



Opportunities Academy

2625 Thalia St. | New Orleans, LA 70113 | www.OA.CollegiateAcademies.org | Executive Director: Sophia Scott



Opportunities Academy began as classroom-based programs within Collegiate Academies schools. At OA, students between the ages of 18-22 focus on building functional skills to increase their independence and employability through working student jobs and practicing other life skills.

During the 2018-19 school year, Opportunities Academy consolidated all students at the G.W. Carver Campus and opened its doors to students from outside the network. That year, enrollment went from 21 students on two different campuses, to over 50 from high schools (and home schools) across the city; and OA was awarded a charter of its own for the 19-20 school year.

As Opportunities Academy grew, it became apparent that the school would need its own space. OPSB approved the school's use of the Guste facility in Central City, an ideal location for students to get to an expanded number of off-campus externship experiences. We've also been able to serve more students - and add additional classroom sections and on-campus work experiences that best target students' abilities.

Our programming

A student's day at OA begins in the workplace. Students either travel off campus to an externship, or to a credential-based course of study, or work in an on-campus student job (internship) to get work experience and begin building the social skills and work habits needed to gain employment. We partner with the several local organizations for our externships, including Covenant House, the National World War II Museum, and New Orleans Public Library.

Our on-campus internship offerings include sOAptopia (OA's car wash business), the Clean Team (our student-led custodial team and stewards of OA's Go-Green Initiative), rOAsT (OA's on-campus coffee shop and school store) and supported Assembly, Food Service, and Custodial internships, through which students work on building proficiency, independence, and task endurance by performing simulated tasks as teachers and job coaches take data on their progress toward independence.

Afternoon instruction at OA focuses on three key elements of skill building: Independent Living, Community Access, and Employability. During this time, students practice such skills as making friends, using assistive technology, everyday math and reading skills, building healthy habits and routines, and accessing public transportation and community resources. Students also receive any counseling, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech services outlined in his or her IEP.

OPPORTUNITIES ACADEMY PREPARES STUDENTS TO CREATE LIVES OF UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITY BY TEACHING THEM TO SELF-ADVOCATE, LIVE INDEPENDENTLY, AND OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT.



81 students

33 staff members