

Catoosa U provides the opportunity for students to participate in “real-world” work experience while receiving high school course credit. Students will be “hired” by the department in charge of the internship, and the students will be paid by the school system while in the work program.

The Technology Department was the pilot for *Catoosa U*. In 2016, three students participated in the program, and the system ended the 2017-2018 school year with 8 interns. The system is considering expanding the program in the future to include interns in: education, agriscience, broadcast journalism, and nursing.

Charter System Flexibility: The system uses broad flexibility so students report to the person in charge of the program, instead of the WBL or YAP coordinator. For example, technology interns report to the Director of Technology, and they receive their daily assignments from the school’s media specialist and technology specialist, while they are receiving course credit in WBL or YAP. Additionally, prior to entering Catoosa U, potential technology interns must take two information technology classes; however, if the student demonstrates the ability to work on technology devices prior to completing the class the system uses flexibility to allow the student to enter the Catoosa U program while earning course credit for the information technology class.

Benefits for students: These experiences help students determine their interest in different careers, learn specialized job-related skills, and learn soft skills needed to be successful in college and career (e.g. communication skills, interpersonal skills, and team work). In the technology internship, students have the opportunity to earn Hewlett Packard certification in technology repair.

Benefits for school system/community: Students become highly skilled to work in the school system or the community.

Student Successes:

2016: 3 positions, 1 student graduated and enrolled at UTC in civil engineering

2017: 6 positions: 2 students returned, 4 new students were hired. 3 student interns graduated. 1 student received a scholarship to Mississippi State to study Cybersecurity, 1 student was hired by Volkswagen, and the other student was hired by Rotech Healthcare, Inc.

2018: 6 positions: 3 new students were hired

Summary: 4 students have graduated from this program. 2 are in college, 2 are employed in high skill, high wage jobs.

For more information about Catoosa U technology internships contact:

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For more information about using flexibility to implement Catoosa U contact

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Procedures

Area: Catoosa U

Subject/Target: Course Progression and Pathway

Effective Date: 2017-2018 School Year

In order to enroll high school students into the correct course offerings for Catoosa U the following guidelines must be followed:

1. Prior to beginning in Catoosa U, students must have completed the first two courses in any pathway from the Information Technology Cluster.
 - a. Web and Digital Design Pathway
 - b. Programming Pathway
 - c. Computer Science Pathway
 - d. Information Support and Services Pathway
 - e. Networking Pathway
 - f. Health Information Technology Pathway
 - g. Cybersecurity Pathway
 - h. Game Design Pathway
 - i. Internet of Things Pathway
 - j. Web Development Pathway
2. After completing the required courses and application process, students are eligible for Catoosa U as a WBL/YAP student.
3. Requirements for Catoosa U students are different from regular WBL/YAP student requirements. Catoosa U requirements include:
 - Reporting to the Director of Technology
 - Being placed under the direct supervisor of the school Media Specialist/School Technology Specialist/or other assigned personnel designated by the Catoosa U program
4. Catoosa U students will be enrolled in the appropriate WBL/YAP course number for their given progression in Catoosa U.
 - a. 11.7114000 (Year one, Semester one, One hour)
 - b. 11.7124000 (Year one, Semester two, One hour)
 - c. 11.7214000 (Year two, Semester one, One hour)
 - d. 11.7224000 (Year two, Semester two, One hour)
 - e. 11.7215000 (Year two, Semester one, Two hour)
 - f. 11.7225000 (Year two, Semester two, Two hour)
5. School administrators can request additional courses from the High School Improvement Specialist.