

Avonworth High School Personal Pathways Program

Introduction

Students must begin career and college preparation during high school to prepare for the needs of today's global workforce and to find a passion that inspires each of them. Today's employers demand a new set of skills from graduates entering a dynamic, competitive marketplace. A pathway model exposes students to jobs that will match their skills and areas of interest and empowers them to emerge as future leaders and problem-solvers through project-based learning activities in the core curriculum and in their elective choices.

What are Personal Pathways?

The Personal Pathways Program is a focused framework linking curricular choices with career and college readiness and are also referred to as career academies. Career academies have been widely adopted in the United States for over 40 years. The aims of this structure are to blend disciplines and academic rigor with a curriculum spanning college-readiness and workplace knowledge and to engage students with relevant experiences in chosen careers or industries.

After their 9th grade year, students will have the option of selecting one of six career pathways to focus their elective choices and out-of-school experiences (job shadows, internships, apprenticeships, graduation project) to an area of their own interest. Students may choose to take elective courses outside of their respective academies as well.

Avonworth Personal Pathways

Pathway for Innovative Arts & Communications
Pathway for Business, Finance & Entrepreneurship
Pathway for Health & Medicine
Pathway for Public and International Relations
Pathway for Science Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
Pathway for A.W. Beattie Career Center*

*The Avonworth Personal Pathways Program complement the career training offered at the A.W. Beattie Career Center that has programs for sports medicine, auto body repair, carpentry, veterinary tech, dentistry, computer systems technology, cosmetology, culinary, early childhood development, among others.

Benefits of Avonworth Personal Pathways Program

Students will gain exposure to many different fields and can personalize their educational journey with elective choices and relevant experiences alongside leaders in their area of interest. Students will develop a portfolio in their area that can be used as a springboard for their graduation project. They will also develop soft skills and will learn about the job market in their potential career path. By extending school/business/community partnerships, our students will also be provided more opportunities to apply knowledge and skills in real-world situations through project-based learning activities in the classroom and through experiences outside of the classroom.

Personal Pathways Framework

Students can apply for a specific pathway after their 9th grade year and after participating in an overview day of exposure to Pathway opportunities. Participation is voluntary. Applications will be reviewed by the high school administration and pathway teacher leaders. Students will gain career exposure and participate in job readiness workshops during their 9th grade year, as well as discover connections to careers in their core classes. Students then have the option to apply for a pathway to further personalize their learning through elective choices, career experiences, and extracurricular activities. When a student meets the requirements of their chosen pathway, he or she will be awarded certification upon graduation.

Students can switch from one pathway to another only if there is time to earn enough credits in the newly chosen pathway and will benefit a student in his or her future endeavors. In order to complete the transfer students will need to complete a transfer document signed by both pathway leaders. This document will include a checklist of already completed tasks and experience hours.

Students can only participate in one pathway at a time, but are often afforded an opportunity to participate in positive, collaborative opportunities and offered to all Pathway students.

A student can join a pathway as a senior only if they agree to present their case for participation in front of 3 or more pathway leaders. The leaders will then make a final decision. Please note that a student cannot earn an honors cord if they have not been in a pathway prior to their senior year.

Graduation Requirements

Subject	Number Units	Subject	Number Units
English	4	Physical Education	2
Social Studies	4	Health	½
Mathematics	3	Personal Finance	½
Science	3	The Arts	½
Technology	½	9th Grade Seminar	½
Elective Credits	7		
(½ elective to be in arts)		Total Credits	25 ½

Personal Pathways Application Requirements

2.5 QPA

Teacher recommendation

Letter of interest/Application

Good standing with attendance

Personal Pathways Requirements

Career portfolio (Google site & interview, career research, resume, cover letter, etc.)

Career Experiences with professionals (30 hours minimum)

Participation in pathway and workforce seminars and opportunities (offered annually - mock interviews, field trips, speakers)

Successful completion of professional interview

Pathway Leaders

Each pathway will have one teacher leader.

Duties:

- Review applications for admissions
- Develop, plan, and schedule pathway seminars
- Serve as a liaison between students, teachers, administrators, graduation project coordinator, and outside partners
- Review and assess (annually) pathway program
- Track student completion of pathway requirements
- Serve as a mentor to students within the pathway
- Annually review course offerings within each pathway
- Develop short-term and long-term goals (outreach, partnership development, etc.)

Pathway Seminars

Pathway leaders are expected to plan pathway seminars. Seminars can be used for pathway specific programming, which can include guest speakers, ongoing projects, portfolio development, etc. Prior to scheduling for their 10th grade year, students will attend a seminar introducing them to their pathway options.

In the sophomore year, students will participate in the 10th grade seminar including but not limited to college applications, financial aid, getting the most out of high school, cover letters, personal statements, resumes, senior pathway presentations.

In junior year students will participate in the 11th grade seminar including but not limited to a human resource workshop and mock interview.

In senior year students will participate in the 12th grade seminar including but not limited to exit interviews with the principal, Google Site portfolios, emotional wellness, conflict resolution, and financial literacy.

Teacher Externships

In order to facilitate connections with the classroom and the workforce, teacher externships are encouraged. Externships entail having teachers visit the workplace in industries that apply to their content areas. By being in the work environment, teachers will have a better idea about the needs of the workforce (knowledge, professional skills, soft skills) to incorporate into their teaching.

Avonworth Personal Pathways Program Timeline

The Avonworth Personal Pathways Cohorts are designed to be a four-year program. The freshman year is meant to serve as self-exploration and career introduction. Continued exposure and research is the focus of the second year, targeted experiences the third year, and interview/college & career transition the final year. A portfolio will be built throughout the process and will serve as an end product.

COVID-19 Addendum:

Experiences and opportunities may be limited due to Covid-19 response...

Sophomore Year

Job Exposure Activities

- These activities may be in the form of career-related field trips, guest lectures on campus, and/or workshops on or off campus. Students are expected to participate and give a written reflection on at least two activities per year. These activities may be led by the Personal Pathways Leader and/or through a class in the curriculum.

Professional Communication Workshop in Curriculum

Sophomore Pathway Seminar- In the sophomore year, students will participate in the 10th grade seminar including but not limited to college applications, financial aid, getting the most out of high school, cover letters, personal statements, resumes, senior pathway presentations.

Portfolio

- Students will continue building their digital capstone portfolios. Second year uploads should include examples of professional communication, and at least two job exposure activity reflections.

Portfolio Checklist: Updated resume, personal statements, examples of professional communication, and sophomore reflection with appropriate images from sophomore activities.

Junior Year

Focused Job Shadow/Internship/Apprenticeship

- Each student may complete a job shadow, apprenticeship or approved volunteer experience in a related career pathway by the end of their capstone senior portfolio exhibition. A post-shadow/apprenticeship/volunteer reflection will be required. Guided questions will be provided to complete this task.

Job Exposure Activities

- These activities may be in the form of career-related field trips, guest lectures on campus, and/or workshops on or off campus. Students are expected to participate and give a written reflection on at least two activities per year. These activities may be led by the Pathway Leader and/or through a class in the curriculum.

Junior Year Seminar/ Interview/Human Resource Workshop

- Students will update resumes and participate in a mock interview workshop. Each student will complete two interviews. Feedback will be provided after the first interview to prepare students for the second. Human resource experts will serve as the interviewers.

Portfolio

- Additions to Portfolio will include job shadow/apprenticeship/volunteer reflection, update to cover letter/resume and at least two job exposure activity reflections.

Portfolio Checklist: Written reflection on any pathways events, updated resume, and junior reflection with appropriate images from junior year.

Senior Year

Job Exposure Activities

- These activities may be in the form of career-related field trips, guest lectures on campus, and/or workshops on or off campus. Students are expected to participate and give a written reflection on at least two activities per year. These activities may be led by the Personal Pathway Leader and/or through a class in the curriculum.

College/Job Application Essay or Cover Letter

- Each student will craft a college application essay or job cover letter.

Senior Seminar In senior year students will participate in the 12th grade seminar including but not limited to exit interviews with the principal, Google Site portfolios, emotional wellness, conflict resolution, and financial literacy.

Pathway for Innovative Arts & Communications

Pathway Focus

The Pathway for Innovative Arts & Communications will provide students opportunities to explore careers in the visual arts, performing arts, and communications, as well as enrich themselves with experiences in the arts and humanities, which can support other career paths. The global workforce needs creative, innovative independent thinkers who possess skills beyond core subjects, and who are flexible and resourceful in today's ever-changing world.

Career Pathways

Career pathways are driven by student interest. Exposure to various careers will be held through pathway seminars, classroom activities, in-school programming, and out-of-school experiences. Career pathways in the pathway for Innovative Arts & Communications can include but are not limited to the following: advertising, arts management, computer-graphics, fine arts, game-design, museum careers, music production, performing arts, web design.

Coursework

A diverse offering of courses are available in the arts and humanities. Students are required to complete five separate courses from the choices below:

Advanced Computer Graphics: Adv. Photoshop
Advanced Computer Graphics: Game Design
Advanced Computer Graphics & Videography
Advanced Fine Arts: 2-Dimensional
Advanced Fine Arts: 3-Dimensional
Band
Broadcasting
Computer Graphics 1
Computer Graphics II
Concert Choir
Creative Writing I
Creative Writing II
Drama

Fine Arts & Crafts
History of American Popular Music
History of Film
History of Musical Theater
Independent Study: Art
Introduction to Art History
Journalism
Journalism II
Music Theory & Composition I
Music Theory and Composition II
Percussion Ensemble
Portfolio
Satire

Related Extracurricular Opportunities

Extracurricular activities provide enriching experiences beyond the curriculum. Students are required to participate in at least one extracurricular activity per year including but not limited to the list below. Other related activities may be considered upon prior approval.

Antelope Film Festival, Art Club, *Avonews* Student Media, Fall Play, *Fragments* Literary Magazine, Marching Band, Concert Choir, Pittsburgh Galleries Project, Spring Musical, Warhol Youth Invasion, Yearbook, National Art Honor Society

Pathway for Business, Finance & Entrepreneurship

Pathway Focus

The Pathway for Business, Finance & Entrepreneurship will provide students exposure to careers in business and financial sectors, as well as entrepreneurship. This pathway provides opportunities for authentic learning experiences catering to specific areas, such as marketing, advertising, accounting, and business creation.

Career Pathways

Career pathways are driven by student interest. Exposure to various careers will be held through pathway seminars, classroom activities, in-school programming, and out-of-school experiences. Career pathways in the Pathway for Business, Finance & Entrepreneurship can include but are not limited to the following: accounting, advertising, banking, entrepreneurship, financial advising, human resources, insurance, logistics, marketing.

Coursework

A diverse offering of courses are available in multiple areas. Students are required to complete Accounting, Economics, and Introduction to Business. Two additional courses must be taken from the choices below. All are semester courses unless otherwise noted:

Accounting (full year)*

Advanced Computer Graphics: Adv. Photoshop
Advanced Computer Graphics: Game Design
Advanced Computer Graphics & Videography
Advanced Placement Statistics (full year)
Computer Graphics I
Computer Graphics II

Economics*

Entrepreneurship

***REQUIRED**

Interior Design

Introduction to Business*

Journalism
Probability & Statistics (full year)
Psychology
Sociology
Studio Art/Computer Graphics Portfolio (full year)

Related Extracurricular Opportunities

Extracurricular activities provide enriching experiences beyond the curriculum. If desired, students may participate in extracurricular activities, including but not limited to the following: Big Data Jam, Student Council, Key Club.

Pathway for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Pathway Focus

The Pathway for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics is one of two academies that are related to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Mathematics). In this pathway, science, engineering, and technology can be pure or integrated, depending on the area of interest for each student.

Career Pathways

Career pathways are driven by student interest. Exposure to various careers will be held through pathway seminars, classroom activities, in-school programming, and out-of-school experiences. Career pathways can include but are not limited to the following: architecture, astronomy, chemistry (manufacturing, pharmaceutical, etc.), computer programming, computer systems, engineering (various), environmental science, forensics, and software engineering.

Coursework

A diverse offering of courses are available in areas that support engineering, science, and technology. Students are required to complete six separate courses from the choices below (all are semester courses unless otherwise noted). Additionally, each student is required to take one arts course in order to enhance their understanding of the role that design plays in the technological fields.

Advanced Placement Calculus—AB (full year)
Advanced Placement Calculus—BC (full year)
Advanced Placement Chemistry (full year)
Advanced Placement Physics (full year)
Astronomy
Advanced Placement Statistics - (full year)
CHS Programming with Python
CHS Website Design and Development
Computer Science 3 - (full year)
Environmental Science

Forensic Science
Intermediate Programming Using Java - (full year)
Introduction to Computer Programming 1
Introduction to Engineering Design (full year)
Computer Integrated Manufacturing (full year)
Probability & Statistics - (full year)
STEM Chemistry (full year)
STEM Physics (full year)
Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus (full year)

Related Extracurricular Opportunities:

Extracurricular activities provide enriching experiences beyond the curriculum. Students are encouraged to participate in at least one extracurricular activity, including but not limited to the following: Technology Student Association, Math League, Pittsburgh Data Jam, and the Westinghouse Science Honors Institute.

Pathway for Health & Medicine

Pathway Focus

The Pathway for Health & Medicine is one of two academies that are related to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Mathematics). The Health and Medicine pathway will focus on careers in health and medicine and on challenging ethical issues related to 21st century health and medical advancements.

Career Pathways

Career pathways are driven by student interest. Exposure to various careers will be held through pathway seminars, classroom activities, in-school programming, and out-of-school experiences. Career pathways in the Pathway for Health & Medicine can include but are not limited to the following: anesthesia, imaging technology, medical practice (various), nursing, pharmacy, physical therapy, veterinary practices, etc.

Coursework

A diverse offering of elective courses are available in areas that support medical and biological sciences. Students are required to complete five separate courses from the choices below (all are semester courses unless otherwise noted).

*Advanced Placement Biology (full year)	Child Development
*CHS Anatomy & Physiology (full year)	Computer Graphics 1
Advanced Computer Graphics Photoshop	Computer Graphics 2
Advanced Computer Graphics Videography	Fine Arts & Crafts (full year)
Advanced Fine Arts: 2-Dimensional	Forensic Science
Advanced Fine Arts: 3-Dimensional	Latin I (full year)
Advanced Placement Calculus—AB (full year)	Psychology
Advanced Placement Calculus—BC (full year)	Sociology
Advanced Placement Chemistry (full year)	Trigonometry (pre-calculus) (full year)
Chemistry II	

*Students in the Pathway for Health & Medicine must take AP Biology and /or CHS Anatomy & Physiology as one of the five required classes.

Related Extracurricular Opportunities:

Extracurricular activities provide enriching experiences beyond the curriculum. Students are encouraged to participate in at least one extracurricular activity.

Pathway for Public & International Relations

Pathway Focus

The Pathway for Public & International Relations will provide students an opportunity to explore diversity as related to public policies and globalization. Cultural understanding, the study of world languages, and an awareness of local, state, national and global issues frame the focus of this pathway.

Career Pathways

Career pathways are driven by student interest. Exposure to various careers will be held through pathway seminars, classroom activities, in-school programming, and out-of-school experiences. Career pathways in the Pathways for Public & International Relations can include but are not limited to the following: civil service, education, foreign service, law, public policy, research, social work

Coursework

A diverse offering of courses are available in areas that support public and international studies. Students are required to complete five separate courses from the choices below (all are semester courses unless otherwise noted). No more than two world language courses can be applied to the five required courses.

Electives:

Accounting	History of Film
American Conflicts	Introduction to Art History
Anthropology	Introduction to Business
AP Lit and Comp	Journalism I
Child Development	Journalism II
Conspiracy Theories	Modern Dilemmas
Creative Writing I	Probability & Statistics
Creative Writing II	Psychology
Economics	Service Learning
Entrepreneurship	Sociology
Foods	Speech

World Languages (All language classes are full year)

French I	Mandarin Chinese I
French II	Mandarin Chinese II
French III	Mandarin Chinese III
CHS French	AP Mandarin Chinese
Latin I	Spanish I
Latin II	Spanish II
Latin III	Spanish III
CHS Latin	CHS Spanish

Related Extracurricular Opportunities

Extracurricular activities provide enriching experiences beyond the curriculum. Students are required to participate in at least one extracurricular activity, including but not limited to the following: Avonews, French Club, Key Club, Latin Club, Model U.N., Spanish Club, Student Council, Global Scholars Program, Chinese Club, Fragments, Yearbook, World Affairs Global Cert

REMOVAL/DISMISSAL FROM PERSONAL PATHWAY PROGRAM

End of year audits will occur annually. Students who have not met the requirements of their pathway will receive probationary notices. The notice must be signed and returned prior to the end of the school year. Failure to remit this notice will result in automatic removal at the start of the subsequent school year.