

# Stride Career Learning at Cyber Academy of South Carolina



Greenville, South Carolina

Year Started: 2016

Students Enrolled:

Total: 2,697

Middle School: 1,384

High School: 1,313

FRL: 55%

English Learners: 1%

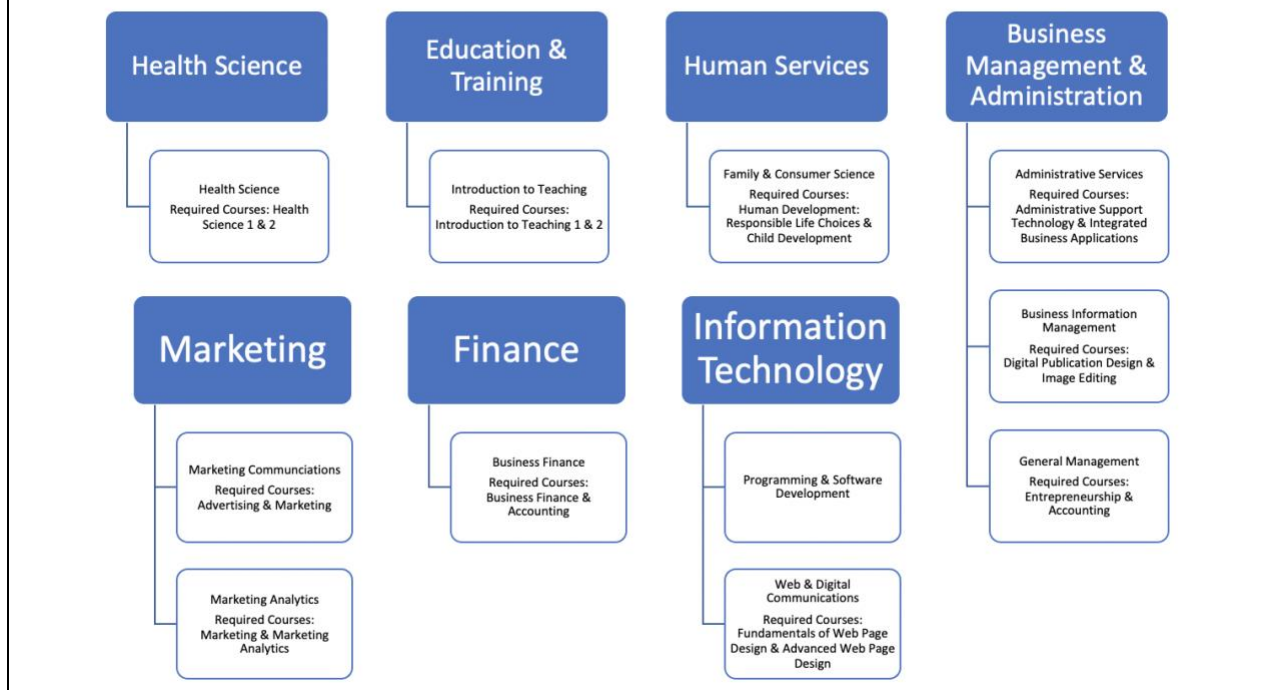
Instructional Model: Online coursework with physical work-based learning opportunities

Stride Career Learning is a program within the Cyber Academy of South Carolina (CASC), a full-time online charter school serving students across the state. In the 2020-21 school year, CASC Stride Career Learning served a total of 1,487 students in grades 6th through 12th. The program started in 2016 and operates as a school within a school. At the time it opened, CASC was already providing career course offerings, but “decided to expand into the other areas that research says makes career readiness programs successful, including work-based learning opportunities, such as internships and apprenticeships, as well as student clubs, and created the Stride Career Learning,” explained Jennifer Mau, who serves as the CASC Stride Career Learning Administrator.

There are sixteen Career Clusters in the state of South Carolina, and Stride Career Learning offers seven of them with eleven pathways that stem from those clusters, as shown in the figure below.

# Cyber Academy of South Carolina

## Career & Technology Majors of Study



Students in 6th through 12 grades enrolled in CASC are automatically placed into the Stride Career Learning but have the option to opt out. All of the courses in the pathways are conducted online. The health sciences program has some face-to-face components that require students to complete their clinical hours at a hospital or other healthcare facility. The health science students also meet once a month on a Friday in career centers around the state of South Carolina to do hands-on training. Other pathways that use the career centers include firefighting and welding. The rest of the pathways also have physical components, specifically work-based learning experiences, such as internships, apprenticeships, and business and industry tours. When students are interested in work-based learning opportunities, there are two Learning Coordinators who work with students in a career internship class to place in relevant positions of interest.

In addition to the Learning Coordinators, the Counseling Team is another line of support for the students. The Counseling Team works with students on their individualized graduation plans. The Career Counselor provides guidance for students as they are making decisions on what work-based learning opportunities they are interested in pursuing. The College Counselor helps students set up tours for state schools and navigate the financial aid process. In addition to the counselors, students are assigned

a Success and Strategy Coach who helps them with resume writing, interview techniques, and job searches.

Opportunities for work-based networking are found in CASC's Stride Career Learning's three Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSO):

- Health Occupations Students of America
- Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America
- SkillsUSA

CTSOs help students connect with a larger network of students and professionals in the field. As Nicki Batson, CASC's High School Principal, shared, "Stride Career Learning's goal is that 100% of our students are going to graduate with professional certifications or credits toward their degrees and that our students are college and career ready."