

Advanced Innovation & Design (iAID) Capstone for High-Ability Students

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Why is the SDNB offering this course?

The iAID course was developed in response to the community's recommendations, as entrepreneurship-type education is increasingly becoming a priority for the southeast Wisconsin region in order to address identified gaps in student preparation for the 21st Century Innovation Economy. The course is designed to act as a skills accelerator in the areas of systems design thinking, creative problem solving, collaboration and communication.

What is an “interdisciplinary, project-based class”?

Students will be asked to draw on their existing knowledge from any and all previous coursework in order to apply their creativity to solve interesting, real-world challenges. That means their knowledge in the areas (disciplines) of math, science, english, business, career and technical education, as well as any skills they have developed in communicating, collaborating, research, and assimilating information, may come into play as they work as part of a team and alongside a professional mentor, to find answers to a specific challenge (their project). The lowercase “i” in the iAID name stands for the interdisciplinary nature of the coursework.

What is an “experiential capstone learning experience”?

The School District of New Berlin would like every student to have the opportunity to apply what they have learned across disciplines in a manner that is representative of what they will experience as they transition to life after high school. As a result, we offer a variety of culminating experiences where students are provided the freedom and flexibility to ‘show what they know’. In comparison to taking another course in a course sequence, experiential capstone learning experiences allow upperclassmen the freedom and flexibility to draw from everything they have learned to date to approach their education in a totally different way before they graduate. We offer a number of different options so that students can align the opportunity to their personal, social, academic and career goals. More information can be found at: <http://www.nbexcellence.org/district/capstone.cfm>.

Is my student eligible to take this course?

This program is open to juniors or seniors in good standing who qualify for open campus privileges and who have successfully completed a college-level course (Advanced Placement (AP), Dual enrollment, Youth/Course Options Program, UW-Oshkosh Cooperative Academic Partnership Program (CAPP), Transcribed Credit, Project Lead the Way (PLTW), etc.).

How do I know if my student is a good candidate for this course?

This course is best taken by students who exhibit leadership abilities, are independent thinkers, self motivated, and able to manage their time well. We consider these students our future ‘change makers’. Students are provided a great deal of flexibility in how they approach their projects within a general framework. Students must also have successfully completed a college-level course (AP, Dual Enrollment, Youth/Course Options Program, CAP, Transcribed Credit, Project Lead the Way, etc.).

How will my child benefit from taking this course?

- iAID is aligned to the curriculum of similar courses offered at Stanford and MIT. This course will engage your child in learning experiences that very few high schools offer, providing them a competitive edge.
- iAID has been developed in collaboration with UWM's Center for Entrepreneurship. Students will benefit from UWM faculty expertise through on-site pop-up classes and consultation on student projects.
- Your student will have the ability to apply for college credit at UW Milwaukee by submitting their portfolio to the university for review upon completion of the course.

- iAID students will be included in events and activities offered by the Innovation in Milwaukee (MiKE) Commons Program which is well known in the region as a collegiate level 21st century skills accelerator. More information about the Commons Program can be found at <http://www.thecommonswi.com/>.
- Having 'Advanced Innovation and Design' on their transcript and being able to discuss their iAID portfolio will give your child an edge when applying for college or future employment/internships.
- Exposure to outside professionals will enable your child to build their professional network, which is important when looking for continuing mentorship opportunities as well as letters of recommendation.
- The iAID experience can inform your child's secondary and post-secondary Academic and Career Plan in a meaningful way.

How much homework is involved in this course? How is it graded?

This course is not intended to provide a great deal of "homework" as students are asked to make the most of their collaboration time spent with their mentor and team. There are no quizzes or tests; rather, students are graded based on the contribution they make to their team and the dispositions they demonstrate throughout the semester.

What process should my student follow to apply for college credit at UW Milwaukee?

Information on how your student can apply to receive credit for this course at UW Milwaukee can be found via a link on the [iAID website page](#) under the right sidebar section titled "2017/18 Program Information".

What if my student plans to attend a post-secondary institution other than UW Milwaukee?

Check with the admissions department at his or her intended college or university to see if they offer credit for prior learning for completing an introductory entrepreneurship course.

Does this qualify as an internship?

No. However, students who are successful in this course and demonstrate skills that are valuable to the professional mentors they work with may be eligible for internships or other opportunities with their company. Your student will be informed when such opportunities are available..