Research Coast Career Pathways Initiative
Where Education Meets Purpose!
The Career Pathways Initiative is a system created to streamline the process of attaining a practical, effective education that provides the student with the training and guidance necessary to be successful in choosing and obtaining a career.

**CAREER PATHWAYS AWARD PROCESS**

After you complete your high school Career Pathway Academy, you are eligible for college or clock-hour credit. Follow steps below to earn your credits:

1. Complete your high school Career Pathway Academy to be eligible for college or clock-hour credit. Your eligibility for Career Pathways credit is valid for 36 months following your high school graduation date.
2. Meet with your IRSC advisor to indicate completion of a Career Pathways Academy.
3. Complete all IRSC Admission requirements.
4. If courses assist toward your program objective goal, credit will be verified and applied to your degree or certificate based on your Guided Pathway.*

*This is a one-time, permanent evaluation. (Consult with your IRSC advisor for details.)

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IRSC is an EA/EO educational institution.
Choose a Career Pathway Academy

Graduate from college early
Save money
Start your career faster

What is a Career Pathway Academy?
A Career Pathway Academy is a type of school-within-a-school or small learning community that provides a college-preparatory curriculum with a career-related theme.

Who Can Use Career Pathways?
Career Pathways can be used by students recently graduated from high school or by adults who have been out of school for quite some time. In either case, Career Pathways students need to have the desire to help themselves and the desire to explore the possibilities of a new profession.

Why Should I Enter a Career Pathway Academy?

- **Graduate from college early!**
  - 80% of Career Pathway Academy students who participated in state college systems earned post-secondary credits.
  - Students complete an average of at least 5 courses while in high school.

- **Save money!**
  - Tuition averages $1,869 less.
  - Text books are FREE.
  - Students earn college or clock-hour credits for FREE.

- **Get into a career faster!**
  - Students can complete a college degree in less than two years.

- **Academy students performed significantly better overall than comparison groups in attendance, credits earned, average grades and were more likely to stay in school.**

- **Career Pathway Academy graduates who attended local colleges or universities are less likely to need remedial or preparatory coursework, and are more likely to complete their degree.**

- **Academy completers have industry certifications to prepare them for entry-level positions in the new economy.**

- **According to a 2001 Russell Sage Foundation study, Career Pathway Academy graduates who attend and complete a certificate and/or degree are 10-15% more likely to be in the labor force and earn 8-9% more than a student with only a high school diploma.**

- **The more education you receive, the more income you can make!**
How Do I Get Started?

Current high school students should contact their high school counselor to receive more information about participating in the career academies available at their school. College students who completed a Career Pathways Academy should contact their IRSC advisor to discuss how to effectively take advantage of their articulation credits.

More Education = More Income

Percentage of Adults Ages 25-34 Who Were Employed Full Time, by Educational Attainment, 2010
(Source: Aud et al., The Condition of Education 2011, Indicator 18)

For more information on these accelerated programs, contact your high school guidance counselor or visit [www.irsc.edu/rccpc](http://www.irsc.edu/rccpc).
Deciding on a Career is a Very Important Decision.

Your career choice will determine the type of college you attend, how much money you will make, how much time you will spend at work, and more. So it is time for you to start thinking of what you want to do, planning how to get there and doing what you are meant to do.

1. **Dream It…**
   - Ask yourself, What are your interests? What do you like and dislike?
   - Take the CHOICES personality assessment at IRSC Career & Transition Services to learn the type of work environment that best fits you.
   - What do you value most? Helping people, making lots of money, working alone, being creative, working inside versus outside, etc.

2. **Plan It…**
   - Research the types of careers that are in high demand.
   - Explore the various types of career options that are available.
   - Learn more about IRSC post-secondary programs by attending information sessions and college fairs and by visiting [www.irsc.edu](http://www.irsc.edu).

3. **Do It…**
   - Explore the 16 career clusters listed in this brochure and determine which cluster you find most interesting.
   - Determine how you can start taking courses related to your cluster now at your high school through Career Pathway Academies, Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement or the International Baccalaureate program.
   - Find out what is needed to begin the program of your choice and what courses are needed.

**What is a Career Cluster?**

Career clusters are groups of similar occupations and industries. They were developed by the U.S. Department of Education as a way to organize career planning. To find out more about the career cluster program and get the latest information about the 16 career clusters, visit the national Career Clusters initiative at [www.careertech.org](http://www.careertech.org).
1. Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources

Production, processing, marketing, distribution, financing and development of agricultural commodities and resources including food, fiber, wood products, natural resources, horticulture and other plant and animal products/resources

Pathways:
- Food Products & Processing Systems
- Plant Systems
- Animal Systems
- Power, Structural & Technical Systems
- Natural Resources Systems
- Environmental Service Systems
- Agribusiness Systems

2. Architecture & Construction

Designing, planning, managing, building and maintaining the built environment.

Pathways:
- Design/Pre-Construction
- Construction
- Maintenance/Operations

IRSC Graduates Get Great Jobs! What they say:

“I’m always searching for ways to use environmentally sound practices in agriculture, so I started my own business.”

Dennis Grim, Owner
Born Again Gardens
Associate Degree, Landscape Horticulture Technology

“I have been interested in building all my life and plan to build some netzero homes for energy efficiency.”

Jeff Adams, Owner/Manager
St. Lucie Warehouse Complex
Studied solar thermal and photovoltaic systems
3. Arts, A/V Technology & Communications
Designing, producing, exhibiting, performing, writing and publishing multimedia content, including visual and performing arts and design, journalism and entertainment services

Pathways:
- A/V Technology & Film
- Printing Technology
- Visual Arts
- Performing Arts
- Journalism & Broadcasting
- Telecommunications

4. Business Management & Administration
Careers in planning, organizing, directing and evaluating business functions essential to efficient and productive business operations

Pathways:
- General Management
- Business Information Management
- Human Resources Management
- Operations Management
- Administrative Support

IRSC Graduates Get Great Jobs! What they say:

“My job combines my love for computers and design. As the Graphic Design Manager, I get to be creative and handle the designs for the website, marketing and publications.”

Ahmad Toom, Graphic Design Manager
Southern Eagle Distributing
Bachelor’s Degree in Digital Media, Graphics and Web

“I established my own business, Ability Home Care. I enjoy the freedom of being an entrepreneur, the satisfaction of providing jobs and offering quality elder care services to the community.”

Sarah Pizzaro, Owner/Manager
Ability Home Care, IRSC Graduate
Bachelor’s Degree in Organizational Management
5. Education & Training
Planning, managing and providing education and training services and related learning support services

Pathways:
- Administration & Administrative Support
- Professional Support Services
- Teaching/Training

6. Finance
Planning and related services for financial and investment planning, banking, insurance and business financial management

Pathways:
- Securities & Investments
- Business Finance
- Accounting
- Insurance
- Banking Services

IRSC Graduates Get Great Jobs! What they say:

“I love making a difference every day in the lives of my students and it’s fun teaching students about science.”
Amanda Sartain, 6th grade teacher
Imagine South Vero
Bachelor’s Degree in Middle School Science Education

“My studies have helped me develop my organizational skills. I received a promotion and I use what I have learned everyday.”
Jamie Duplantis, Recruiting Team Leader
PNC Bank
Bachelor’s Degree in Organizational Management
7. Government & Public Administration

Planning and performing government functions at the local, state and federal levels, including governance, national security, foreign service, planning, revenue and taxation and regulations

Pathways:
- Governance
- National Security
- Foreign Service
- Planning
- Revenue & Taxation
- Regulation
- Public Management & Administration

“I realize how much government affects our lives – from issues related to owning a home to how our communities operate. I wanted to be a part of that.”

Stephanie Heidt, Administrative Coordinator
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
Associate Degree, Public Administration

8. Health Science

Planning, managing and providing therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services and biotechnology research and development

Pathways:
- Therapeutic Services
- Diagnostic Services
- Health Informatics
- Support Services
- Biotechnology Research & Development

“I had great experiences at IRSC while earning my Associate Degree in Nursing. Now I’m an R.N. at Lawnwood Regional Medical Center.”

Kamron Pratt, Registered Nurse
Lawnwood Regional Medical Center
Associate Degree, Nursing

IRSC Graduates Get Great Jobs! What they say:
9. Hospitality & Tourism
Management, marketing and operations of restaurants and other food services, lodging, attractions, recreation events and travel related services

Pathways:
- Restaurants & Food/Beverage Services
- Lodging
- Travel & Tourism
- Recreation, Amusements & Attractions

“I’ve been promoted from cook to chef and now I supervise, order and put together nutritious menus for a diverse population with specialized needs.”

Tim Lowe, Chef
Willowbrooke Court at Indian River Estates
Culinary Apprenticeship Program

10. Human Services
Employment that relates to families and human needs such as counseling and mental health services, family and community services, personal care and consumer services

Pathways:
- Early Childhood Development & Services
- Counseling & Mental Health Services
- Family & Community Services
- Personal Care Services
- Consumer Services

“My professors, academic advisors and club advisors had my best interest at heart since day one. I’m now a counselor for the PACE Center for Girls where I provide individual and group counseling that equips each girl to meet the obstacles of life.”

Ashley Gilbert, Counselor
PACE Center for Girls
Bachelor’s Degree in Human Services

IRSC Graduates Get Great Jobs! What they say:
11. Information Technology
Building linkages in IT occupations for entry-level, technical and professional careers related to the design, development, support and management of hardware, software, multimedia and systems integration services

Pathways:
- Network Systems
- Information Support & Services
- Web & Digital Communications
- Programming & Software Development

12. Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
Planning, managing and providing legal, public safety, protective and homeland security services, including professional and technical support services

Pathways:
- Correction Services
- Emergency & Fire Management Services
- Security & Protective Services
- Law Enforcement Services
- Legal Services

IRSC Graduates Get Great Jobs! What they say:

“I really use what I learned in college on the job as a pre-production electrical engineer for Boomerang, a Fort Pierce company producing robotic parking systems.”

Austin Walker, Electrical Engineer
Boomerang
Associate Degree, Electronics Engineering Technology

“I benefit from a consistent schedule, good pay and a respected career – and I enjoy helping people.”

Robert Walters, Firefighter/Paramedic,
Okeechobee County Fire Department,
Associate Degree, Fire Science Paramedic/EMT
13. Manufacturing
Planning, managing and performing the processing of materials into intermediate or final products and related professional and technical support activities such as production planning and control, maintenance and manufacturing/process engineering

Pathways:
- Production
- Manufacturing Production Process Development
- Maintenance, Installation & Repair
- Quality Assurance
- Logistics & Inventory Control
- Health, Safety & Environmental Assurance

14. Marketing
Planning, managing and performing marketing activities to reach organizational objectives

Pathways:
- Marketing Management
- Professional Sales
- Merchandising
- Marketing Communications
- Marketing Research

IRSC Graduates Get Great Jobs! What they say:

“I enjoy working with the latest laser technologies and helping my company grow.”

Justin Jensen, Process Manager
MicroWatt, IRSC Graduate
Associate Degree, Electronics Engineering
(Laser-Photonics Specialization)

“The best things about IRSC are the great campus locations, flexible class schedules, and professors who care about their students.”

Caitlin Smith, Workforce Campaign Manager
United Way of Indian River County
Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Management
15. Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
Planning, managing and providing scientific research and professional and technical services (e.g., physical science, social science, engineering) including laboratory and testing services, and research and development services.

**Pathways:**
- Aerospace Engineer
- Biomedical Chemist
- Botanist
- Civil Engineer
- Nuclear Chemist
- Nano-biologist
- Meteorologist
- Statistician
- Zoologist

“I conduct DNA extractions, leaf assays and data analysis, and I know that the work I do is very important. Small classes and personal interaction with faculty were big contributors to my success at IRSC.”

Matthew Kazen, Biological Science Technician
USDA
Bachelor’s Degree in Biology

16. Transportation, Distribution & Logistics
Planning, management and movement of people, materials and goods by road, pipeline, air, rail and water and related services such as transportation infrastructure planning and management, logistics services, mobile equipment and facility maintenance.

**Pathways:**
- Transportation Operations
- Logistics Planning & Management Services
- Warehousing & Distribution Center Operations
- Facility & Mobile Equipment Maintenance
- Transportation Systems/Infrastructure Planning, Management & Regulation
- Health, Safety & Environmental Management
- Sales & Service

“I was hired two weeks out of school for a good paying job with benefits.”

Jason Hardy, Driver
JJ Taylor Commercial Vehicle Driving Program

IRSC Graduates Get Great Jobs! What they say:
My Top 3 Career Cluster Interests:

1. ___________________________________________________________________

2. ___________________________________________________________________

3. ___________________________________________________________________

My Top 3 Career Pathways Interests:

1. ___________________________________________________________________

2. ___________________________________________________________________

3. ___________________________________________________________________

For more information, contact the Director for Career Pathways Initiative at (772) 462-7646
Visit www.irsc.edu/rccpc

Indian River State College ▪ Martin County School District ▪ St. Lucie County School District
School District of Indian River County ▪ Okeechobee County School District