

SWAMPSCOTT HIGH SCHOOL INNOVATION PATHWAYS *OVERVIEW AND FAQ 2024-2025*

[GUJARATI](#) [PORTUGUESE](#) [RUSSIAN](#) [SPANISH](#) [UKRAINIAN](#) [URDU](#)

WHAT IS AN INNOVATION PATHWAY?

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) "[Innovation Pathways](#)" are programs of study at comprehensive high schools that are designed to prepare high school students for careers in industries that all have high demand for young skilled workers.

The program combines coursework, career education and real world experiences with regional businesses and organizations to help students explore and prepare for careers that interest them while they are in high school preparing for college, entry into the workforce, or further technical training.

Swampscott High School will offer two Innovation Pathway programs in 2024-25:

- **ADVANCED MANUFACTURING** ([Read more...](#))
- **BUSINESS & FINANCE** ([Read More...](#))

WHY IS SWAMPSCOTT HIGH SCHOOL OFFERING INNOVATION PATHWAYS?

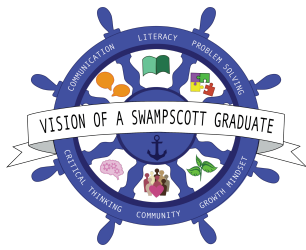
The Innovation Pathway program supported by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is consistent with the SHS Mission and supports the Swampscott High School Vision of a Graduate.

SPS Mission:

Promote academic excellence for ALL students by supporting teaching and learning. Prepare ALL graduates for achieving success in college, career, and citizenship. Build respectful, caring relationships among all members of our community.

The Innovation Pathway programs are designed to be rigorous with both academic coursework and hands-on experiences in the career or pathway field.

We also recognize the need to build stronger connections for students between what they are learning in high school, and the application of these skills in the world of work. Innovation Pathways help



SWAMPSCOTT HIGH SCHOOL

INNOVATION PATHWAYS

OVERVIEW AND FAQ 2024-2025

answer the question, “why do I have to learn this?”, making learning more engaging and relevant to students’ lives and future plans.

WHAT DO THE INNOVATION PATHWAYS LOOK LIKE AT SHS?

1) TECHNICAL COURSES

An Innovation Pathway includes high school classes with hands-on, project based learning and experiences that will provide exposure and skill development in a high demand field. Our Pathways require 3 semesters of technical classes. Read more about the technical courses for each pathway here [LINK to course descriptions/pathways trajectories]

2) ADVANCED LEVEL COURSES

In addition to technical coursework related to the Innovation Pathway taken at SHS, students will also be required to take TWO advanced level coursework either at SHS (an AP (Advanced Placement) level course, or through our partnership with North Shore Community College (some NSCC courses are taught right at SHS!) These could be classes linked to their Pathway focus or general introductory college classes.

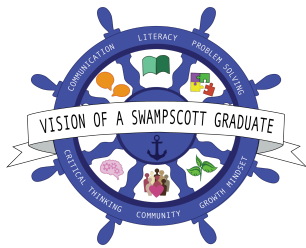
The purpose of the advanced coursework is to expose students to college level work while still in the highly supported high school setting. **We want all students in Innovation Pathways to be prepared for success in college or further technical training, whether or not they plan to continue their education right away.**

3) INTERNSHIP/CAPSTONE

All Innovation Pathways require an internship experience of a minimum 100 hours or a capstone project in their senior year. The goal of the internship/capstone experience is to put their skills to use in a real-world setting or project and further expose them to working with our industry partners.

4) INTENSIVE ADVISING AND SUPPORT

The fourth component of our program is a close relationship with a cohort of fellow students in their IP program and with their IP teachers and their school counselor. Through these relationships students receive intensified support to ensure their success as they move through high school, and extended career exposure and readiness experiences, which include earning recognized industry credentials while still in high school.



SWAMPSCOTT HIGH SCHOOL

INNOVATION PATHWAYS

OVERVIEW AND FAQ 2024-2025

Innovation Pathway students will meet regularly with their school counselor who will provide support to the Innovation Pathway students through a multiyear process of goal setting, career development activities, and postsecondary education planning.

Each student will be traveling their own path and each pathway will be entirely customized and individualized; the student must engage in and drive the process of goal setting and achieving personal college and career goals.

WHO IS THIS SHS PATHWAY FOR?

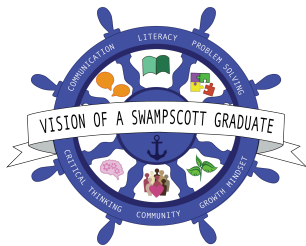
This program may be for YOU! Any student entering grade 9 or 10 in fall 2024 is eligible to submit an “Interest Form” for the ADVANCED MANUFACTURING or BUSINESS & FINANCE program.

In the spirit of designing a program to meet the needs of diverse learners, entry into an Innovation Pathway will not require minimum grades or prior knowledge or experience. Nor will we deny admission to students based on prior attendance or behavioral issues.

In order to be enrolled into the program, students must complete the program interest form, participate in a meeting with the IP instructor/school counselor and agree to fully engage in all aspects of the Innovation Pathway program.

- Successful program participants will be **creative, open-minded, independent, and collaborative**.
- Ideal candidates are students who like to **learn by doing, trying, and creating**. Since the Innovation Pathway courses are project based, students must be self motivated and demonstrate initiative and follow through to complete the projects.
- **Communicating** with the instructor and fellow pathway peers is an essential part of the collaborative process involved in project-based learning and will be a feature of the program. Within groups, students will also learn to take ownership of different roles and responsibilities in achieving the end product.

After a student completes his/her/their first “technical course,” the student and their parents/guardians will complete a formal program enrollment form to confirm their understanding of the Pathway requirement, and the services that will be provided.



SWAMPSCOTT HIGH SCHOOL INNOVATION PATHWAYS *OVERVIEW AND FAQ 2024-2025*

Participation in all Pathway activities is **FREE OF CHARGE** to enrolled students. This includes costs for enrollment in college courses, fees associated with industry certification, and travel to worksites for an internship/capstone project.

HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR IT?

COMPLETE THE [24-25 INNOVATION PATHWAYS INTEREST FORM](#)

Students should complete the program interest form and then we will be in touch with you to schedule a meeting beginning in February 2025.

I AM INTERESTED, BUT NOT SURE IF I WANT TO DO IT...

That's okay, not to worry, feel free to complete the [interest form](#) in any case and then reach out to your school counselor to discuss further. It won't hurt to submit an interest form! SHS would love to hear more about you!

MORE QUESTIONS?

Please reach out to any of the contacts below with questions about the program.

Swampscott Middle School Innovation Pathways Contact

Emily Zotto, Assistant Principal

ezotto@swampscott.k12.ma.us

Swampscott High School Innovation Pathways Contacts

Brennan Natoli-Manufacturing Teacher

bnatoli@swampscott.k12.ma.us

Kerry Jannergren- Career Counselor

kjannergren@swampscott.k12.ma.us

Rachel Sturma - School Counselor, Dept Chair

sturma@swampscott.k12.ma.us

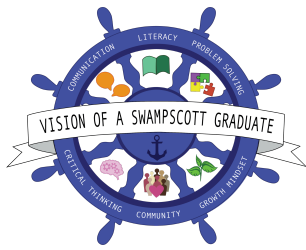
Julie O'Neil - School Counselor

joneil@swampscott.k12.ma.us

Julie Mazzola - School Counselor

mazzola@swampscott.k12.ma.us

[SHS Counselor Caseload Assignments](#) - SHS Counselors advise groups of students according to the alphabetical order of students' last names.



SWAMPSCOTT HIGH SCHOOL INNOVATION PATHWAYS *OVERVIEW AND FAQ 2024-2025*

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

WHAT IS ADVANCED MANUFACTURING?

Advanced Manufacturing is a term used to refer to inventive and innovative ways to create existing products and to develop new products as the marketplace evolves. The process may include the use of machine tools, engineering, computer automation, computer networks, bioinformatics, and many more fields. [Click here](#) for a more in depth look to learn more about the increase in financial commitment to the field and the importance of having young skilled workers.

WHAT KINDS OF JOBS EXIST IN ADVANCED MANUFACTURING?

Jobs using advanced manufacturing skills may include hardware engineering, machine technology and expertise, designing and creating machine parts, reading blueprints and plans (using auto CAD), conducting metal work, working as a project supervisor, a team assembler, carpenters and electricians, first-line supervisors of production and operating workers, inspectors, testers, and sorters (just a few examples).

According to local labor statistics, the average median annual salary in advanced manufacturing is approximately \$115,000.

WILL THERE BE JOBS AVAILABLE IN THESE AREAS?

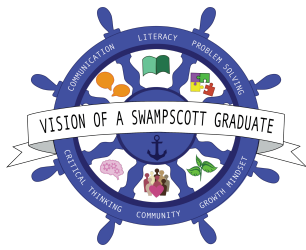
In our area, the North Shore of Boston, MA, there is demand for qualified workers as the baby boomers (people who are approximately 55-75) retire and move out of the jobs, there will be openings that need to be filled.

Check out these two articles to learn more.

- [5 Advanced Manufacturing Careers](#)
- [Training Opportunities in Northeast Manufacturing](#)

Explore the [SHS Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Pathway Website](#)





SWAMPSCOTT HIGH SCHOOL INNOVATION PATHWAYS *OVERVIEW AND FAQ 2024-2025*

BUSINESS & FINANCE

WHAT IS BUSINESS & FINANCE?

The Business and Finance pathway exists to aid students in developing the skills and knowledge to start, grow and support businesses. Students will explore business-related career fields and will develop content-specific skills in the area of foundational business courses. The Business & Finance Pathway will support students who have recognized an interest in furthering their education and/or pursuing a career in business.

WHAT KINDS OF JOBS EXIST IN BUSINESS & FINANCE?

Jobs in Business & Finance are projected to grow 7% from 2021-2031. Jobs using Business & Finance skills include Accountants, Financial or Marketing Analysts, Financial Advisors, Project Management Specialists, Marketing Specialist, Business Owner, Human Resource Manager, Hotel Manager, Food Service Manager and Investment Banker (just a few examples)

According to local labor statistics, the average median annual salary in Business & Finance is approximately \$76,570.

WILL THIS PREPARE ME FOR A CAREER IN BUSINESS?



Many of our students either attend 2 or 4 year colleges explore the wide range of career paths in the business finance industry after completing business courses in high school.



or
and

Possible industries for students to enter that would require no college degree or a minimal amount of secondary classes include (but are not limited to): retail, banking, insurance, customer service, hospitality, and small business ownership.

This pathway is designed to allow students the freedom to choose whether they want to continue their education or start straight away with their career and they will learn the skills necessary to be successful in either direction.

Explore the [SHS Business & Finance Innovation Pathway Website](#)