GCS Mission Statement and Beliefs

Mission Statement
Students will graduate as responsible citizens prepared to succeed in high education or the career of their choice.

Beliefs
We believe that....

- schools exist for students
- each child has value
- students respond to high expectations
- students learn best when they are actively involved in learning
- learning is a creative process
- all children can learn
- students learn differently
- learning is a strengthened through the use of technology
- good public education includes accountable use of funds
- education is a lifelong process
- education is a shared community responsibility
- early childhood enrichment builds success in schools
- good facilities promote learning
- investing in staff development is essential for good schools
- diversity is of great value
- quality of life depends upon quality of education
- public education for all children is essential to a strong and lasting democracy
- public education is a public trust
- leadership creates vision and strong public support

For more information, please contact Karen Abourjilie, Program Administrator for the Occupational Course of Study, Life Skills, and Transition (336) 370-8260

What are my responsibilities as a parent of an OCS student?

- Attend IEP meetings
- Provide assistance with transportation for your student to work sites
- Encourage successful student involvement and completion of the program
- Be sure that your student has the proper attire for working or job shadowing at work sites
- Encourage appropriate work behaviors and attitudes

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The Occupational Course of Study (OCS) is one of the four pathways to earn a high school diploma. The other three courses of study are Career Prep, College Tech Prep, and College/University Prep.

The OCS curriculum prepares students to be competent, dependable employees, as well as, independent, responsible adults. The curriculum focuses on the development of functional academic skills and hands-on vocational training with the ultimate outcome of transitioning the student from high school into competitive employment.

Who determines appropriateness for the OCS?

Appropriateness for participation in the Occupational Course of Study is determined by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team which includes the student and the parent(s). The OCS should be considered only after one of the other courses of study has been found to be inappropriate even with the use of modifications, supplemental aids, and services.

Which students should consider the OCS?

Students who enroll in the Occupational Course of Study should be those who:

- are being served in the Exceptional Children’s Program
- have a post-school outcome goal for competitive paid employment in an integrated environment upon graduation from high school
- wish to pursue a course of study that provides functional academics and hands-on vocational training
- currently are not having their needs met by the NC Standard Course of Study

What are the course requirements for the OCS?

- Occupational English I-IV (4 credits)
- Occupational Math I-III (3 credits)
- Occupational Preparation I-IV (6 credits)
- Occupational Life Skills Science I, II (2 credits)
- Occupational Social Studies I, II (2 credits)
- PE/Health (1 credit)
- Career/Technical Education (4 credits)

What are the additional exit requirements for the OCS?

Students must complete:

- a Career Portfolio
- all IEP goals and objectives
- 300 hours of school-based vocational training
- 240 hours of community-based vocational training
- 360 hours of successful, paid employment
- EXTEND2 assessments for English I, Math I and Science II (with material covered in Science I)

What is the Occupational Course of Study?

The Occupational Course of Study (OCS) is one of the four pathways to earn a high school diploma. The other three courses of study are Career Prep, College Tech Prep, and College/University Prep.

School-based enterprises
In-school work adjustment opportunities through Vocational Rehabilitation
PAES Lab
Job Shadowing
Community Service Projects
Legitimate Volunteer Experiences
Unpaid on-the-job training in local agencies and businesses
Paid employment
Job Fairs

Members of the IEP Team including the parent(s) and the student meet to discuss the appropriateness of the OCS.