



DESIGN ACADEMY

2025

WHEN?

September 29th thru October 2nd of 2025

WHERE?

Ocean Shores Convention Center

WHAT?

Design Academy is our premier Design Training event. It takes participants through the Project Development process via virtual and in person sessions by key support groups, as well as a team design project. Content includes Right of Way, Environmental, Real Estate Services, Traffic, Utilities, Bridge and Structures, Geotech, Hydraulics, and Design.

OBJECTIVES

- Network in-person
- Learn more about project development
- Prepare with pre-academy virtual classes
- Engage in hands-on activities
- Collaborate as a design team on a project

WHO?

Design Academy is recommended for design engineers, team leaders, support offices, and others interested in the design process.

WHY?

This blended learning experience has virtual instructor led pre-academy sessions and 4 days of in person training.

HOW?

Region and division management identify the students. Inform your region or division manager contact of your interest in attending the Design Academy.

CONTACTS

NWR Sno King	Hung Huynh
NWR Mt Baker Area	Shane Spahr
NCR	Michael Roy
OR	Karen Boone
SWR	Caroline Bricheux
SCR	Brent Schilperoort
ER	Thomas Brasch
HQ	Kevin Miller
Mega	Dawn Yankauskas
WSF	Chun-Ho Chen

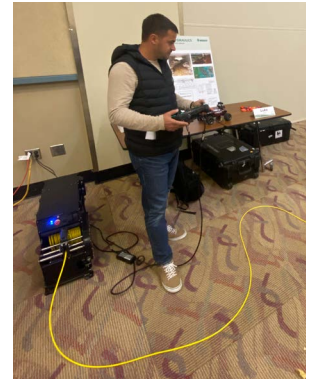
Seats are allocated based on the size of the area.

SNEAK PEEK

There are videos of the Virtual Pre-Academy Sessions, please visit the Design Academy Library in the Learning Center. There are online recordings of the sessions from the last academy. You will only receive course credit for attending the live virtual sessions once you are registered for an academy.

WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE?

- The Design Academy experience includes virtual pre-academy classes, in person interactive sessions, and a team project that will be shared at the end. This will allow students to gain base knowledge, to interact with the subjects, and demonstrate learning through discovery and experience. The team project encourages freedom and creativity in design.
- Students will be assigned a team and a real WSDOT project location prior to the academy. Students will work on this project throughout the academy incorporating knowledge from the classes and sessions. There will be a virtual meet and greet before the academy, 8 hours working time during the academy, and an open house for teams to present their project at the end.



For general information please contact Design Trainers Dan Backman or Carol Winfrey.



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Design Academy 2025 Itinerary

Monday, September 29, 2025		DAY 1 of 4
Time	Activity	
10:00 to 10:15	Arrival, Welcome, Safety Briefing	
10:30 to 10:45	Official opening by the State Design Engineer	
10:45 to 11:00	Ice Breaker	
11:00 to 12:00	Managing Priorities: Creating a Balanced Design (alternative trade-offs)	
12:00 to 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 to 1:50	PROJECT TEAM TIME – Introduction, Charter, Initiate & Alignment Begin Package 1	
2:00 to 4:50	Hydraulics - An overview of resources and guidance for design hydraulic features for transportation infrastructure. This includes hydrology, culverts, open-channel flow, drainage collection, conveyance, and treatment. Demonstrations of Stream table, 8 VR Goggles, Remote Culvert Inspection, and more.	
5:00 to 5:45	Dinner – networking	
Tuesday, September 30, 2025		DAY 2 of 4
7:00 to 7:45	Good morning, coffee, and continental breakfast	
7:45 to 8:00	Announcements, feedback from Day 1	
Time	INTERACTIVE SESSIONS at the DESIGN ACADEMY	
8:00 to 9:10	Environmental – interactive session	
9:10 to 9:20	Break	
9:20 to 10:30	Right of way – interactive session	
10:30 to 10:40	Break	
10:40 to 11:50	Real Estate Services – interactive session	
11:50 to 12:50	Lunch – networking	
12:50 to 2:00	Traffic – interactive session	
2:10 to 2:20	Break	
2:20 to 3:30	Utilities – interactive session	
3:30 to 3:40	Break	
3:40 to 4:50	PROJECT TEAM TIME – Finalize charter and kickoff; action plan Finish Package 1 and start Package 2.	
5:00 to 5:45	Dinner – networking	

Design Academy 2025 Itinerary

Wednesday, October 1, 2025	DAY 3 of 4
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7:00 to 7:45	Good morning, coffee, and continental breakfast
7:45 to 8:00	Announcements, feedback from Day 2
Time	INTERACTIVE SESSIONS at the DESIGN ACADEMY
8:00 to 9:10	Geotech – interactive session
9:10 to 9:20	Break
9:20 to 10:30	Bridge and Structures – interactive session
10:30 to 10:40	Break
10:40 to 11:40	PROJECT TEAM TIME - Accomplish tasks / produce deliverables. Finish Package 2 and do Package 3.
11:50 to 12:50	Lunch - collaboration
12:50 to 4:50	PROJECT TEAM TIME - Accomplish tasks / produce deliverables. Finish Package 3, do Package 4, and think about Package 5.
4:50 to 5:00	Break
5:00 to 5:45	Dinner – networking

Thursday, October 2, 2025	DAY 4 of 4
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7:00 to 7:45	Good morning, coffee, and continental breakfast
7:45 to 8:00	Announcements, feedback from Day 3
8:00 to 9:30	PROJECT TEAM TIME – Package 5. Set up and rehearse for Open House. Session 1 - Team 1, 3, 5, 7, & 9 / Session 2 – Team 2, 4, 6, 8, & 10
9:30 to 9:40	Break
	Team Project Presentations – Open house format with two Sessions
9:40 to 10:40	Teams Open House – Session 1 Present and Session 2 Roam
10:40 to 11:40	Teams Open House – Session 2 Present and Session 1 Roam
Closing remarks - Adjourn and safe travels Official end of academy	

Design Academy Sample Session Topics and Formats

Pre-Academy Session (Virtual Instructor Led approx 2 hours)	Interactive Sessions at Conference (In-Person)
Design Documentation (full course)	n/a
Design Analysis (full course)	n/a
Design Manual Overview	Creating a Balanced Design
Real Estate Services	Real Estate Services
Traffic	Traffic
Environmental	Environmental
Geotech	Geotech
Utilities	Utilities
Right of Way	Right of Way
Bridge and Structures	Bridge and Structures
Hydraulics	Hydraulics Fair
Estimating: Unit Bid Price (video)	n/a
Team virtual project kick off and project overview	Team Project and open house (8 hours)