Responder	Study Skills III (SPED only)
Foreign Language I (same language)	Study Skills IV (SPED only)
Foreign Language II (same language)	Technical Writing *
General Technology Education	Workplace Safety
Introduction to Business Computer Applications	

Architecture and Construction Pathway Courses

Agriscience Elective	Industrial Machine Shop I (career campus)
Agriscience II	Industrial Machine Shop II (career campus)
Agriscience III	NCCER Carpentry I
Agriscience IV	NCCER Carpentry II
Agriscience Leadership	NCCER Welding I
Basic Wood Technology	NCCER Welding II
Business Math *	Pre-Apprenticeship I Carpentry
Chemistry *	Pre-Apprenticeship II Carpentry
Digital Media	Pre-Apprenticeship I Welding
Environmental Science *	Pre-Apprenticeship II Welding
Geometry *	

Students Must Earn at least ONE of the Following Credentials

CITF Career Connections: Pre-Apprentice Core Skills (regional credential)	Louisiana Micro-Enterprise Statewide (basic credential)
CITF Career Connections Level I (basic credential)	OSHA 10 (regional credential; applies only to students with disabilities as indicated by current IEP)
CITF Career Connections Level II (advanced credential)	

NOTE: CITF = Carpenter International Training Fund
NCCER = National Center for Construction Education & Research
OSHA = Occupational Safety & Health Administration
Course offerings vary by school.

Architecture &
Construction

Arts, Audio/Visual Technology, & Communications

OVERVIEW

The Arts, Audio/Visual Technology, and Communications career pathway is perfect for creative thinkers, visual storytellers, performers, and tech-savvy students who want to express ideas through various media. This pathway prepares students for careers in visual arts, performing arts, journalism, film production, graphic design, animation, broadcasting, and digital media. Students learn how to use tools like cameras, microphones, editing software, design programs, and lighting systems to create compelling visual and audio content. Whether it's working behind the scenes or taking center stage, this field blends creativity with technical skills.

Coursework in this pathway may include classes in drawing, photography, digital art, theater, video production, music technology, and web design. These experiences help students build strong communication skills, visual literacy, and the ability to work collaboratively on projects. Careers in this field include graphic designer, audio technician, video editor, actor, broadcast journalist, animator, set designer, and multimedia specialist. With the rise of digital media platforms, there is growing demand for professionals who can produce content for television, film, radio, social media, and online publications. Whether students plan to go to college or enter the workforce after high school, this pathway offers a wide range of exciting opportunities.

JOB CONNECTIONS

Typically Require a College Degree:

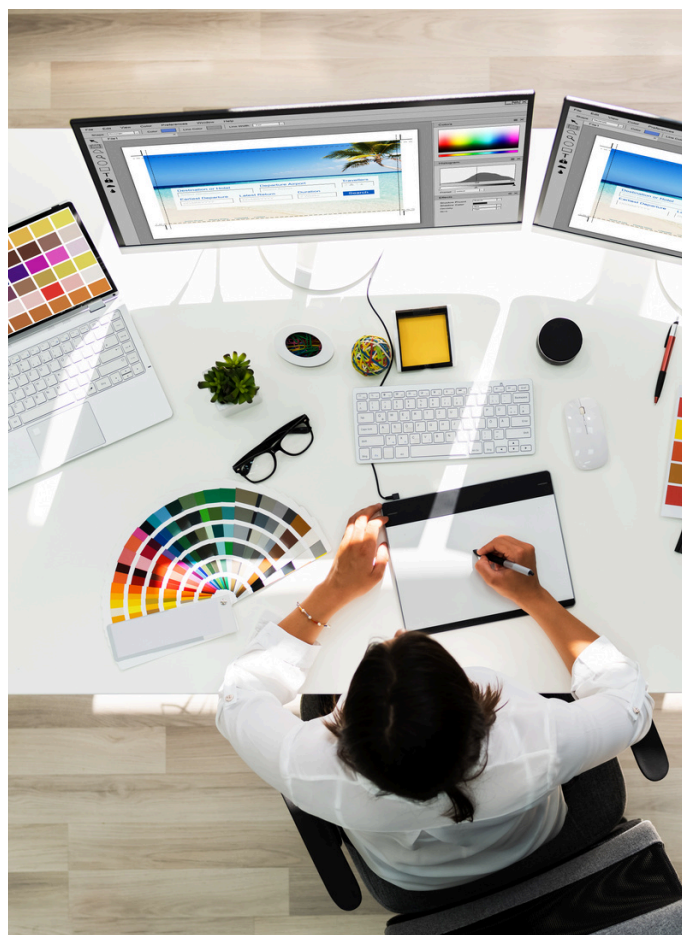
- Animator or Motion Graphics Artist
- Art Director
- Broadcast Journalist or News Reporter
- Graphic Designer
- Public Relations Specialist
- Sound Designer
- Video Producer or Director
- Web Designer

Typically Require an Associate's Degree or Vocational/Technical Training:

- Audio/Visual Technician
- Camera Operator
- Commercial Photographer
- Digital Media Specialist
- Lighting Technician
- Multimedia Equipment Operator
- Printing Technician
- Radio or Podcast Producer

Typically Require On-the-Job Training/Certifications:

- Clerical or Admin Support for Creative Businesses
- Event Crew Member
- Freelance Photographer Assistant
- Lighting or Sound Tech Assistant
- Sign Maker or Screen Printer
- Social Media Content Creator



Some high school classes you can take in this area include: Art I-IV, Band, Chorus, Digital Media, Fine Arts Survey, Media Arts I & II, Publications, Speech I & II, and Theatre I-III.

TOPS Tech Jump Start Arts, Audio/Visual Technology, and Communication Pathway Courses

Courses are open to students on both the University diploma track and Jump Start diploma track.
Jump Start Students:

In addition to fulfilling the Jump Start core course requirements, students are required to earn 9 credits from the lists below.
One of the 9 must be a career readiness course.
Courses denoted with an * may not count both as a core course and a pathway course.
Within the Jump Start framework, certain courses are designated as "universal." These courses are designed to provide foundational knowledge and skills that are relevant across all of the Jump Start pathways.

Universal Jump Start Courses

Agriscience I (career readiness)	Introduction to Health Occupations (career readiness)
Business Computer Applications	NCCER Core or Pre-Apprenticeship I
Career Success Skills (career readiness)	Personal Finance
CDF Qualifying CTE Internship	Principles of Business
Customer Service	Quest for Success (career readiness)
Cyber Society or Cyber Security	Speech I
Entrepreneurship II	Study Skills I (SPED only)
Financial Literacy *	Study Skills II (SPED only)
First Responder/Emergency Medical Responder	Study Skills III (SPED only)
Foreign Language I (same language)	Study Skills IV (SPED only)
Foreign Language II (same language)	Technical Writing *
General Technology Education	Workplace Safety
Introduction to Business Computer Applications	

Arts, Audio/Visual Technology, and Communication Pathway Courses

Advanced Band	Geometry *
Art I	Gifted & Talented Music I & II
Art II	Intermediate Band
Art III	Keyboarding
Art IV	Media Arts I
Beginning Band	Music Elective
Beginning Choir	NCCER Carpentry I
Business Math *	Percussion Ensemble
Carpentry I	Publications I
Carpentry II	Small Vocal Ensemble
Computer Technology/Literacy (SLCC)	Speech II
Desktop Publishing	Theatre I
Digital Media	Theatre II
Fine Arts Survey	Theatre III

Students Must Earn at least ONE of the Following Credentials

Adobe Certified Professional: Illustrator (basic credential)	Adobe Certified Professional: Photoshop (basic credential)
Adobe Certified Professional: InDesign (basic credential)	Adobe Certified Professional: Visual Design (advanced credential)

NOTES: NCCER = National Center for Construction Education & Research
SLCC = South Louisiana Community College
Course offerings vary by school.

Arts, Audio/Visual Technology, & Communications

Business Management & Administration

Exploring
Career
Pathways



OVERVIEW

The Business Management and Administration career pathway is designed for students who are interested in planning, organizing, and running business operations. This pathway teaches the essential skills needed to manage people, projects, and resources within a company or organization. It is a great choice for students who enjoy solving problems, leading teams, analyzing data, and making decisions that improve efficiency and drive success. Whether you want to manage a small business, work in a corporate office, or become an entrepreneur, this pathway offers a strong foundation in leadership and business operations.

Coursework in this pathway may include business principles, accounting, marketing, economics, finance, and communication. Students can explore careers such as office manager, business analyst, sales manager, administrative assistant, marketing coordinator, or financial clerk. For those interested in starting their own business, this pathway provides the tools and knowledge to create business plans, manage budgets, and understand the basics of customer service and operations. With options for immediate employment, technical training, or a college degree, Business Management and Administration offers flexible career paths in nearly every industry.



JOB CONNECTIONS

Typically Require a College Degree:

- Business Consultant
- Business Manager
- Entrepreneur/Small Business Owner (with business degree)
- Human Resources Specialist
- Marketing Manager
- Operations Manager
- Project Manager

Typically Require an Associate's Degree or Vocational/Technical Training:

- Administrative Services Coordinator
- Bookkeeper
- Customer Service Supervisor
- Human Resources Assistant
- Marketing Assistant
- Office Manager
- Sales Representative

Typically Require On-the-Job Training/Certifications:

- Customer Service Representative
- Data Entry Clerk
- Inventory Clerk
- Office Support Staff
- Receptionist
- Retail Sales Associate
- Shipping and Receiving Clerk



Some high school classes you can take in this area include: Business Computer Applications, Customer Service, Desktop Publishing, Digital Media, Entrepreneurship, Principles of Business, and Speech I & II.

TOPS Tech Jump Start Business Management and Administration Pathway Courses

Courses are open to students on both the University diploma track and Jump Start diploma track.

Jump Start Students:

In addition to fulfilling the Jump Start core course requirements, students are required to earn 9 credits from the lists below.

One of the 9 must be a career readiness course.

Courses denoted with an * may not count both as a core course and a pathway course.

Within the Jump Start framework, certain courses are designated as "universal." These courses are designed to provide foundational knowledge and skills that are relevant across all of the Jump Start pathways.

Universal Jump Start Courses

Agriscience I (career readiness)	Introduction to Health Occupations (career readiness)
Business Computer Applications	NCCER Core or Pre-Apprenticeship I
Career Success Skills (career readiness)	Personal Finance
Customer Service	Principles of Business
CDF Qualifying CTE Internship	Quest for Success (career readiness)
Cyber Society or Cyber Security	Speech I
Entrepreneurship II	Study Skills I (SPED only)
Financial Literacy *	Study Skills II (SPED only)
First Responder/Emergency Medical Responder	Study Skills III (SPED only)
Foreign Language I (same language)	Study Skills IV (SPED only)
Foreign Language II (same language)	Technical Writing *
General Technology Education	Workplace Safety
Introduction to Business Computer Applications	

Business Management and Administration Pathway Courses

Advanced Food and Nutrition	Digital Media
Agriscience II	Keyboarding
Agriscience III	Media Arts I
Agriscience IV	Medical Terminology
Business Math *	ProStart I
Carpentry I	ProStart II
Carpentry II	Publications
Computer Technology/Literacy (SLCC)	Speech II
Desktop Publishing	Word Processing

Students Must Earn at least ONE of the Following Credentials

Adobe Certified Professional: Illustrator (basic credential)	Customer Service (regional credential)
Adobe Certified Professional: InDesign (basic credential)	Louisiana Micro-Enterprise (regional credential)
Adobe Certified Professional: Photoshop (basic credential)	Louisiana Micro-Enterprise Statewide (basic credential)
Adobe Certified Professional: Visual Design (advanced credential)	

NOTES: NCCER = National Center for Construction Education & Research

SLCC = South Louisiana Community College

Course offerings vary by school.

Business Management & Administration



OVERVIEW

The Education and Training career pathway is perfect for students who are passionate about helping others learn, grow, and succeed. This pathway focuses on careers that support the development of knowledge and skills in people of all ages—from young children to adults. Students interested in teaching, coaching, counseling, or training will find rewarding opportunities in schools, childcare centers, colleges, and workplace training programs. If you enjoy working with people, have strong communication skills, and want to make a difference in others' lives, this could be the right path for you.

Coursework in this pathway may include child development, educational psychology, classroom management, and teaching methods. Students can explore careers such as teacher, school counselor, instructional coordinator, early childhood educator, or corporate trainer. There are also opportunities in areas like special education, coaching, and educational administration. Whether you plan to go to college to become a licensed educator or start with technical training to work in childcare or support roles, the Education and Training pathway offers meaningful careers centered on shaping the future through learning.



JOB CONNECTIONS

Typically Require a College Degree:

- College or University Professor
- Curriculum Developer
- Administrator
- Educational Technology Specialist
- Elementary, Middle, or High School Teacher
- Instructional Coordinator
- Librarian or Media Specialist
- School Counselor

Typically Require an Associate's Degree or Vocational/Technical Training:

- Childcare Center Director (in some states)
- Corporate Trainer or Training Coordinator
- Paraprofessional Educator (in some states/districts)
- Preschool Teacher (in some states)
- Youth Program Leader

Typically Require On-the-Job Training/Certifications:

- After-School Program Aide
- Camp Counselor
- Childcare Worker or Daycare Assistant
- Classroom Aide (in some states/districts)
- Library Assistant
- Substitute



Some high school classes you can take in this area include: Child Development, Foundations of Education, Multicultural Learning Communities, Psychology, Technology Education Computer Applications, and Speech I & II.

TOPS Tech Jump Start Pre-Educator Pathway Courses

Courses are open to students on both the University diploma track and Jump Start diploma track.

Jump Start Students:

In addition to fulfilling the Jump Start core course requirements, students are required to earn 9 credits from the lists below.

Courses denoted with an * may not count both as a core course and a pathway course.

Four Required Educator Courses

Child Development	Multicultural Learning Communities (Dual Enrollment Option Available)
Foundations of Education (Dual Enrollment Option Available)	Technology Education Computer Applications

ONE Required Career Readiness Course

Agriscience I	Quest for Success
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TWO Required Core Concentration Courses

CDF Qualifying CTE Internship I	Technical Writing
Financial Literacy* or Personal Finance	

ONE Required STEM Concentration Course

Cyber Society or Cyber Security	
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TWO of the Following Courses

Business Computer Application	Media Arts I
Family and Consumer Science I	Speech I

Student Must Earn ONE of the Following Credentials

Earn TWO DE credits from the required Educator Pathway courses (basic credential)	Earn TWO DE credits from the required Educator Pathway courses AND 22+ on ACT (advanced credential)
Earn TWO microcredentials (basic credential)	

NOTES: CDF = Career Development Fund
CTE = Career and Technical Education
STEM = Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
Course offerings vary by school.



OVERVIEW

The Finance career pathway is designed for students who are interested in managing money, analyzing financial data, and helping individuals or organizations make smart financial decisions. This pathway covers areas like banking, investing, accounting, financial planning, insurance, and business finance. If you enjoy working with numbers, solving problems, and thinking critically, a career in finance could be a great fit. Finance professionals play a key role in helping businesses grow, families plan for the future, and the economy stay strong.

Students in this pathway may study accounting, economics, business math, financial literacy, and computer applications related to finance. Career options include financial analyst, accountant, banker, insurance agent, loan officer, tax preparer, and financial advisor. There are opportunities for students at all education levels—from entry-level jobs in banking or bookkeeping to advanced careers in investment and corporate finance. Whether you plan to go to college, attend a technical program, or enter the workforce after high school, the Finance pathway offers stable and well-paying jobs with room for advancement.



JOB CONNECTIONS

Typically Require a College Degree:

- Accountant or Auditor
- Actuary
- Budget Analyst
- Corporate Finance Manager
- Financial Analyst
- Financial Planner or Advisor
- Investment Banker
- Risk Analyst
- Tax Advisor (Certified Public Accountant – CPA)

Typically an Associate's Degree or Vocational/Technical Training:

- Accounting Technician
- Banking Services Associate (advanced roles)
- Bookkeeper
- Credit Analyst (entry level)
- Loan Officer (with licensing)
- Mortgage Processor
- Payroll Specialist

Typically Require On-the-Job Training/Certifications:

- Bank Teller
- Billing Clerk
- Cashier
- Collections Representative
- Customer Service Representative in Financial Services



Some high school classes you can take in this area include: Advanced Math, Algebra, Business Computer Applications, Calculus, Customer Service, Financial Literacy, Personal Finance, and Principles of Business.

Government & Public Administration



OVERVIEW

The Government and Public Administration career pathway offers students a unique opportunity to serve their communities, state, or nation by working in public service. This pathway includes careers in planning, managing, and providing government services at the local, state, and federal levels. Whether it's helping to shape public policy, managing city planning, or working in national security, jobs in this field are essential to maintaining the structure and function of our society. Positions can be found in departments such as transportation, education, public health, foreign affairs, and more.

Students interested in this pathway should have a strong sense of civic duty, good communication and leadership skills, and an interest in law, politics, or social issues. High school coursework in civics, government, economics, and public speaking can provide a good foundation. Depending on the role, some positions require a college degree in political science, public administration, or law, while others may only need vocational training or entry-level experience. From becoming a city planner or urban development specialist to serving as a legislative aide or customs officer, the Government and Public Administration pathway offers meaningful careers that help shape communities and improve lives.



JOB CONNECTIONS

Typically Require a College Degree:

- Intelligence Analyst
- City Manager
- Emergency Management Director
- Foreign Service Officer
- Legislative Assistant
- Policy Analyst
- Public Affairs Specialist
- Urban or Regional Planner

Typically Require an Associate's Degree or Vocational/Technical Training:

- 911 Dispatcher
- Building or Safety Inspector
- Civil Service Technician
- Correctional Officer
- Court Clerk
- Emergency Services Coordinator
- Tax Examiner or Revenue Agent (entry level)

Typically Require On-the-Job

Training/Certifications:

- Census Enumerator
- Mail Carrier (USPS)
- Maintenance Worker (public facilities)
- Military Enlisted Personnel
- Parks and Recreation Aide
- Public Service Aide
- Records Clerk



Some high school classes you can take in this area include: Civics, Foreign Languages, Speech I & II, U.S. History, Western Civilizations, and World Geography.

Exploring
Career
Pathways

Health Sciences



OVERVIEW

The Health Sciences career pathway is ideal for students who are passionate about helping others, interested in science and medicine, and enjoy problem-solving. This pathway prepares students for careers focused on diagnosing, treating, and preventing illnesses, as well as promoting overall wellness. It includes a wide range of professions—from direct patient care like nursing and physical therapy to behind-the-scenes roles such as medical laboratory technicians and health information specialists. Health science careers are in high demand, offering strong job stability, and opportunities to make a meaningful difference in people's lives.

Students in this pathway gain foundational knowledge in biology, anatomy, and medical terminology, as well as important skills in communication, ethics, and teamwork. Depending on the career, students may pursue certifications, associate degrees, or advanced degrees in medical or healthcare-related fields. Whether you dream of becoming a doctor, dental hygienist, radiologic technologist, or medical assistant, the Health Sciences pathway provides many options to enter a respected and rewarding profession dedicated to caring for others.



JOB CONNECTIONS

Typically Require a College Degree:

- Biomedical Scientist
- Physician Assistant (PA)
- Dietitian/Nutritionist
- Occupational Therapist
- Pharmacist
- Physical Therapist
- Physician (MD)
- Registered Nurse (RN)

Typically Require an Associate's Degree or Vocational/Technical Training:

- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
- Radiologic Technologist
- Respiratory Therapist
- Dental Hygienist
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or Paramedic
- Pharmacy Technician
- Phlebotomist

Typically Require On-the-Job Training/Certifications:

- Personal Care Aide
- Medical Office Clerk
- Hospital Transporter
- Sterile Processing Technician
- Patient Care Technician (PCT)
- Medical Receptionist



Some high school classes you can take in this area include: Biology I & II, Chemistry, EKG, Introduction to Health Occupations, Medical Assistant I, Medical Terminology, and Sports Medicine.

*Exploring
Career
Pathways*

TOPS Tech Jump Start Health Sciences: Patient Care and Management Pathway Courses

Courses are open to students on both the University diploma track and Jump Start diploma track.

Jump Start Students:

In addition to fulfilling the Jump Start core course requirements, students are required to earn 9 credits from the lists below.

One of the 9 must be a career readiness course.

Courses denoted with an * may not count both as a core course and a pathway course.

Within the Jump Start framework, certain courses are designated as "universal." These courses are designed to provide foundational knowledge and skills that are relevant across all of the Jump Start pathways.

Universal Jump Start Courses

Agriscience I (career readiness)	Introduction to Health Occupations (career readiness)
Business Computer Applications	NCCER Core or Pre-Apprenticeship I
Career Success Skills (career readiness)	Personal Finance
Customer Service	Principles of Business
CDF Qualifying CTE Internship	Quest for Success (career readiness)
Cyber Society or Cyber Security	Speech I
Entrepreneurship II	Study Skills I (SPED only)
Financial Literacy *	Study Skills II (SPED only)
First Responder/Emergency Medical Responder	Study Skills III (SPED only)
Foreign Language I (same language)	Study Skills IV (SPED only)
Foreign Language II (same language)	Technical Writing *
General Technology Education	Workplace Safety
Introduction to Business Computer Applications	

Health Sciences: Patient Care and Management Courses

Advanced Nutrition and Food	EKG (electrocardiogram)
Biology II *	Environmental Science *
Business Math *	Family and Consumer Sciences I
Chemistry *	Keyboarding
Child Development	Medical Assistant I
Desktop Publishing	Medical Terminology
Digital Media I	Nutrition and Food
Dual Enrollment Biology	Sports Medicine (½ credit)

Student Must Earn ONE of the Following Credentials

Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) (advanced credential)	Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) (basic credential)
Certified EKG Technician (regional credential)	

NOTES: NCCER = National Center for Construction Education & Research
Course offerings vary by school.

Hospitality, Tourism, Culinary Arts, & Retail



OVERVIEW

The Hospitality, Tourism, Culinary Arts, and Retail career pathway is perfect for students who enjoy working with people, being creative, and providing memorable experiences. This pathway includes careers in food service, hotel and resort management, event planning, travel services, recreation, and retail operations. Whether it's preparing gourmet meals, managing a luxury hotel, organizing large-scale events, or helping customers find the right product, professionals in this field focus on customer satisfaction, service excellence, and creating enjoyable, engaging experiences.

Students in this pathway learn valuable skills in communication, teamwork, time management, sales, and problem-solving. They may also receive hands-on training in culinary techniques, food safety, hospitality technology, retail marketing, and business operations. Career opportunities range from entry-level positions that require minimal education to specialized roles that involve advanced training or a college degree. With the growing demand for quality service, travel, retail, and dining experiences, this pathway offers exciting, fast-paced careers both locally and globally in industries that are constantly evolving.



JOB CONNECTIONS

Typically Require a College Degree:

- Cruise Line Director
- Culinary Arts Instructor
- Event Planner or Meeting Coordinator
- Food and Beverage Director
- Hospitality Marketing Manager
- Retail Buyer or Merchandise Planner
- Tourism Development Specialist

Typically Require an Associate's Degree or Vocational/Technical Training:

- Chef or Sous Chef
- Food Safety and Sanitation Inspector
- Front Office Supervisor (hotel)
- Hospitality or Culinary Arts Technician
- Pastry Chef or Baker (with culinary school training)
- Restaurant Manager
- Retail Store Manager (with training program)

Typically Require On-the-Job

Training/Certifications:

- Barista
- Bellhop or Valet Attendant
- Dishwasher or Kitchen Helper
- Host or Hostess
- Hotel Housekeeper
- Sales Associate or Cashier
- Server or Waitstaff



Some high school classes you can take in this area include: Business Math, Customer Service, Family & Consumer Science I & II, Food Services I, Nutrition & Food, Principles of Business, and ProStart.

TOPS Tech Jump Start Hospitality, Tourism, Culinary, and Retail Pathway Courses

Courses are open to students on both the University diploma track and Jump Start diploma track.

Jump Start Students:

In addition to fulfilling the Jump Start core course requirements, students are required to earn 9 credits from the lists below.

One of the 9 must be a career readiness course.

Courses denoted with an * may not count both as a core course and a pathway course.

Within the Jump Start framework, certain courses are designated as "universal." These courses are designed to provide foundational knowledge and skills that are relevant across all of the Jump Start pathways.

Universal Jump Start Courses

Agriscience I (career readiness)	Introduction to Health Occupations (career readiness)
Business Computer Applications	NCCER Core or Pre-Apprenticeship I
Career Success Skills (career readiness)	Personal Finance
CDF Qualifying CTE Internship	Principles of Business
Customer Service	Quest for Success (career readiness)
Cyber Society or Cyber Security	Speech I
Entrepreneurship II	Study Skills I (SPED only)
Financial Literacy *	Study Skills II (SPED only)
First Responder/Emergency Medical Responder	Study Skills III (SPED only)
Foreign Language I (same language)	Study Skills IV (SPED only)
Foreign Language II (same language)	Technical Writing *
General Technology Education	Workplace Safety
Introduction to Business Computer Applications	

Hospitality, Tourism, Culinary, and Retail Pathway Courses

Advanced Nutrition and Food	Family and Consumer Sciences II
Baking and Pastry Arts I	Food Services I
Business Math *	Food Services II
Chemistry *	Keyboarding
Computer Technology/Literacy (SLCC)	Nutrition and Food
Customer Service	ProStart I
Digital Media I	ProStart II
Environmental Science *	Publications I
Family and Consumer Sciences I	Speech II

Student Must Earn ONE of the Following Credentials

Customer Service (regional credential)	Prostart AND ServSafe Manager (basic credential)
Louisiana Micro-Enterprise (regional credential)	ServSafe Handler (regional credential)
Louisiana Micro-Enterprise Statewide (basic credential)	ServSafe Manager (regional credential)
Prostart AND ServSafe Handler (regional credential)	

NOTES: NCCER = National Center for Construction Education & Research
SLCC = South Louisiana Community College
Course offerings vary by school.

*Jump
Start
Connection*

Hospitality, Tourism,
Culinary Arts, & Retail

Human Services



OVERVIEW

The Human Services career pathway is designed for students who are compassionate, empathetic, and motivated to support the well-being of individuals, families, and communities. This pathway includes careers that focus on helping people meet their personal, social, emotional, and financial needs. Whether working in counseling, social work, family services, or community outreach, professionals in this field play a vital role in improving the quality of life for others and addressing challenges like poverty, abuse, addiction, and mental health issues.

Students in the Human Services pathway develop strong interpersonal, communication, and problem-solving skills. They may study subjects like psychology, sociology, child development, and ethics. Career paths vary widely—some roles require short-term certifications or associate degrees, while others, such as licensed counselors or social workers, require a bachelor's or master's degree. From youth program coordinators and mental health aides to case managers and family therapists, careers in Human Services are both rewarding and essential to building stronger, healthier communities.



JOB CONNECTIONS

Typically Require a College Degree:

- Child Welfare Specialist
- Human Services Program Manager
- Marriage and Family Therapist
- Mental Health Counselor
- Nonprofit Organization Director
- Social Worker
- Substance Abuse Counselor

Typically Require an Associate's Degree or Vocational/Technical Training:

- Behavioral Health Technician
- Case Technician
- Early Childhood Education Assistant
- Family Services Worker (entry level)
- Residential Support Specialist
- Social Work Assistant
- Youth Care Worker

Typically Require On-the-Job Training/Certifications:

- Childcare Worker
- Community Outreach Worker (entry level)
- Direct Support Professional (DSP)
- Peer Support Specialist
- Personal Care Aide
- Shelter or Crisis Center Assistant
- Volunteer Coordinator (entry level)



Some high school classes you can take in this area include: Child Development, Foundations of Education, Medical Assistant I, Psychology, and Speech I & II.

Information Technology

Exploring
Career
Pathways



OVERVIEW

The Information Technology (IT) career pathway is ideal for students who enjoy solving problems, working with computers, and using technology to improve how people live and work. This pathway includes careers that focus on designing, developing, managing, and supporting computer systems, software, networks, and cybersecurity. From creating websites and apps to protecting sensitive data or maintaining hardware, IT professionals play a critical role in nearly every industry today.

Students in this pathway develop strong technical, analytical, and communication skills. They often study topics like computer programming, networking, digital security, and information systems. Depending on the role, students can pursue industry certifications, associate degrees, or bachelor's degrees. Whether you want to become a software developer, IT support specialist, network administrator, or cybersecurity analyst, the Information Technology pathway offers high-demand, high-paying career opportunities in a rapidly growing field that continues to shape the modern world.



JOB CONNECTIONS

Typically Require a College Degree:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Engineer
- Computer Network Architect
- Cybersecurity Analyst
- Data Scientist
- Information Security Manager
- IT Project Manager
- Software Developer

Typically Require an Associate's Degree or Vocational/Technical Training:

- Computer Support Technician
- Database Support Technician
- IT Help Desk Specialist
- Junior Software Developer
- Network Support Specialist
- Technical Support Analyst
- Web Developer

Typically Require On-the-Job Training/Certifications:

- Cable Installer or Network Cabling Technician
- Entry-Level Data Entry Specialist
- Hardware Installer
- Help Desk Assistant
- Inventory/IT Equipment Handler
- IT Support Assistant
- Technical Support Representative



Some high school classes you can take in this area include: Business Computer Applications, Computer Technology/Literacy, Cyber Security, Customer Service, and Speech I & II.

TOPS Tech Jump Start Information Technology Pathway Courses

Courses are open to students on both the University diploma track and Jump Start diploma track.

Jump Start Students:

In addition to fulfilling the Jump Start core course requirements, students are required to earn 9 credits from the lists below.

One of the 9 must be a career readiness course.

Courses denoted with an * may not count both as a core course and a pathway course.

Within the Jump Start framework, certain courses are designated as "universal." These courses are designed to provide foundational knowledge and skills that are relevant across all of the Jump Start pathways.

Universal Jump Start Courses

Agriscience I (career readiness)	Introduction to Health Occupations (career readiness)
Business Computer Applications	NCCER Core or Pre-Apprenticeship I
Career Success Skills (career readiness)	Personal Finance
CDF Qualifying CTE Internship	Principles of Business
Customer Service	Quest for Success (career readiness)
Cyber Society or Cyber Security	Speech I
Entrepreneurship II	Study Skills I (SPED only)
Financial Literacy *	Study Skills II (SPED only)
First Responder/Emergency Medical Responder	Study Skills III (SPED only)
Foreign Language I (same language)	Study Skills IV (SPED only)
Foreign Language II (same language)	Technical Writing *
General Technology Education	Workplace Safety
Introduction to Business Computer Applications	

Information Technology Pathway Courses

CompTIA + Fundamentals of Computer Installation & Configuration	Digital Media
CompTIA + Networking Fundamentals	Geometry *
Computer Technology/Literacy (SLCC)	Keyboarding

Student Must Earn ONE of the Following Credentials

Adobe Certified Professional: Illustrator (basic credential)	Adobe Certified Professional: Visual Design (advanced credential)
Adobe Certified Professional: InDesign (basic credential)	CompTIA+ (basic credential)
Adobe Certified Professional: Photoshop (basic credential)	

NOTES: NCCER = National Center for Construction Education & Research
SLCC = South Louisiana Community College
CompTia = Computer Technology Industry Association
CDF = Career Development Funds
CTE = Career and Technical Education
Course offerings vary by school.

Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security



OVERVIEW

The Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security career pathway is ideal for students who are interested in protecting others, maintaining order, and upholding justice. This pathway includes careers in law enforcement, legal services, firefighting, emergency response, and homeland security. Professionals in these roles work to keep communities safe, respond to emergencies, enforce laws, and ensure that justice is served fairly and ethically.

Students in this pathway develop strong communication, decision-making, leadership, and critical thinking skills. They may take courses in criminal justice, forensics, public safety, and legal studies. Depending on the specific career, some positions require certifications or academy training, while others may need an associate or bachelor's degree. Whether you're interested in becoming a police officer, firefighter, attorney, forensic technician, or security specialist, the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security pathway offers meaningful, challenging careers that make a lasting impact on individuals and society.



JOB CONNECTIONS

Typically Require a College Degree:

- Attorney or Prosecutor (requires law school)
- Criminal Investigator
- Criminal Justice Professor
- FBI Special Agent
- Forensic Psychologist
- Homeland Security Analyst
- Intelligence Analyst

Typically Require an Associate's Degree or Vocational/Technical Training:

- Crime Scene Technician
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Firefighter (with academy training)
- Paralegal or Legal Assistant
- Private Investigator (with licensure)
- Probation or Parole Technician
- Security Systems Technician

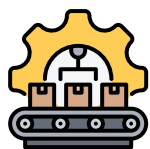
Typically Require On-the-Job

Training/Certifications:

- Correctional Officer
- Court Clerk (entry level)
- Detention Officer (local level)
- Emergency Services Dispatcher Assistant
- Evidence Room Technician (entry-level)
- Security Guard
- Transportation Security Officer (TSA)



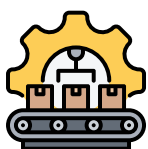
Some high school classes you can take in this area include: Civics, English I-IV, Medical Assistant I, Speech I & II, and U.S History.



OVERVIEW

The Manufacturing career pathway is ideal for students who enjoy hands-on work, problem-solving, and working with tools, machines, or technology. This pathway includes careers focused on producing goods, operating machinery, assembling products, and ensuring quality control in industries such as automotive, electronics, aerospace, and consumer goods. Manufacturing professionals play a key role in transforming raw materials into finished products that are used every day.

Students in this pathway develop valuable technical and mechanical skills, as well as knowledge in areas like blueprint reading, safety standards, robotics, and automation. Some careers require short-term certifications or vocational training, while others may need an associate or bachelor's degree in fields like engineering technology or industrial maintenance. With advances in technology and automation, the manufacturing industry continues to evolve, offering high-demand, well-paying careers for those ready to innovate and work in fast-paced, team-oriented environments.



JOB CONNECTIONS

Typically Require a College Degree:

- Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) Specialist
- Industrial Engineer
- Industrial Production Manager
- Manufacturing Engineer
- Mechanical Engineer
- Operations Manager
- Supply Chain Analyst

Typically Require an Associate's Degree or Vocational/Technical Training:

- CNC (Computer Numerical Control) Machine Operator
- Electrical or Electronics Technician
- Industrial Maintenance Technician
- Machinist
- Robotics Technician
- Tool and Die Maker
- Welder

Typically Require On-the-Job

Training/Certifications:

- Assembler or Production Line Worker
- Forklift Operator
- General Laborer
- Inventory Control Clerk
- Machine Operator
- Material Handler
- Shipping and Receiving Clerk



Some high school classes you can take in this area include: Basic Wood Technology, Carpentry I & II, Industrial Machine Shop I & II, Oil & Gas Production & Operations, Welding I & II, and Workplace Safety.

TOPS Tech Jump Start Manufacturing Pathway Courses

Courses are open to students on both the University diploma track and Jump Start diploma track.

Jump Start Students:

In addition to fulfilling the Jump Start core course requirements, students are required to earn 9 credits from the lists below.

One of the 9 must be a career readiness course.

Courses denoted with an * may not count both as a core course and a pathway course.

Within the Jump Start framework, certain courses are designated as "universal." These courses are designed to provide foundational knowledge and skills that are relevant across all of the Jump Start pathways.

The Vermilion Parish School System Career Campus is located at Abbeville High School.

Universal Jump Start Courses

Agriscience I (career readiness)	Introduction to Health Occupations (career readiness)
Business Computer Applications	NCCER Core or Pre-Apprenticeship I
Career Success Skills (career readiness)	Personal Finance
CDF Qualifying CTE Internship	Principles of Business
Customer Service	Quest for Success (career readiness)
Cyber Society or Cyber Security	Speech I
Entrepreneurship II	Study Skills I (SPED only)
Financial Literacy *	Study Skills II (SPED only)
First Responder/Emergency Medical Responder	Study Skills III (SPED only)
Foreign Language I (same language)	Study Skills IV (SPED only)
Foreign Language II (same language)	Technical Writing *
General Technology Education	Workplace Safety
Introduction to Business Computer Applications	

Manufacturing Pathway Courses

Agriscience II	Industrial Machine Shop I (career campus)
Agriscience III	Industrial Machine Shop II (career campus)
Agriscience IV	NCCER Welding I
Agriscience Leadership	NCCER Welding II
Chemistry *	Oil and Gas Production Operations
Construction Math/Basic Wood Technology	Pre-Apprenticeship II Millwright
Environmental Science *	Pre-Apprenticeship II Welding
Geometry *	T-2 Safety Systems

Student Must Earn ONE of the Following Credentials

CITF Millwright I (advanced credential)	Louisiana Micro-Enterprise Statewide (basic credential)
CITF Welding I (basic credential)	OSHA 10 (regional credential; applies only to students with disabilities as indicated by current IEP)
CITF Welding II (advanced credential)	T-2 Production Safety Systems (basic credential)

NOTES: NCCER = National Center for Construction Education & Research

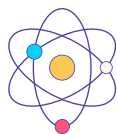
CITF = Carpenter International Training Fund

OSHA = Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Course offerings vary by school.

Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM)

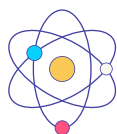
Exploring
Career
Pathways



OVERVIEW

The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) career pathway is designed for students who are curious, analytical, and enjoy exploring how things work. This pathway includes careers focused on scientific research, technological innovation, engineering solutions, and mathematical analysis. Professionals in STEM fields play a critical role in solving real-world problems—whether it's developing new medical technologies, designing sustainable infrastructure, creating software, or analyzing data to make informed decisions.

Students in the STEM pathway build strong skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and collaboration. They often study subjects like physics, chemistry, computer science, calculus, and engineering principles. Career opportunities range from technician roles requiring certifications or associate degrees to advanced research and engineering positions that require a bachelor's or graduate degree. Whether you're interested in becoming a software developer, environmental scientist, civil engineer, or statistician, the STEM pathway opens doors to high-demand, high-paying careers that drive innovation and shape the future.



JOB CONNECTIONS

Typically Require a College Degree:

- Chemist
- Civil Engineer
- Computer Systems Analyst
- Data Scientist
- Environmental Scientist
- Mathematician
- Mechanical Engineer

Typically Require an Associate's Degree or Vocational/Technical Training:

- CAD (Computer-Aided Design) Technician
- Computer Support Specialist
- GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Technician
- HVAC Technician (with STEM-based technical skills)
- Lab Technician (science or medical research)
- Robotics Technician

Typically Require On-the-Job

Training/Certifications:

- Electrical Helper
- IT Support Assistant
- Machine Operator (STEM-related manufacturing)
- Mechanical Assembler
- Manufacturing Technician Trainee



Some high school classes you can take in this area include: Advanced Math, Algebra, Biology I & II, Chemistry, Calculus, and Physics.

Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics



OVERVIEW

The Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics career pathway is ideal for students who are interested in how goods and people move from one place to another. This pathway includes careers focused on planning, managing, and executing the movement of products and services by road, rail, air, and sea. It also covers the warehousing, inventory management, and supply chain systems that ensure items are delivered safely, efficiently, and on time. Professionals in this field play a vital role in keeping the global economy running by connecting manufacturers, suppliers, and consumers.

Students in this pathway gain skills in problem-solving, organization, time management, and technology. They may study subjects like transportation systems, logistics, mechanics, and safety regulations. Career options range from hands-on roles like truck driving and equipment operation to technical and management positions in logistics coordination and fleet management. Whether you want to drive, repair, schedule, or oversee transportation operations, this career pathway offers a wide variety of high-demand, well-paying jobs that support both local and global commerce.



JOB CONNECTIONS

Typically Require a College Degree:

- Air Traffic Controller (specialized degree + training)
- Aviation Manager
- Fleet Manager
- Import/Export Compliance Specialist
- Logistics Manager
- Operations Manager (transportation or warehousing)
- Supply Chain Analyst
- Transportation Planner

Typically Require an Associate's Degree or Vocational/Technical Training:

- Aircraft Maintenance Technician
- Automotive Service Technician
- Commercial Truck Driver (CDL required)
- Diesel Technician
- Marine Mechanic
- Warehouse Supervisor

Typically Require On-the-Job

Training/Certifications:

- Delivery Driver
- Dispatcher (entry level)
- Forklift Operator
- Inventory Clerk
- Package Handler (UPS, FedEx, etc.)
- Warehouse Associate



Some high school classes you can take in this area include: Business Computer Applications, Customer Service, Principles of Business, T2 Safety Systems, and Workplace Safety.

Post-Secondary Options



Variety of Paths

After high school, students have a variety of paths to explore that can help them reach their goals. Post-secondary options include college, technical or trade schools, enlisting in the military, and entering the workforce. Each pathway offers unique opportunities for learning, skill development, and career preparation. Understanding these options early helps students make informed choices that align with their interests, strengths, and future aspirations.



College & University

Two-Year College (Community College):

Cost-effective; associate's degrees; can transfer to four-year institutions; learn workforce skills

Four-Year Colleges/Universities: Offer bachelor's and advanced degrees; options vary by size, location, and programs



Career & Technical Education

Vocational/Technical Schools: Focused on training for specific careers and trades

Apprenticeships: Hands-on training paired with work experience



Military Service & Gap Year

Military Service: Offers training, education benefits, and career development

Gap Year Programs: Can include volunteering, internships, or travel, allowing time to explore career and academic interests



Entering the Workforce

Immediate Employment: Start earning income right away; gain hands-on experience; build professional habits and workplace skills

Career Growth: Explore opportunities for advancement; receive on-the-job training; develop skills that can lead to long-term career paths

Colleges, Universities, & Technical Schools



Do Some Research

When exploring your options after high school, it's important to research colleges, universities, and technical schools to see which best fits your goals. Here's a list to get you started. **Post-secondary institutions**



Programs & Catalogs

When exploring college, university, and technical school websites, focus on the degree programs and course catalogs they offer. Reviewing these can help you see which subjects interest you most and narrow down potential areas of study for your future.



Admissions Requirements

Make note of admissions requirements that tell you what a school expects from applicants, such as test scores and GPA. Understanding these requirements early can help you prepare and make sure you meet the qualifications before applying.



Financial Considerations

When comparing schools, look closely at tuition, fees, and living costs to understand the total price of attending. Most schools have Net Price Calculators to help you. Considering all these expenses can help you plan your budget and find a school that fits your financial situation.



Visits & Tours

Campus visits and virtual tours let you explore a school's environment and get a feel for student life. Experiencing the campus, even online, can help you decide if the school is a good fit for your interests and goals.



Application Process

When applying to college or technical school, you'll need to submit an application with your personal information, grades, and sometimes essays and letters of recommendation. Some schools use **Common App**, which allows you to apply to multiple schools at once, while others require you to apply directly.



Financial Planning

Financial planning for post-secondary schooling is important for both students and parents to ensure education is affordable. It's important to explore options such as scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study programs. Be sure to complete the FAFSA to apply for federal financial aid, use LOFSA to find state and private scholarships, and check if you qualify for TOPS. Planning ahead can help reduce stress and ensure you have the resources needed to complete your chosen program.



FAFSA

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is a form that students and parents complete to apply for financial aid for college or technical school. Its purpose is to determine eligibility for federal grants, loans, and work-study programs, as well as many state and school-based financial aid opportunities. Students should complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1 of their senior year of high school.

Your school will be hosting a FAFSA night to help senior students and parents complete the application.

Completing the FAFSA counts as the TOPS application.

For more information, visit [Federal Student Aid](#).



LOFSA

LOFSA (Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance) is a resource that helps students and parents find information about state and private scholarships, grants, and financial aid programs. It's a useful tool for exploring ways to pay for college or technical school beyond federal aid.

It has everything you need to know about the TOPS, including eligibility, GPA/ACT requirements, and deadlines.

LOFSA lists other Louisiana scholarships, grants, and financial aid programs you might qualify for.

It keeps you updated on important dates so you don't miss out on financial aid, and it contains college and career planning tools to help you make smart decisions about life after high school.

For more information, visit [the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance](#).



Scholarships



Start Local

Check with your school counselor, local businesses, community organizations, and churches. Local scholarships may have less competition.



Scroll Smart

Many social media creators share scholarship leads, essay tips, and deadlines. Just make sure to double-check the info before applying.



Search Engines

Try websites like Going Merry, Scholarships.com, or College Board's Big Future.

Here's a list to get you started. [Scholarship Search Engines](#)



Specific Searches

Major: nursing scholarships or engineering scholarships **Student type:** first-generation college student scholarships or high school senior scholarships **Activities:** art scholarships or soccer scholarships **Demographics:** scholarships for women or scholarships for Hispanic students



\$\$\$ Add Up

Apply for small scholarships, not just big ones. \$500 here and \$1,000 there adds up quickly.

Don't skip them!



Check Often

New scholarships are posted all the time, and deadlines come up quickly. Setting a weekly reminder helps students stay on track without getting overwhelmed. Try to allocate one hour a week to applying for scholarships.



Check with Schools

Look at the financial aid and scholarship pages for each school you're applying to because many have their own awards.



Stay Organized

Keep a spreadsheet of deadlines, requirements, and awards you've applied for. Here's a sample spreadsheet you can use. [College & Scholarship Tracking Spreadsheet](#)



Military Enlistment



Research Branches

Learn about different branches (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force).

Explore each branch's missions, roles, and training programs.



Understand Eligibility

Check age, education, citizenship, and physical fitness requirements.

Be aware of any background or health considerations.



Career Opportunities

Review available jobs or specialties within each branch.

Consider how military skills can transfer to civilian careers in the future.



Speak with a Recruiter

Ask questions about enlistment, benefits, and commitments.

Get information on educational opportunities and training programs.



Prepare for the ASVAB

Take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) to determine suitable career paths.

Use practice tests to improve scores and career options.



Understand Benefits & Commitments

Learn about the length of service, deployment possibilities, and daily life in the military.

Explore benefits like pay, housing, healthcare, and educational assistance.

Entering the Workforce

Not every student wants to continue their education after high school, and that's perfectly okay. Choosing to enter the workforce can be a smart and rewarding path, allowing you to gain hands-on experience, build valuable skills, and start earning income right away. There are many opportunities available, from entry-level positions to jobs that offer on-the-job training, certifications, or apprenticeships.



SELF-ASSESSMENT & CAREER EXPLORATION

IDENTIFY YOUR STRENGTHS: Think about skills you enjoy using, like problem solving, teamwork, and creativity.
EXPLORE CAREERS: Research industries and roles that match your interests and abilities. Consider entry-level jobs in high-demand fields.
SET GOALS: Decide what you want to achieve in the short-term (first year) and long-term (3-5 years) in your career.



RESUME & JOB APPLICATION PREPARATION

CREATE A RESUME: Include your education, volunteer work, part-time jobs, skills, and industry-based certifications that you earned while in high school.
WRITE A COVER LETTER: Customize it for each job. Highlight your enthusiasm and relevant skills.
GATHER REFERENCES: Ask teachers, coaches, or previous employers who can vouch for your work ethic and character.



JOB SEARCH STRATEGIES

ONLINE JOB BOARDS: Indeed, Glassdoor, ZipRecruiter, and local job boards.
NETWORKING: Talk to family, friends, teachers, and community members about job openings.
JOB FAIRS: Attend career or trade fairs in your area. Bring copies of your resume.
COMPANY WEBSITES: Apply directly through company career portals.

2 years of TOPS Award Amount



INTERVIEW PREPARATION

RESEARCH THE COMPANY: Know its products, services, and values.
PRACTICE COMMON QUESTIONS: Be ready to discuss your strengths, weaknesses, and why you want the job.
DRESS PROFESSIONALLY: Even for entry-level jobs, a neat appearance makes a strong impression.
FOLLOW-UP: Send a polite thank-you email after the interview.

2 years of TOPS Award Amount



High school is the launching pad for your future, full of opportunities to explore, grow, and discover your passions. Every choice you make—whether it's furthering your education, starting a career, or serving in the military—brings you one step closer to the life you dream of. Stay curious, take advantage of every resource, and believe in your ability to succeed. Your future is yours to create, and the possibilities are endless.

