

Archived Information



What is the Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies?

The **Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies – Ford PAS** – is an academically rigorous program that introduces students to the concepts and skills necessary for future success. The program links high school classroom learning with the challenges students will face in post-secondary education and with the expectations of the workplace. These links are forged through community-wide, cooperative efforts and innovative partnerships that join local high schools, area colleges and universities, and local businesses. Through these coordinated learning opportunities, Ford PAS equips students to better understand and deal with the realities of higher education and of business. It also helps them make decisions about their careers based on a familiarity with the working world.

Why Ford PAS?

The demands our children will face in the future – global competition, complex technology, and rapidly changing work environments – make the educational opportunities we provide critical to their success. Why Ford PAS? In short, to help young men and women emerge from high school academically prepared and possessing the interpersonal and human relations skills necessary for them to succeed in college and the workplace.

How does Ford PAS work?

Ford PAS is *not* an extra-curricular activity. It's a for-credit program taught by Ford PAS trained and certified high school teachers. The Ford PAS curriculum is comprised of five semester-long courses, each consisting of (3) six-week modules. The entire program covers three core element categories:

- **Academic Knowledge** – rigorous, standards-based content in math, science, social studies and communication;
- **Interpersonal and Human Performance Skills** – skills in system analysis, critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, communication, lifelong learning; and
- **Business Concepts** – addressing issues of finance, marketing, product design and development, energy use, information systems, workforce history, efficiency, planning, the environment, the global economy, international trade and global citizenship.

Each Ford PAS program also includes a local **Business/Education Advisory Council (BEAC)** consisting of school staff and students, local business representatives, and higher education representatives. BEAC members arrange learning opportunities for students such as mentoring; job shadowing; tours of businesses, manufacturing plants and campuses; arranging for guest speakers; and teacher internships. These opportunities give students the chance to apply the lessons of the classroom to settings that bring added meaning to their academic pursuits and inspire a greater sense of the value of the knowledge they have gained.

What is taught and learned in the Ford PAS program?

Core subjects and skills are consistent across all Ford PAS programs, and include:

- Mathematics
- Science
- Technology
- Organization
- Teamwork
- Problem Solving
- Personal Management
- Statistics and Probability
- Communication & Presentation Skills

Learning goals for these areas are presented in the context of real-world situations, and are correlated with nationally recognized standards for math, science, language arts, social studies, engineering and technology. Schools implement Ford PAS in grades 10-12 and course credit is established at the local school district or state level.

How is Ford PAS relevant?

With Ford PAS the emphasis is on helping students not just to learn, but to learn how – how to imaginatively apply skills and knowledge in diverse situations; not just to ask why, but to ask why are things done in certain ways; and to not just succeed in mastering knowledge, but to succeed in attaining levels of self-awareness and self-confidence in new situations.

Interested?

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