



Frequently Asked Questions

NH Scholars Career Pathway

INTRODUCTION: College and Career Readiness is evolving as more diverse pathways are being embraced. The NH Scholars Career Pathway Designation serves students who excel at nationally accepted metrics around a more balanced approach of traditional academics and career development pursuits. This is an area that a number of NH initiatives are working to actively define and promote.

1. What is the NH Scholars Career Pathway?

- a. A pathway that recognizes students who have successfully completed a career-driven high school program as measured by a number of nationally agreed-upon metrics. The Career Pathway option will be piloted beginning in the 2018-2019 academic year for the first time.

2. How can a student become eligible to be a NH Scholar?

- a. A student can be eligible to be considered as a NH Scholar at any time. Ideally a student learns about the program in middle school, and then works with their high school counselor on a 4-year plan that outlines courses and objectives to graduate college and become career ready.

3. Can a Career Pathway NH Scholar be recognized as a STEM or Art Scholar?

- a. A student can be recognized for achieving NH Scholars status in multiple pathways.

4. Are the core requirements the same for all NH Scholars designations including Career Pathways?

- a. For the Career Pathway designation, students do NOT need to meet the world language requirement.

5. Is there a minimum GPA required for the NH Scholars Career Pathway?

- a. The STEM and Art Pathways require a minimum 3.2 GPA on a 4.0 scale. The NH Scholars Pathway and Career Pathway do not have statewide GPA requirements. However, high schools may institute their own local GPA requirement so please check with your high school. We strongly suggest utilizing a statistical “trend” method (demonstrating increasing excellence as high school progresses) instead of a four-year traditional cumulative average.

6. Can you count a course in more than one subject requirement?

- a. A course can only be counted once. For example, Health Science may count as a lab-science in any pathway. Health Science may also count for the STEM elective or the 4th year of science within the STEM Pathway. However, it cannot be counted twice, meaning a student can only count it towards one subject requirement.

7. What are the benefits of graduating with the distinction of a NH Scholar Career Pathway student?

- a. A student graduating with the distinction of NH Scholars Career Pathway will have gained career-based experience and training. These skills may include industry-driven technical skills and/or professional skills.
- b. Colleges and employers seek students with proven 21st century knowledge and skills.

8. What does it mean to be successfully engaged in work-based learning experience (WBL)? What does it mean to have an industry partner endorsement of that experience?

- a. A student must have successfully completed an extensive work-based learning experience aligned to both competencies and NH work-study practices as part of this designation.
- b. The career / industry partner would be expected to complete an evaluation form of the student's performance. We have a template.

9. What are Work Study Practices?

- a. The state of NH has adopted four key habits of mind / professional skills related to college and career readiness called [Work Study Practices](#). They come out of the college and career readiness work of David Conley and his associates.

10. What is work-based learning (WBL)?

- a. **Work-based learning is an educational strategy** that offers students an opportunity to reinforce and deepen their classroom **learning**, explore future career fields and demonstrate their skills in an **authentic setting**.
- b. Job shadows, internships, apprenticeships, cooperative education would be the most applicable activities for this designation.
- c. In this case, the WBL must be clearly structured, documented and planned as part of a student's program.
- d. WBL may or may not be clearly listed on a student's transcript, this is an area that we are working to make suggestions.

11. What are examples of extensive work-based learning experiences?

- a. A student has a regular on-site structured industry partner experience as part of a CTE program or ELO plan.
- b. In a competency- based environment we try to refrain from a set number of hours, but the experience should cover at least an academic quarter and have at least one significant WBL event per week.

12. Do college credits and/or postsecondary hours need to align to a student's overall career focus?

- a. Acceptable college credits and hours (some trades are measured in hours, and not credits including cosmetology and some construction pathways) for the Career Pathway designation can come in two forms: (1) course/hours directly related by content and title to the student's career pathway; or (2) course/hours directly related to a college program of study (for example: taking general education college classes as part of a career-driven credential /degree pathway).

13. What qualifies as an industry recognized certificate (IRC)?

- a. Earning industry certificates are a key cornerstone of CTE programs. Students in Auto Tech earn ASE certificates, in Health Science student earn EMT and/or LNA certificates,

in welding students earn certificates from the American Welding Society (AWS). This is NEW area of definition for most K-12 education in NH.

- b. The basic standard is that it must involve a reasonable amount of effort and must be pertinent to industry.

14. Questions not answered? If you have other questions, please visit www.NHscholars.org. You may also contact power@nhcuc.org or malia@nhcuc.org.

| Title | Criteria | Clarification | Comment / Help |
|--|---|---|--|
| CTE Completer | Student completed a recognized NH two-year CTE program | Completers status as defined by NH Dept of Education standard of meeting 90% of CTE competencies. | Programs and centers are listed on the DOE's Bureau of Career Development website. |
| Extensive Career-Driven ELO | Student completed an ELO with heavy career-driven activity element. A major activity associated with the ELO would be work-based learning. | Student would be expected to do a significant "dive" into career-related activities. A multi-month internship or job shadow for example. | The NH Extended Learning Opportunity Network (ELON) is a resource along with the DOE. |
| Program of Studies Career Pathway | A small number of NH high schools have embedded Career Pathways built into their Program of Studies. The pathway would include a mix of courses, activities and work-based learning. | Must be a multi-course sequence involving efforts that go beyond classroom experiences. | As of September 2018, Pelham High School is one of the few high schools in the state the define formal career pathways in their program of studies. Students who complete the entire sequence are formally recognized at graduation. |
| CCSNH Series of Certificate / Credentialing Courses | Minimum sequence of at least four 3-credit college courses grouped as part of a certificate or degree pathway. This is NOT Running Start, but "Early College" courses on one of the CCSNH campuses. | Students CAN attend CCSNH while still in high school. Course must be part of a pathway culminating in a degree or certificate which included general education classes. | CCSNH's "Early College" is an on-campus program letting student work towards both their high school diploma, associate's degree, and or industry certification ALL at same time. Search for "Early College" by particular institution. |