

URBAN ACADEMY

Working with students to
build a strong foundation
for their future



LYDIA

Strengthening Children & Families

Mission Statement

LYDIA Urban Academy is dedicated to the belief that anyone can learn if given personalized guidance and the proper academic environment. It is our mission to supplement academic learning with training for successful transition into adulthood by providing them with the opportunity to learn how to: think critically, problem solve, build self-discipline, accept personal responsibility and demonstrate respect for authority, peers and themselves.

Academics

LUA's core curriculum includes English, math, social studies and science classes that adhere to Illinois State standards for excellence. In addition, students are required to complete a curriculum of courses designed to develop the skills necessary for independent living. Examples of these types of skills are:

- Applying to and financing post-secondary education
- Obtaining and maintaining employment
- The ins and outs of credit, banking, saving, budgeting, and other components of personal finance
- Maintaining a healthy lifestyle emotionally, socially, physically, mentally, and spiritually
- Understanding and taking advantage of educational opportunities within the Chicagoland area
- Learning the importance of serving in the community and having empathy for others



LUA graduates earn a high-school diploma, not a GED (general equivalency diploma). This distinction is important, because employers tend to place more value on a diploma, seeing it as an indication of a student's work-ethic, self-discipline, and future success. Current graduates of LUA are enrolled in both trade schools and community colleges.

Corporate Internship Program

In order to make LUA's private education affordable to at-risk young students, LYDIA Urban Academy developed a work-study program which combines two commonly used business concepts, employee leasing and job sharing. This initiative gives our students the opportunity to finance part of their education while gaining critical job skills. Students work 8 hours per week (2 four hour days or one 8 hour day) at a local business in an entry-level position.



By participating in the Program, students gain an invaluable learning and work experience. It is expected that the students would be treated in the same manner an employee would. Working with adults in an adult environment helps students understand the importance of acting responsibly and professionally. Students are given feedback (positive or negative) in order to help improve their work ethic and skills.

Character Development

High School is a time for students not only to pursue academic goals, but also to develop their personal integrity. That's why, at LUA, we help students learn how to apply the truth of the Bible to everyday situations. Our weekly schedule includes devotional times, teacher-led group discussions and, when needed, one-on-one counseling. Parents are welcome to observe class time, and to meet with teachers to discuss their child's progress.

Tuition & Fees

Annual tuition for LYDIA Urban Academy is \$1500. Additional fees include books, field trips, lunches, and registration. Partial tuition scholarships are available to those who qualify.

"After I got kicked out of high school, I figured out pretty fast that I was going nowhere. My degree from the Urban Academy opens up a whole lot of doors for me, though. I'm really glad they didn't let me give up on myself."

—Moises, Class of 2005

LYDIA Urban Academy provides:

- The opportunity for students to earn a high school diploma
- A low student-faculty ratio
- Emphasis on character development
- Life skills training
- Affordable tuition



"We are always looking for character-building opportunities with our students. We know these kids are a work in progress, and we want to help them develop positive patterns of behavior and thinking so that they can reach their goals."

–Mandy Ross,
Director and Certified School Social Worker

To learn more about LUA or tour our facility,
please call Mandy Ross, Director, at (773) 653-2241.

LYDIA Urban Academy opened its doors in 2003 and is part of LYDIA Home Association, a Chicago-based Christian organization that has been serving children and families since 1917. LYDIA reaches people in diverse communities with a continuum of clinical and supportive services, from foster care to counseling, residential treatment to abstinence education.



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