

Overview

The beginning of the new millennium in 2000 ushered in an age of information technology. That year, the Academy of Information Technology was established to address the challenges facing an education system struggling to keep up with a rapidly changing 21st century world. Today, the Academy of Information Technology model is found in 140 schools across the United States graduating students who are prepared for professional success beyond high school, while preparing them for college.

These small learning communities, housed within large public high schools, introduce students to the ever-expanding digital workplace and to the career opportunities offered in programming, database administration, Web administration and other areas.

Curriculum

The rigorous curriculum, focused on information technology, was developed through a collaboration among experts in education, IT, and industries with a great demand for IT professionals. In addition to their required academic courses, students also take one or two specialized, industry-related courses each semester. NAF curriculum applies project-based learning and integrates literacy instruction through an extended inquiry process that simulates professional knowledge and workplace behavior.



San Diego, CA, Academy of Information Technology:

Students at Hilltop High School in San Diego learn advanced computer skills, including the inner-workings of computers and computer applications.

Courses include:

- Strategies for Success with Computer Applications
- Introduction to Information Technology
- Web Page Design
- Programming I and II
- Digital Networks
- Systems Support and Maintenance
- Digital Media
- Advanced Web Tools
- Databases
- Principles of Information Technology
- Digital Video & Digital Media

In addition, Academy of Information Technology students are strongly encouraged to take at least three years of mathematics and study a foreign language. In their senior year, students take a college-level course.

As a result, Academy students are prepared for post-secondary studies, not only in information technology, but in many other fields of study that require a strong foundation in mathematics, science, language arts and social studies.

Corporate Participation and Support

Through the Academy of Information Technology, local businesses partner with schools to ready students for the world beyond high school. These business professionals help by securing internships, volunteering in classrooms, acting as mentors, and serving on local advisory boards.

National partnerships with NAF position many of these IT companies to engage their employees in Academies, assisting students to prepare for college and careers and providing the companies with an important workforce investment for the future.

Paid Internships

Each summer, Academy of Information Technology students have the opportunity to have a real world, applied learning experience. They work as paid interns at firms specializing in IT as well as in IT departments in various corporations and industries. These students not only see how their classroom lessons relate to the workplace, they also develop important professional relationships that can be of lasting value in the years to come.