

Build Your Work-Based Learning Plan



Before diving into work-based learning, it's important to have a plan in place designed to reach measureable student learning outcomes, as well as other success indicators. Your advisory board should also be engaged in the planning process to build ownership of the plan among academy business partners.

The NAF Work-Based Learning Plan template can be used to identify a sequenced set of activities that will significantly improve student career and college readiness. When developing a plan, consider the following elements:

1. **Skills:** What skills do you want students to develop through their work-based learning experiences?

Use the NAF College and Career Ready Skills List as a guide. These skills are assessed by the internship supervisor at the end of the internship and is one of the required components for NAFTrack Certification.

2. **Activities:** Now that you have reviewed the skills for students to develop in the course of their work-based learning experiences, identify which activities will help students develop those skills and what grade level(s) would be most appropriate for students to take part in these activities.

WBL Plan Resources:

- Work-Based Learning Plan template
- NAF College and Career Ready Skills
- NAF Track Certification Requirements
- College & Career Continuum of Experiences
- WBL Student Learning Outcomes
- WBL Characteristics
- Work-Based learning Calendar
- NAF Curriculum
- Academy Assessment Evidence Binder templates

The NAF continuum of experiences helps define which activities might make sense per grade based on stages of career awareness, career exploration, and career preparation. The continuum also defines the characteristics of each activity along the continuum.

3. **Alignment:** Now that you have your skills and activities outlined, it's time to think about how this plan aligns with the academy curriculum. By aligning work-based learning activities with classroom lessons, connections can be made across the curriculum and into practice. These real world connections help students see the relevance of their coursework to the world of work.

Review the NAF curriculum to see where connections can be made to the NAF Work-Based Learning Plan.

4. **Outcomes:** Now that you have developed your work-based learning plan and aligned it with your curriculum sequence, consider how students will demonstrate acquisition of the specified skills. How can culminating projects, presentations, reflective essays or other approaches be used.

Reference the NAF College and Career Ready Skills list.

5. **Schedule:** Once all of your work-based learning activities have been determined by grade level and stage of the continuum, use the Work-Based Learning Calendar to lay out a functional schedule of activities by month. The calendar will be very helpful to your advisory board to plan their assistance with carrying out work-based learning activities.

