We Believe In YOU!

Youth
Our organization
Uniting families and communities

Building hope to develop healthy youth, caring professionals, strong families, and safe communities.

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GrowAcademy@wisconsin.gov
https://doc.wi.gov/Pages/AboutDOC/JuvenileCorrections/
The Grow Academy is a 120 day residential program. Grow houses up to 12 males in the youth justice system, typically aged 14 – 18.

- Located in Oregon, Wisconsin
- Opened in 2014 to county and state supervised youth, in recognition of the need for expanded services in the Madison area
- Staff and GPS technology provide 24/7 supervision while youth are on grounds and in the community
- Reward and incentive focused, emphasis on recognizing positive behaviors
- Non-secure setting with no fences, gates, or locked cells
- Group and individual programming with researched and proven results
- On-site school that offers high school credits

Treatment Programming (continued)

- Change Journal Group – Grow Academy Treatment Specialist
- CBI-EMP (Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Offenders Seeking Employment) – Grow Academy Employment Coordinator
- Additional referrals to outside services to address assessed needs that are not met with standard programs
- Art Therapy – Sara Jordan, LPC, ATR-BC
  - Sessions focused on art projects and understanding trauma, emotions, and areas to grow
Treatment Programming

♦ Individual and family therapy – Anesis Center for Marriage and Family Therapy
  ♦ Diverse, family oriented staff working in the areas of mental health, substance abuse, and case management
  ♦ Philosophy emphasizes social, cultural, and political storylines in client lives

♦ Thinking for a Change – Henger Enterprises
  ♦ Cognitive group focused on skill practice and role playing
  ♦ Clients look at how their thoughts, feelings, attitudes, and beliefs impact their decision-making, social skills, and desire to change.

♦ Case Management - Grow Treatment Specialist
  ♦ Risk and needs assessments that identify strengths & potential areas of growth
  ♦ Collaborative case planning that promotes responsible decision-making and specifically addresses areas that lead to problem behaviors

The Grow Academy operates on an incentive based behavioral level system. Youth are encouraged to practice their leadership skills in a safe and positive manner.

♦ Recognizes individual strengths
♦ Motivates youth to make positive decisions
♦ Provides rewards for meeting expectations and taking initiative to go above and beyond

Rewards and privileges include:

♦ MP3 players
♦ Later bed times
♦ Use of the TV room and video game room
♦ Off-grounds recreational activities
♦ Home visits
♦ and more....
School
- Full-time, licensed special education teacher
- Partners with Community Groundworks, UW—Extension, and other community members
- Teacher uses group instruction, independent study, active learning, field trips, and technology to deliver lessons
- In session year-round, Monday through Friday
- Youth earn roughly 3 credits in math, science, reading, employability, physical education, history, and social issues

Career Exploration Program
- High school credit earned through employment programming and on-grounds work schedule
- Skill building group focused on decision-making, emotions, and social skills to get and keep a job
- Practice interviewing, drafting resumes, completing job applications, and other documents
- Community market events—youth make and sell woodwork, sauces, jams/jellies, and other items that fund reward activities.
- Community service opportunities to complete court ordered obligations and build professional references and resumes.

Garden/Agriculture
- 1/2 acre garden used for cooking activities, school lessons, day to day consumption, creation of market goods, and sharing produce with families
- Youth design and tend to their own individual plots. The care they give this plot produces plants, fruits and vegetables

Family
A youth’s overall success at The Grow Academy relies on family involvement. Families are involved through:
- On-site visits up to three times a week
- Daily phone calls, free of charge
- Home visits
- Staff communication on progress and concerns
- Involvement in case management
- Attendance at graduation and continued support of youth’s progress at home and in the community