

THE CENTER FOR ADVANCED LEARNING

School District/ Location: Gresham, Oregon; operated by Centennial, Corbett, Gresham-Barlow and Reynolds School Districts.

Web Address: <http://www.thecenterforadvancedlearning.org/>

Overview: The Center for Advanced Learning, as a regional facility, seeks to provide high school junior and senior students with advanced, specially designed learning environments, using contextualized learning and state-of-the-art technology applications that are aligned with state education and national industry-integrated standards. It seeks to increase the number of students pursuing advanced coursework that better prepares them for collegiate studies or other professional training programs. *(from the website)*

Courses Offered/Program Format: CAL courses allow students to work towards CIM, CAM, PASS and senior project requirements. There are CISCO and Microsoft certification programs and articulation programs with Mt. Hood Community College. The Capstone project demonstrates a student's ability to propose and carry through a major, collaborative project with a community partner in a professional environment, using research skills to develop and maintain personal, professional, and technical competence.

- Engineering/Advanced Manufacturing
 - Capstone Project will show that student can:
 - Apply problem-solving models in engineering/manufacturing projects from start to finish.
 - Take all appropriate safety measures.
 - Using fundamental math and science concepts, design and conduct engineering/ manufacturing experiments following a systematic procedure.
 - Use testing, process analysis, and quality control procedures in the engineering/ manufacturing process.
 - Conduct economic analyses for a manufactured product from design through production.
- Information Technology
 - Capstone Project will show that student can:
 - Demonstrate technical proficiency in selected current and emerging technologies
 - Design, plan, and compete information technology projects to meet a client's needs.
- Infotech Web
- Infotech Networking

Size of Program: Total enrollment at CAL is 440 students. 75 students are in Engineering/Manufacturing, 110 students in Information Technology. CAL is beginning its third year of operation.

Curriculum Used: CAL curriculum was internally developed to meet industry standards and postsecondary program outcomes to grant collegiate credit when applicable. Capstone projects allow students to engage in real world problem solving in cooperation with an organization outside of CAL.

Time Spent by Students: CAL students attend their home high school and CAL on alternate days during their junior and senior years. The schedule allows participation in the usual extracurricular activities at the student's home high school.

Results to Date: CAL graduated 160 students in 2005. 95% have expressed intentions to attend college. CAL is tracking graduates to see how many complete AS or BS, GPA, and percentage of students opting for postsecondary program opportunities.

Outside Funding Sources: The majority of funds come from basic public school funding. CAL has received grants from the Oregon Department of Community College and Workforce Development, Multnomah County Regional investment funds, and private corporation sponsorship of Capstone projects.

Other Interest Point(s): Some CAL students have formed their own businesses as a result of their efforts at CAL. CAL serves numerous clients from their community.