

2025-2026 Whiteside Area Career Center Course Descriptions

Any student wishing to enroll at WACC must be registered at one of the sixteen member high schools.

Prerequisites: Several WACC courses list prerequisites that students must meet in order to enroll in the program.

Recommended Student Criteria: All WACC programs have required lab work that is a critical component of student learning and student assessment. A school wishing to enroll a student who does not meet the recommended criteria for a WACC program must participate in a scheduled meeting with WACC staff to discuss student accommodations prior to the student's enrollment.

Allied Health

One-year program offered to junior and senior students that are interested in pursuing a career in various medical fields. First semester, students are in the classroom three days per week and at clinical sites two days per week. Students participate in up to three clinical sites throughout the school year. Clinical sites include, but are not limited to, hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities, chiropractors, veterinary clinics, physical therapists, etc. Students can practice in different areas of the medical field, such as Maternal-Child Nursing, Geriatrics, Emergency Nursing, Radiology, Dental Medicine, Veterinary Science, and more. Second Semester, students will take a Phlebotomy Certification course. Students would complete the clinical portion of this class in a health care lab setting.

3 Dual Credits with SVCC: Medical Terminology (NRS116)

Potential Phlebotomy Certification

Prerequisites: Students will be required to participate in an internship two days per week first semester. Therefore, a student who enrolls in Allied Health that is not a C.N.A. must be able to transport him or herself to internship sites. Students must have updated immunizations, including a flu shot and TB test, and adhere to all clinical site requirements relative to COVID mitigation.

Automotive Technology

One or two-year program offered to junior and senior students. First year students will be building basic repair skills such as lubrication, brakes, engine tune up, suspension, fuel injection, computer controls, electrical systems, exhaust systems, and cooling. Second year students will learn differential operation, transmissions and clutches, engine diagnostics, heating and cooling systems, and qualifying students can participate in work-based learning at various job sites in order to gain real world work experiences while going to school.

Prerequisites: Students who enroll in Automotive Technology II will either participate in an internship two to three days per week, or will perform an internship at WACC in the WACC Automotive shop that will require working on customers' vehicles. Any student enrolled in Automotive Technology II must have a valid Illinois Driver's license.

Recommended Student Criteria: Students enrolled in Automotive Technology will be required to work in an automotive shop approximately 70% of the time while at WACC. Students should be able to lift both arms above his or her head, lift 40 pounds, and be able to lower him or herself to the ground to work under a vehicle.

Building & Construction Trades

One- or two-year program offered to junior and senior students. This course provides experiences related to the construction and maintenance of residential and/or commercial buildings and related fixtures. During the year, students will spend 85% of their time at a job site constructing or remodeling a residential house or commercial building. The other 15% of the time students will be in the classroom. Instruction will include safety principles, framing, plumbing, wiring, roofing, installing insulation, dry wall, pouring concrete, landscaping, estimating materials, blueprint reading, hanging cabinets, siding, hanging doors, heating and air conditioning, masonry, and finish work. Second year students are provided the opportunity to advance their skills in the construction trades.

Recommended Student Criteria: Students enrolled in Building Trades will be involved in constructing or remodeling a house, and will perform work at the job site approximately 85% of the time while at WACC. Students should be able to climb an eight-foot step ladder, stand for an hour and thirty minutes, and have the strength and mobility to operate various power tools, such as nail guns, power saws, power drills, etc. Students will be working in cold weather and will need to have work boots and appropriate clothing.

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CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities)

One-year course offered to juniors and seniors. It covers a wide range of business topics, such as innovative thinking strategies, product development, competitive advantages, business structure, marketing, financial strategies, record keeping, financial statements, business plan writing. Entrepreneurial thinking (out-of-the box problem solving) is utilized throughout the course. 21st Century Workforce Skills, creative and critical thinking, collaboration, and communication are emphasized throughout the year. Students experience networking and business development firsthand. This course will take place in area businesses, and includes approximately 45 tours of local industry and 50 guest speakers from all areas of business.

3 Dual Credits with SVCC: BUS 260 Entrepreneurship Principles

Prerequisites: All students interested in enrolling in the WACC CEO class must complete an application available through his/her school counselor. Students will be selected by the CEO Advisory Board. Students who are selected to enroll in the CEO class must provide his or her own transportation to and from the various class meeting sites.

Computer Technology

One- or two-year program open to juniors and seniors who want to work with repair, networking, configuring operating systems, programming, Microsoft software, and application development. Qualified students will acquire the skills to potentially pass the TestOut and Linux+ certifications. All first year students will start with the CIS 167 core class. In addition, the course introduces students to the formal concepts of object-oriented programming including program design, control structures, data structures and algorithms using JavaScript and other programming languages. JavaScript may also be taken as a semester long dual credit course for 3 credits.

12 Dual Credits with SVCC possible: CIS 167-A+ Certification, CIS 151-Networking Certification, CIS 250-Beginning Linux, CIS 197-Security + Certification (3 credits per course)

Recommended Student Criteria: Students enrolled in Computer Technology will be required to stand, stoop, kneel, crouch and reach while performing typical computer repair work; have hand-eye coordination; handle or feel objects, tools or controls; lift and/or move objects and materials of up to 50 pounds in weight.

Cosmetology

One-year program available to juniors and seniors. Students will explore several aspects of cosmetology. The curriculum includes but is not limited to: theory and practice hours in hair, nails, skin, business basics and effective communication. This course takes place at Educators of Beauty. After completing this program, students will be considered for financial incentives that are available for students who chose to return to Educators of Beauty for their 12-month program following high school graduation.

Criminal Justice

One-year program designed to train students in various aspects of law enforcement, criminal justice, and the legal system. Students will receive instruction in skills needed for careers in associated fields; e.g. police officers, prosecuting and defense attorneys, probation and parole officers, crime scene investigators, correctional officers, etc. Major objectives of the program include: history of law enforcement, constitutional law, Illinois law, courts and the legal system, communication and dispatch operations, report writing and records, criminal investigations, search and seizure, community relations, patrol functions, traffic investigations, corrections, private security operations, criminology, and other related areas. Role play scenarios are used to enhance the student's learning experiences and provide an introduction to practical experiences which might be expected in the field.

Recommended Student Criteria: Students enrolled in the Criminal Justice program will participate in active, police scenarios. These scenarios include, but are not limited to the following physical activity; dragging a 150-pound person 10 feet, firing air guns, combat drills, and restraining potential suspects. Students should be able to pick up and carry objects weighing 25 pounds.

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Culinary Arts

One- or two-year program open to juniors and seniors. Students explore Culinary Arts, preparing food for a large number of consumers, and catering. Occupational skills taught include care and use of commercial equipment, food preparation, customer service, management, and nutrition. Students in this program will receive weekly hands-on experience in the WACC commercial kitchen and provide food services for the public. Food Service Sanitation Management Certification will be given to 2nd year students.

4 Dual Credits with Kishwaukee College: Intro to Hospitality HOS 103 (3 credits); Safeserve Manager Cert. HOS 113 (1 credit)

Recommended Student Criteria: Students enrolled in Culinary Arts will be required to work in a commercial kitchen approximately 70% of the time. Students should be able to stand for an hour and forty-five minutes, lift 20 pounds, and have the ability to safely work around hot items, such as stoves, ovens and deep-fryers.

Digital Media Arts

One- or two-year program offered to juniors and seniors. This course is for students eager to explore the world of digital media and entrepreneurship. This hands-on program equips students with essential skills in graphic design, photography, video & sound production, digital drawing, motion graphics, animation, and interactive media design including gaming and website design. Coursework includes learning camera control, lighting, composition, file management, and image manipulation for digital photography, along with video editing techniques for film, TV, and web. Students will also dive into 2D, 3D, and practical animation styles, as well as web and app and website creation, with a focus on technical skills, visual storytelling, social impact, and ethics. Students will also be introduced to digital drawing techniques, composition tools, color theory and the effective use of social media. Second year students can choose to work on a capstone project, including projects for businesses or organizations. Qualifying WACC students may earn up to 12 college credits taking the Digital Media Arts class.

12 Dual Credits possible with SVCC: MCC 103-Digital Photography, MCC 105-Motion Graphics, MCC 236-Film and Video, MCC 238-Interactive Media Design (3 credits per course).

Early Childhood Education

One- or two-year program offered to junior and senior students. This course is designed to provide students interested in the development of children and a career involving children with a basic knowledge and understanding of children and their physical, mental, and emotional development. Broad areas of emphasis include: development of the child from conception through preschool age, the changes that take place in a mother's body, the family and its role, nutritional and emotional needs of the children, the role of parents, educational and creative activities for children, childhood illnesses, learning disabilities, and the exploration of human services and education-related careers. First year students will work on a weekly basis with children at our on-site laboratory called "Kiddie Kampus Preschool". Second year students will work with a cooperating teacher at a work-based learning site for three days a week throughout the school year. This work-based learning site could be a daycare center, home day care, preschool program, elementary school, or a location specific to a students' career interest. (i.e.: special education, speech teacher, reading specialist, social worker, child life specialist)

Students may earn a Level 1 Gateways Certificate upon successful completion of the course.

1 Dual Credits available with SVCC for 2nd year students – EDU105-Clinical Experience in Elementary Education

Recommended Student Criteria: Students enrolled in Early Childhood Education will be required to work in the WACC preschool with young children ages three to five years old. Students should be able to sit on the floor with the preschool children, have the dexterity to perform crafts with the children, and have the strength to restrain a child if needed for the child's safety. (For example, prevent a child from running out the door.) Students should not have a history of violent behavior. Students should have the maturity and aptitude to work with young children. For example, a student who could not be recommended for a babysitting job should not be recommended for Early Childhood Education.

Health Occupations-CNA

One-year program offered to junior and senior students, **who are at least 16 years of age and** are interested in pursuing a career in the medical field. Upon completion of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) requirements, the students will be eligible to take the State Certified Nursing Assistant exam at the end of the school year. The students must meet the following criteria to be successful in Health Occupations: 1) Achieve a C or better each quarter throughout the year on the coursework, 2) Be competent at the 21 skills in the laboratory and at the clinical site, 3) Have excellent attendance throughout the school year, and 4) Pass the criminal background check 5) **Pass an entrance exam.** Students must have an outstanding work ethic, be self-motivated, and take initiative to be successful in Health Occupations. This is a state regulated program that requires students to spend 80 hours of theory and 40 hours of clinical time working with patients.

8 Dual Credits with SVCC: NRS101-Basic Nursing Assistant, NRS103-Advanced Nursing Assistant (4 credits per class)

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Prerequisites: The Health Occupations program prepares students to become a Certified Nursing Assistant. Students must have updated immunizations including a flu shot and TB test, and adhere to all clinical site requirements. Student must be able to lift 50 pounds as it is a state mandated CNA skill to perform a two person lift on residents who are 119 pounds or less.

Welding, Machining and Manufacturing Technology

One- or two-year program offered to junior and senior students. Welding, machining, and CAD principles will be taught through hands-on experiences. Topics include:

- Welding processes - (Stick, Oxyacetylene, Mig, Tig, Plasma cutting, and OAW cutting),
- Machine operations - (Lathes, Mills, Grinders, Shear, Pipe cutters, etc.)
- AutoCAD - Computer aided drafting program
- Blueprint reading

The second year will provide the students with the opportunity to obtain advanced training on components of welding and metal fabrication.

- Welding processes - (Structural welds, Pipe welds, Flux cored welding)
- Machine operations - (CNC and manual Machining)
- Inventor - Computer aided drafting program
- Product design and development
- Internship at manufacturing site

10 Dual Credits with SVCC: IND 106-Intro to Welding, IND 108-Intro to CAD, IND125-Machining and Manufacturing Processes, IND203-Advanced Machining and Manufacturing Processes (2 credits each for IND 106 and IND 108; 3 credits each for IND 125 and IND 203)

Recommended Student Criteria: Students enrolled in Welding and Manufacturing Technology will be required to work in a machine/welding shop approximately 75% of the time while at WACC. Students must be able to work in the confines of a welding booth (3'x 4'), have the ability to lift 40 pounds, must be able to stand for an hour and forty-five minutes, and must have the strength and mobility to operate machines such as lathes, grinders, and welding torches.

Prerequisites: Welding 2 students will be required to participate in an internship four days per week during second semester. Therefore, students that enroll in Welding 2 must be able to transport him or herself to various internship sites.

**WACC COURSE MATERIALS AND FEES
2025-2026**

COURSE	DESCRIPTION	Fee Paid to WACC	Other Expense Pd. by Student
ALLIED HEALTH	CNA Students:		
	Medical Terminology Book	\$85.00	
	Phlebotomy Coursework	\$75.00	
	CPT Exam (Phlebotomy Certification Exam)		\$125.00
	Flu Shot (Free with some insurance plans)		\$25.00
	Annual TB Test (Free with some insurance plans)		\$25-50
	Clinical Supplies & patch	\$10.00	
	Total for CNA Students:	\$170.00	\$175-200
	Non-CNA Students:		
	Medical Terminology Book	\$85.00	
	Phlebotomy Coursework	\$75.00	
	CPT Exam (Phlebotomy Certification Exam)		\$125.00
	CPR and First Aid	\$5.00	
	WACC Patch	\$8.00	
	Annual 2-step TB Test (Free with some insurance plans)		\$25-50
	Flu Shot (Free with some insurance plans)		\$25.00
	Uniform - scrub top and pants		\$30-50
	Total for Non-CNA Students:	\$173.00	\$205-250
	Additional Required Purchases - purchase on own:		
	All White Shoes and watch with a second hand		
AUTOMOTIVE TECH I & II	Safety glasses		\$2-20
BUILDING TRADES I & II	Required for all students:		
	25' tape measure, hammer, speed square, retractable knife (to be kept at WACC), tool belt, nail punch, chalk line, 4-in-1 screwdriver, mini flat bar, safety glasses.		\$100-150
	Additional Required purchase: Cold weather clothing, work boots.		
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	CPR, First Aid, and Supplies	\$20.00	
	Total for ECE	\$20.00	
COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY	Required for all students: Headphones or earbuds		\$2-10 approx.
	Optional Certification Tests:		
	A+ Certification Test (2 tests in total)		\$224.00
	Network+ Certification Test		\$173.50
	Cisco CCST Cybersecurity		\$112.50
	Cisco CCST Networking		\$112.50
	Recommended for all students: USB drive		\$3-10 approx.
COSMETOLOGY	Lab fee (paid to Educator's of Beauty)		\$150.00
CULINARY ARTS	1st Yr.: Food Worker Card	\$15.00	
	2nd Yr.: Food Service Sanitation Management Certificate	\$153.00	
DIGITAL MEDIA ARTS	Required for all students: Headphones or ear buds		varies
	Required of Photography students: Prints		varies
	Required of Graphic Design students: Prints, Tshirt screen		varies
	Optional: Vinyl for Cricut		varies
HEALTH OCCUPATIONS	Clinical Supplies & Patch	\$10.00	
	Nursing Assistant Textbook	\$60.00	
	Nursing Assistant Workbook	\$15.00	
	CPR/First Aid	\$5.00	
	State Test	\$85.00	
	Uniform		\$30-50
	TB Test (2 Step) (Free with some insurance plans)		\$25-80
	Flu Shot (Free with some insurance plans)		\$25.00
		\$175.00	\$80-130
	Additional Required Purchases - purchase on own:		
	All White Shoes and watch with a second hand		
WELDING	Required for all students:		
	USB drive, safety glasses, chipping hammer, striker, pliers, welding hood, welding gloves, welding jacket, wire brush, 6" dial calipers, tip cleaner, 1" micrometer, oxy/fuel tip cleaner, side cutters		\$175-215

Home schools may require separate fees for attending WACC.

