



# HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY ACADEMY PATHWAYS



## **Purpose Statement**

Hardin Valley Academy exists to prepare every student to be READY for their post-secondary experience. This is accomplished through an Academy based approach to the high school experience where Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships are used to empower students to understand their purpose in learning.

## **What is an Academy based approach?**

Hardin Valley has 5 Academies - A Freshman Academy and 4 themed Academies - Business, Law, Public Affairs (BLPA), Health Science, Liberal Arts, and STEM. Each Academy consists of an administrator, a school counselor, a teacher dean, and a team of teachers. The Academy staff members work collaboratively to engage, empower, and support students in their Academy. The Academies also have a designated area of the building where a shared space helps to build community.

All students at HVA participate in an Academy, learning core subjects such as ELA, math, science, and social studies through the lens of an academic or career theme. Each Academy has unique Pathways of Study as options for students. The purpose of the Pathway is to give students a deep experience in a content area of their interest. This is used as a career exploration opportunity. Students select their Pathway during the freshmen year and take at least three courses in this Pathway. Pathway courses include Advanced Placement options as well as Dual Enrollment opportunities.

The Academy approach allows students to make connections between what they're learning in the classroom and how they can apply their learning in the real world, promoting student engagement and deeper understanding. To enhance the effectiveness of the Academies, HVA has placed an increased emphasis on project-based learning, developing business partnerships to expose students to careers and authentic learning opportunities. These include internships, job shadowing, and post-secondary credit opportunities.

The goal of the Academy experience is that every student leaves HVA as a high school Ready graduate who has a deep understanding of their pathway that can connect them to a post-secondary experience (4-year university, 2-year community college, technical or trade school) and a future career.



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## **Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships creates READY**

HVA recognizes that producing high school graduates is not good enough for our students. Today's graduate needs more than the minimum required for a diploma in order to be READY to flourish in tomorrow's world. HVA works intentionally to create student experiences that give our graduates the knowledge, problem solving skills, and dispositions to be able to create their own future. This is accomplished through Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships.

### **Rigor**

Rigor is not defined by the amount of work students are asked to complete. Rigor is determined by the level of thought that is required by the student to complete a task. Information is cheap in today's infotech society. We can find any fact, date, or some bit of information in a matter of moments. Students need to have the skills to take in information, wrestle with the information, and produce a logical argument or perspective that is backed through evidence. Understanding the validity of an argument based on context and source is a key skill to have as we make decisions on the information absorbed. Critical thinking, problem-solving, and application of learning can be infused into all levels of classes on a regular basis to push all students to think and achieve at high levels.

### **Relevance**

Today's student has distractions from learning at every turn. Schools must compete harder than ever for the attention of students. HVA seeks to engage students through a relevancy model. Students need to see connections between the content they are learning and the impact on their lives outside of school. Utilizing the Academy structure, teachers of core academic content make connections with their Academy themes to deepen student engagement through student interest. Students have choice in their pathway of study so they are taking a deep dive where their interests lie while providing them with an opportunity to explore career options. Project based learning strategies are infused into all content areas so students can see connections between their classes. The learning environment extends to the community at large as students have opportunities for job shadowing, work based learning, and internships.

### **Relationships**

The most important factor for a student is to feel loved and feel safe while at school. Students need to know and understand that they matter and they have value. This is only accomplished through strong, meaningful relationships. Hardin Valley Academy has over 2,000 students which makes forming relationships difficult. It is even more important that the adults are intentional about creating opportunities to build relationships. The Academy model takes 2,000 students and 160 staff members and divides HVA into 5 smaller learning environments with closer to 400 students and 30ish staff members. These 30 staff members share the 400 students. Having common students allows staff members to have meaningful conversations about how to support and push their students. Students go from a number in a crowd to a name and face with a unique story that needs to be shared. Extra-curricular opportunities are also heavily emphasized as a way that students can connect with staff members outside of the classroom. A deeper, more meaningful, relationship is built over time when students and staff members connect over a shared interest whether it is through athletics, fine arts, academic clubs, or just for fun interests.



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## **Academy Pathways of Study**

The Pathway of Study are the driver of the Academy structure. Students select a Pathway which determines their Academy. All Pathways have at least three courses that are above requirements. Pathway offerings are determined by multiple factors including student interest, advanced coursework options, industry certification opportunities, and community partnerships.

### **BLPA Pathways of Study**

- Banking & Finance
- Business Management
- Marketing
- Supply Chain
- Criminal Justice
- Pre-Law
- Journalism

### **Health Science Pathways of Study**

- Diagnostic Medicine
- Therapeutic Medicine
- Sport and Human Performance
- Health Service Administration
- Advanced Life Sciences

### **Liberal Arts Pathways of Study**

- Digital Art & Design
- Human & Social Sciences
- Dietetics & Nutrition
- Teaching as a Profession
- Performing Arts
- Visual Arts
- Advanced Linguistics
- AP Capstone

### **STEM Pathways of Study**

- Architecture
- Coding
- Cybersecurity
- Engineering
- Advanced Physical Sciences
- Advanced Mathematics



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## BUSINESS, LAW, PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACADEMY



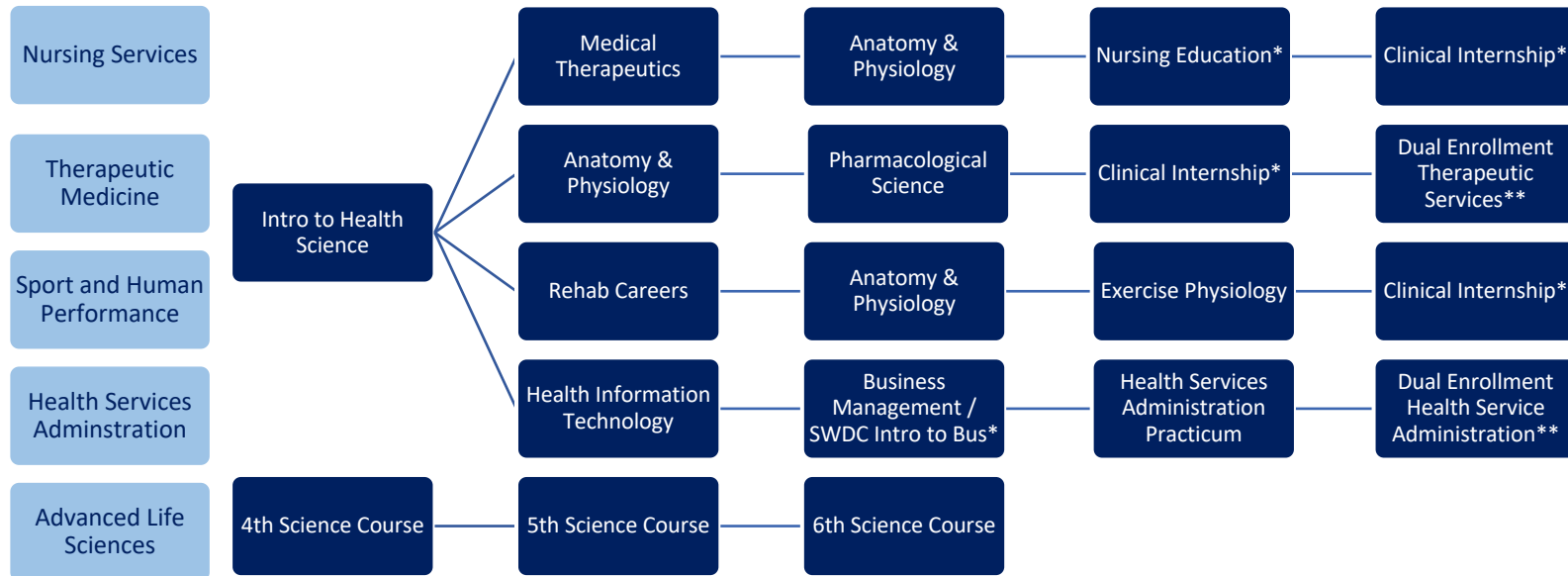
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# HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY ACADEMY PATHWAYS



## HEALTH SCIENCE ACADEMY



\*denotes Industry Certification

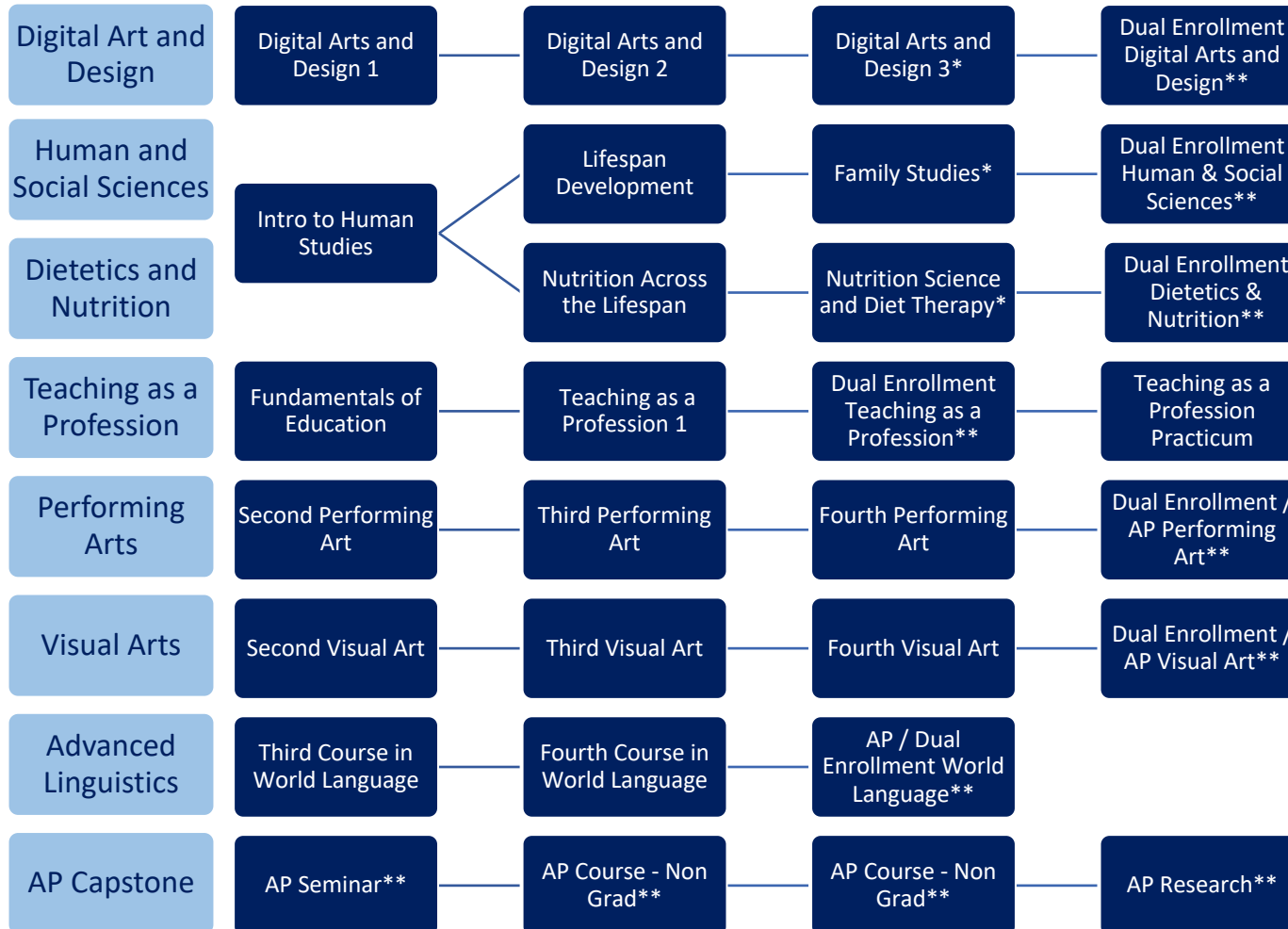
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# HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY ACADEMY PATHWAYS



## LIBERAL ARTS ACADEMY



\*denotes Industry Certification

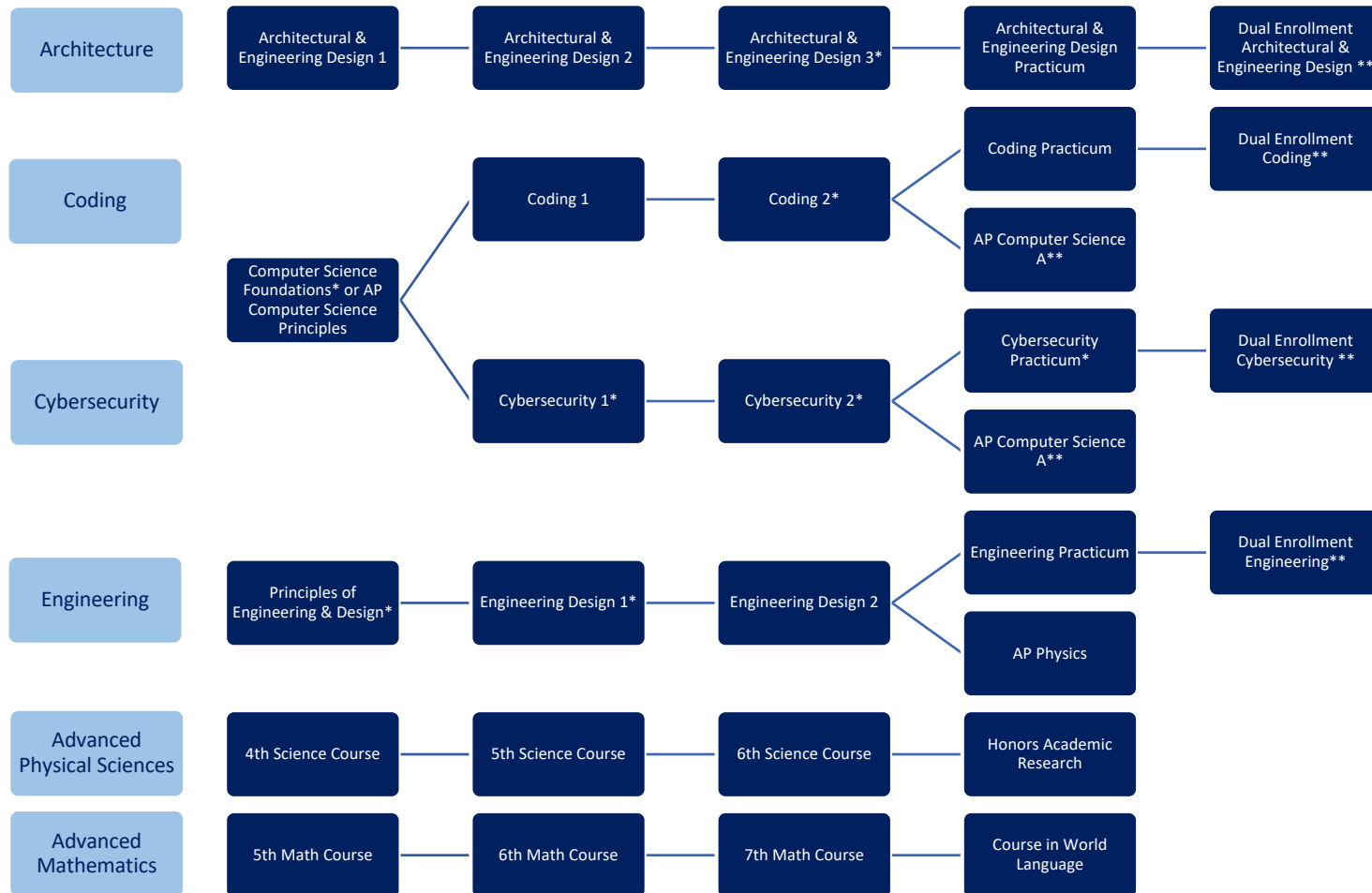
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# HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY ACADEMY PATHWAYS



## STEM ACADEMY



\*denotes Industry Certification

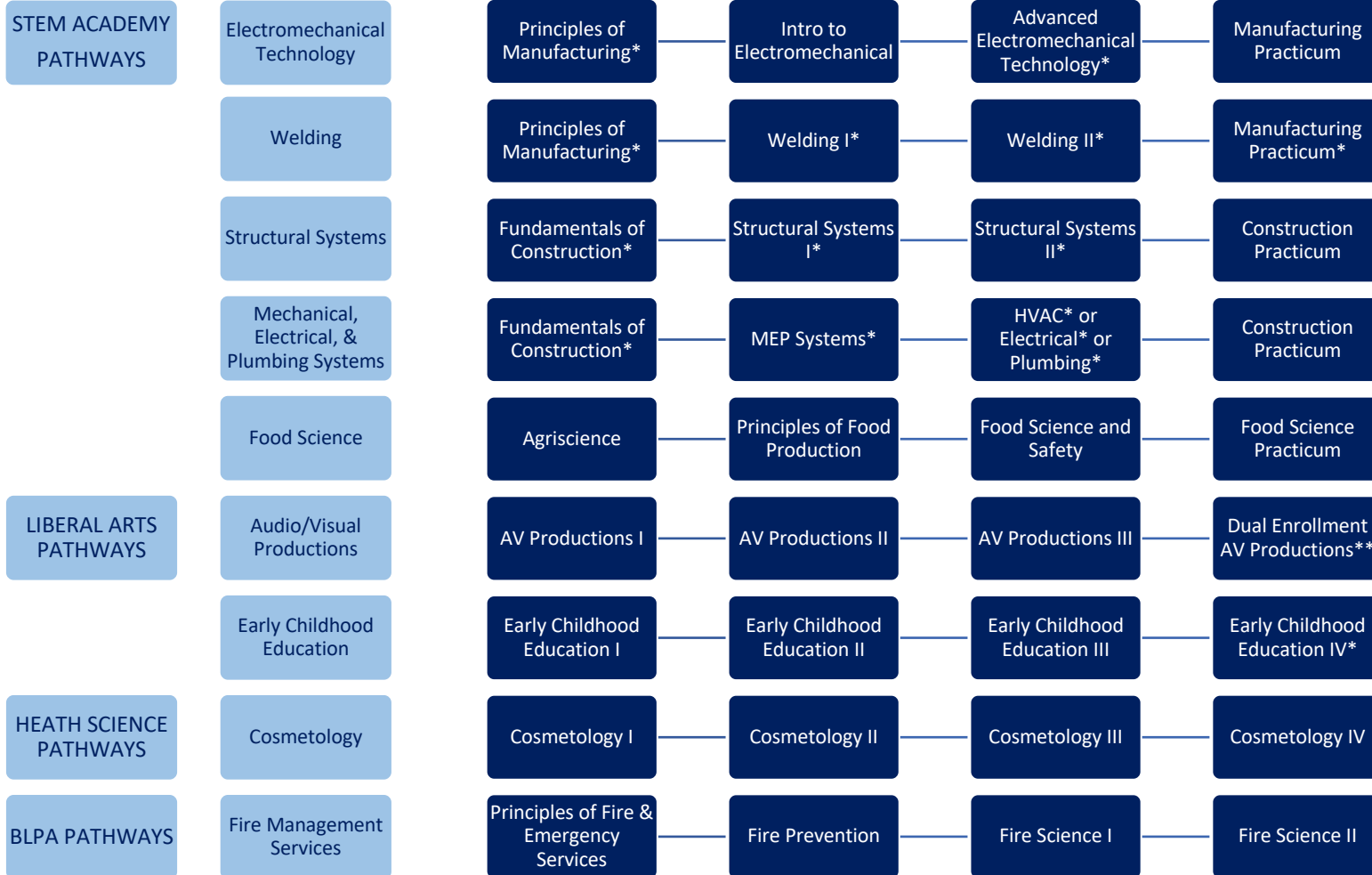
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# HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY ACADEMY PATHWAYS



## BYINGTON-SOLWAY PATHWAYS



\*denotes Industry Certification

\*\*denotes EPSO opportunity