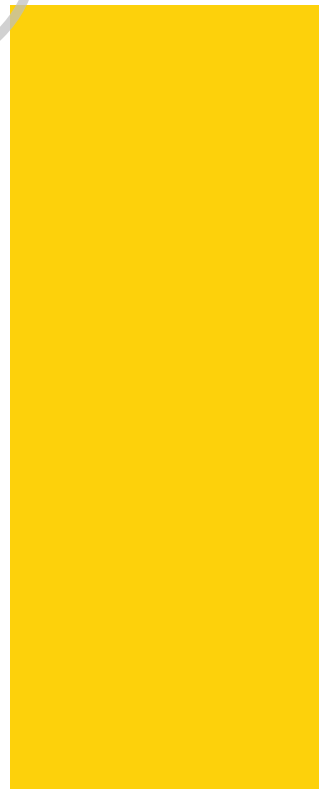


All About Career Clusters



Activities to help
you explore careers

Dear Career Explorer,



It's never too early to start learning about your career options, and to think about which careers might be right for you. But figuring out which careers to consider can be difficult. On one hand, there is you, a unique individual with specific interests, abilities, talents, and values. On the other hand are the hundreds of careers from which you can choose.

A great way to discover which career fields might be a good match for you is to explore the career clusters. A career cluster is a group of careers that are alike in many ways. There are 16 different career clusters, from education to finance to health science and more. You will find information on each of these career clusters on pages 4–19 of this booklet.

Learning about the 16 career clusters will help you plan and prepare for your future career!

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Your Interests, Abilities & Values

Before you look at your career choices, it's important to take some time to think about who you are and what you want in a career. Considering what you like to do (your interests), what you do well (your abilities), and what's important to you (your values) will help ensure that you choose a career area that will be a good match for you.

Your Interests

When determining which careers you might enjoy, think about the school subjects and activities you like the most.

What are your two favorite school subjects? _____

What activities do you enjoy? _____

What topics interest you? _____

Is there anything you've always wanted to do? _____

Your Abilities

You are likely to be much happier and more successful in a career that focuses on your strengths. This is why it's so important to consider your abilities, skills, and talents when determining which careers will be a good match for you.

Consider each of the following and check the column that best describes your ability in that area.

	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor
Language skills – ability to speak and write well	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Math – ability to easily understand math concepts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social skills – ability to meet, talk to, and get along with people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Management skills – ability to plan, organize, and follow through on projects and assignments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mechanical reasoning – ability to understand how things work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creativity – ability to find new ways to say or do something	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Artistic skills – ability in music, art, drama, and/or dance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your Values

Your values are what's important to you. They are the things that make a career or job meaningful and fulfilling for you.

What's important to you in a career? Put a ✓ by the statements that are true for you. Put an X by those that are not true for you. Skip those you feel neutral about.

I would like to have a career that allows me to...

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> work with children. | <input type="checkbox"/> work at a desk. | <input type="checkbox"/> have regular hours. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> help people who are sick. | <input type="checkbox"/> build or fix things. | <input type="checkbox"/> work indoors. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> work outdoors. | <input type="checkbox"/> work with numbers. | <input type="checkbox"/> create art or music. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> travel and have adventures. | <input type="checkbox"/> work with animals. | <input type="checkbox"/> work in nature. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> work with my hands. | <input type="checkbox"/> make a difference. | <input type="checkbox"/> be physically active. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> work by myself. | <input type="checkbox"/> work with computers. | <input type="checkbox"/> make a lot of money. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> be in charge. | <input type="checkbox"/> talk or perform in public. | <input type="checkbox"/> work with other people. |

Which three of the above are the most important to you? _____

Exploring the Career Clusters

You are now ready to explore the 16 career clusters, and zero in on which of these clusters might be a good fit for your interests, abilities, and values.

On the following pages, you will find information on each of the 16 career clusters. You'll learn what kind of person might enjoy a career in that cluster, the type of work people do, and you'll see a list of possible careers and college majors. As you read about each cluster, think about whether it's a good fit for you, and imagine yourself working in one or more of the careers listed.

Rate your interest in each career cluster

At the bottom of each page is a place for you to rate your interest in that cluster. Is it a career cluster that might be a good fit for you, one you'd like to learn more about, or one you're not interested in? Rate your interest in each cluster, making sure that you identify at least one or two that might be a good fit for you.

Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources



Consider this career cluster if...

- ▶ you are interested in science.
- ▶ you like outdoor activities.
- ▶ you enjoy caring for animals.
- ▶ you enjoy working with plants.
- ▶ you want to improve the environment.

A career in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources gives you the opportunity to work with plants, animals, food, fabric, wood, and/or crops. Workers in this career cluster also help find ways to improve the environment. They work in parks, greenhouses, dairies, laboratories, and on farms and ranches.

Career Opportunities

Agricultural engineer
Animal caretaker
Biochemist
Biological technician
Commercial fisherman
Environmental engineer
Farm and ranch worker
Food scientist
Forester
Landscape
Nursery worker
Pest control
Veterinarian
Veterinary assistant
Zoologist

Related College Majors

Agricultural engineering
Animal sciences
Biology
Botany
Earth sciences
Forestry
Geology
Nutrition science
Parks management
Zoology

To see if this is a career cluster you might enjoy, consider these activities:

- ▶ Volunteer at an animal shelter.
- ▶ Grow vegetables or flowers.
- ▶ Join Future Farmers of America (FFA) or 4-H.
- ▶ Get a job or volunteer at a farm, ranch, or greenhouse.
- ▶ Spend time outside observing nature.

Rate your interest in this career cluster

4

could be a good fit for me

would like to learn more

not interested

Architecture & Construction



Consider this career cluster if...

- ▶ you like working with tools.
- ▶ you enjoy making plans and drawings.
- ▶ you like building things.
- ▶ you like figuring out how things work.
- ▶ you are good at math.

A career in Architecture and Construction gives you the opportunity to design, build, and maintain structures (e.g., houses, buildings, highways, bridges). This career cluster includes architects, engineers, and those who work in the skilled trades (e.g., carpentry, masonry, plumbing).

Career Opportunities

Architect
Brickmason
Carpenter
Civil engineer
Construction manager
Construction worker
Electrician
HVAC mechanic
Landscape architect
Mechanical drafter
Plumber
Roofer
Solar panel installer
Surveyor
Wind turbine technician

Related College Majors

Architecture	Drafting
Building management	Industrial engineering
Cartography	Landscape architecture
Civil engineering	Masonry
Construction management	Urban planning

To see if this is a career cluster you might enjoy, consider these activities:

- ▶ Build models.
- ▶ Join the math club.
- ▶ Do repair or home improvement projects.
- ▶ Get a part-time job at a hardware or home improvement store.

Rate your interest in this career cluster

could be a good fit for me

would like to learn more

not interested

Arts, A/V Tech & Communications



Consider this career cluster if...

- ▶ you want to create or perform.
- ▶ you like working with technology.
- ▶ you have good communication skills.
- ▶ you have artistic or musical talent.
- ▶ you enjoy being in front of an audience.

A career in Arts, Audio/Video Technology & Communications gives you the opportunity to create visual art, performance art, or original writing—or to manage and maintain complex computer software and equipment. Workers in this career cluster often work at a film studio, television studio, or design firm.

Career Opportunities

Actor
Artist
Camera operator
Choreographer
Dancer
Desktop publisher
Fashion designer
Film and video editor
Graphic designer
Interior designer
Journalist
Photographer
Reporter
Sound technician
Writer/author

Related College Majors

Art
Communications
Dance
English
Film production
Graphic design
Interior design
Journalism
Music
Photography

To see if this is a career cluster you might enjoy, consider these activities:

- ▶ Join the school band or choir.
- ▶ Join the speech or debate team.
- ▶ Take art or photography classes.
- ▶ Act in school plays or join the stage crew.
- ▶ Work on the school newspaper or yearbook.

Rate your interest in this career cluster

6

could be a good fit for me

would like to learn more

not interested

Business Management & Administration



Consider this career cluster if...

- ▶ you enjoy group projects.
- ▶ you have strong organizational skills.
- ▶ you are good with numbers and computers.
- ▶ you have good leadership skills.
- ▶ you enjoy working with people.

A career in Business Management & Administration gives you the opportunity to organize, plan, and manage business operations. Workers in this career cluster often work with computers, information, data, and numbers. They may train and/or manage employees, or own their own business.

Career Opportunities

Accountant
Administrative assistant
Advertising manager
Bookkeeper
Business manager
Computer systems analyst
Entrepreneur
Financial advisor
Human resources manager
Information systems manager
Marketing manager
Operations manager
Paralegal
Public relations specialist
Sales representative

Related College Majors

Accounting
Business administration
Computer information systems
Economics
Entrepreneurship
Finance
Human resources
International business
Management information systems
Marketing

To see if this is a career cluster you might enjoy, consider these activities:

- ▶ Help plan an event or fundraiser.
- ▶ Run for student council.
- ▶ Join Junior Achievement.
- ▶ Take business courses in high school.
- ▶ Seek leadership positions in clubs and activities.

Rate your interest in this career cluster

could be a good fit for me

would like to learn more

not interested

Education & Training



Consider this career cluster if...

- ▶ you are good at explaining things.
- ▶ you have good public speaking skills.
- ▶ you enjoy helping others.
- ▶ you are patient, friendly, and outgoing.
- ▶ you like working with children or teenagers.

A career in Education & Training gives you the opportunity to teach, guide, and train people of all ages. Workers in this career cluster may work in a classroom, school counseling office, library, or administrative office. They may also work in businesses and corporations training employees.

Career Opportunities

Adult literacy teacher
Child care worker
Coach
College professor
Corporate trainer
Education administrator
Elementary school teacher
Fitness trainer
High school teacher
Librarian
Middle school teacher
Preschool teacher
School counselor
Special education teacher
Teacher assistant

Related College Majors

American sign language
Child development
Early childhood education
Educational administration
Elementary education
Middle childhood education
Psychology
Secondary education
Social work
Special education

To see if this is a career cluster you might enjoy, consider these activities:

- ▶ Volunteer as a tutor.
- ▶ Help coach a sports team.
- ▶ Volunteer for Big Brothers/Big Sisters.
- ▶ Join Future Teachers of America (FTA).
- ▶ Work as a library aide or student assistant.

Rate your interest in this career cluster

8

could be a good fit for me

would like to learn more

not interested

Finance



Consider this career cluster if...

- ▶ you have strong math skills.
- ▶ you are interested in financial matters.
- ▶ you'd like to work in a business setting.
- ▶ you are organized and detail-oriented.
- ▶ you have an interest in the stock market.

A career in Finance gives you the opportunity to manage money, and to also help others manage their money. Workers in this career cluster might keep track of an organization's money, maintain financial records, or give financial advice to others. They often work in corporations, banks, and insurance companies.

Career Opportunities

Accountant
Actuary
Bank teller
Bank manager
Bill collector
Claims adjuster
Economist
Financial advisor
Insurance sales agent
Insurance underwriter
Loan officer
Statistician
Stockbroker
Tax preparer
Treasurer

Related College Majors

Accounting
Business administration
Consumer economics
Economics
Entrepreneurship
Finance
Healthcare administration
Human resources management
Marketing
Real estate

To see if this is a career cluster you might enjoy, consider these activities:

- ▶ Take business and math courses in high school.
- ▶ Help with fundraisers.
- ▶ Join Junior Achievement.
- ▶ Learn about the stock market.
- ▶ Volunteer to be treasurer of an organization.

Rate your interest in this career cluster

could be a good fit for me

would like to learn more

not interested

Government & Public Administration



Consider this career cluster if...

- ▶ you have leadership skills.
- ▶ you are interested in helping others.
- ▶ you like to discuss and debate ideas.
- ▶ you enjoy working with information.
- ▶ you have strong communication skills.

A career in Government & Public Administration gives you the opportunity to plan and provide government services at the local, state, and federal levels. Workers in this career cluster often hold public office or fulfill administrative duties in government offices, such as processing marriage licenses or construction proposals.

Career Opportunities

Air traffic controller
Court clerk
Criminal investigator
Financial examiner
Foreign service officer
Homeland Security agent
IRS agent
Legislator
Occupational health specialist
Politician
Postal service worker
Real estate appraiser
Soldier/sailor
Urban planner

Related College Majors

Business administration
City/urban planning
Criminal justice
Economics
History
Military studies
Political science
Public administration
Public health
Sociology

To see if this is a career cluster you might enjoy, consider these activities:

- ▶ Join Junior ROTC.
- ▶ Run for student council.
- ▶ Attend city council meetings.
- ▶ Join the speech or debate team.
- ▶ Seek leadership roles in groups and clubs.

Rate your interest in this career cluster

10

could be a good fit for me

would like to learn more

not interested

Health Science



Consider this career cluster if...

- ▶ you are good at math and science.
- ▶ you enjoy helping others.
- ▶ you're interested in learning about the human body.
- ▶ you are patient and good with details.
- ▶ you'd like to work in a medical setting.

A career in Health Science gives you the opportunity to diagnose, treat, and manage health issues for patients of every age. Workers in this career cluster can be found in hospitals, doctors' offices, nursing homes, schools, and sports teams—anywhere healthcare services are needed.

Career Opportunities

Anesthesiologist
Athletic trainer
Audiologist
Dental hygienist
Dentist
Hospital administrator
Licensed practical nurse
Medical assistant
Occupational therapist
Paramedic/EMT
Pharmacist
Physical therapist
Physician/surgeon
Radiologic technologist
Registered nurse
Speech pathologist

Related College Majors

Biochemistry
Biology
Dentistry
Dietetics
Medicine
Nursing
Occupational therapy
Pharmacology
Physical therapy
Public health

To see if this is a career cluster you might enjoy, consider these activities:

- ▶ Volunteer at a clinic, hospital, or nursing home.
- ▶ Join a science club.
- ▶ Attend community health fairs.
- ▶ Volunteer as a trainer for a school sports team.
- ▶ Attend a science camp.

Rate your interest in this career cluster

could be a good fit for me

would like to learn more

not interested

Hospitality & Tourism



Consider this career cluster if...

- ▶ you like going to new places.
- ▶ you like working with people.
- ▶ you enjoy entertaining and cooking.
- ▶ you are patient, friendly, and outgoing.
- ▶ you enjoy meeting new people.

A career in Hospitality & Tourism gives you the opportunity to entertain and serve guests—and help people enjoy their leisure time. Common employment locations for workers in this career cluster include restaurants, bakeries, bars, casinos, cruise ships, spas, resorts, theme parks, hotels, museums, and sports arenas.

Career Opportunities

Baker
Bartender
Chef/cook
Club manager
Concierge
Food preparation worker
Food server
Gaming dealer
Hotel desk clerk
Hotel manager
Lifeguard
Recreation worker
Reservation agent
Tour guide
Travel agent

Related College Majors

Air transportation
Business management
Communications
Culinary arts
Foreign language
Hospitality management
International studies
Leisure and recreation
Marketing
Travel and tourism

To see if this is a career cluster you might enjoy, consider these activities:

- ▶ Plan a family vacation.
- ▶ Help organize an event or party.
- ▶ Plan and cook meals for family and friends.
- ▶ Get a job at a restaurant or an amusement park.
- ▶ Learn a foreign language.

Rate your interest in this career cluster

Human Services



Consider this career cluster if...

- ▶ you want to help people improve their lives.
- ▶ you have strong listening skills.
- ▶ you are a “people person.”
- ▶ you are patient, empathetic, and kind.
- ▶ you want to help make a difference.

A career in Human Services gives you the opportunity to help people of all ages meet their physical, mental, and emotional needs. Workers in this career cluster often work in hospitals, government offices, nursing homes, and schools. They may also provide specialized services, such as credit counseling or home care.

Career Opportunities

Childcare worker
Cosmetologist
Fitness trainer
Interpreter
Marriage counselor
Mental health counselor
Occupational therapist
Preschool teacher
Probation officer
Psychologist
Recreational therapist
Rehabilitation counselor
Social worker
Youth worker

Related College Majors

Child development
Cosmetology
Criminal justice
Gerontology
Human services
Mental health counseling
Psychology
Public health
Social work
Sociology

To see if this is a career cluster you might enjoy, consider these activities:

- ▶ Help an elderly neighbor.
- ▶ Volunteer at a food bank.
- ▶ Get a summer job as a camp counselor.
- ▶ Organize a food or clothing drive.
- ▶ Volunteer for a nonprofit agency.

Rate your interest in this career cluster

could be a good fit for me

would like to learn more

not interested

Information Technology



Consider this career cluster if...

- ▶ you are good at math.
- ▶ you want to work with computers.
- ▶ you are good at solving puzzles.
- ▶ you have good problem-solving skills.
- ▶ you like keeping up with new technology.

A career in information technology gives you the opportunity to use your technical skills to help organizations and businesses achieve their goals. Workers in this career cluster work with hardware, software, network systems, and multimedia in a variety of settings (including corporations, schools, and government offices).

Career Opportunities

Computer engineer
Computer programmer
Computer repairperson
Computer support specialist
Database administrator
Graphic designer
Information security analyst
Information systems manager
Network architect
Software developer
Systems administrator
Systems analyst
Technical writer
Video game designer
Web developer

Related College Majors

Computer programming Information science
Computer science Management information systems
Cybersecurity Software engineering
Data management Systems analysis
Desktop publishing Web development

To see if this is a career cluster you might enjoy, consider these activities:

- ▶ Create your own website.
- ▶ Offer tech support to a nonprofit agency.
- ▶ Work on the school newspaper or yearbook.
- ▶ Help family and friends with technical problems.
- ▶ Take computer classes in high school.

Rate your interest in this career cluster

Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security



Consider this career cluster if...

- ▶ you have good people skills.
- ▶ you want to help and protect others.
- ▶ you enjoy a challenge.
- ▶ you believe rules and laws are important.
- ▶ you are brave, patient, and compassionate.

A career in Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security gives you the opportunity to protect people and enforce the law. Workers in this career cluster include police officers, security guards, detectives, and firefighters. In addition to police stations and firehouses, workers often have jobs in law practices, prisons, and courthouses.

Career Opportunities

Correctional officer
Court reporter
Detective
Dispatcher
Firefighter
Fish and game warden
Forensic scientist
Lawyer
Paralegal
Park ranger
Private investigator
Police officer
Probation officer
Public defender
Security guard

Related College Majors

Criminal justice
Fire science
Forensic science
Government
Homeland security
Law enforcement
Paralegal
Parks and recreation
Public health
Social work

To see if this is a career cluster you might enjoy, consider these activities:

- ▶ Attend public court hearings.
- ▶ Join the speech or debate team.
- ▶ Volunteer for community outreach programs.
- ▶ Seek leadership positions in clubs, organizations, and on sports teams.

Rate your interest in this career cluster

could be a good fit for me

would like to learn more

not interested

Manufacturing



Consider this career cluster if...

- ▶ you are good with details.
- ▶ you have strong math skills.
- ▶ you enjoy figuring out how things work.
- ▶ you enjoy working with technology.
- ▶ you like working with tools.

A career in Manufacturing gives you the opportunity to help turn raw materials into finished products, such as airplanes, electronics, and appliances. Manufacturing workers also repair machines and diagnose problems with plumbing, automobiles, and more.

Career Opportunities

Assembler/fabricator
Diesel mechanic
Engineering technician
Environmental engineer
Industrial engineer
Inspector/tester
Logistician
Machinist
Mechanical engineer
Packer/packager
Quality control technician
Safety inspector
Sheet metal worker
Tool and die maker
Welder/solderer

Related College Majors

Computer engineering
Drafting and design
Electrical engineering
Environmental engineering
HVAC technology
Industrial engineering
Industrial maintenance
Operations management
Precision metal working
Quality control

To see if this is a career cluster you might enjoy, consider these activities:

- ▶ Assemble models.
- ▶ Participate in STEM events.
- ▶ Develop a hobby in robotics.
- ▶ Repair small appliances or electronics.
- ▶ Work on restoring or repairing a bike or car.

Rate your interest in this career cluster

Marketing



Consider this career cluster if...

- ▶ you are good at being persuasive.
- ▶ you enjoy working with people.
- ▶ you have strong communication skills.
- ▶ you have strong math skills.
- ▶ you are creative and good with details.

A career in Marketing gives you the opportunity to sell products and services directly to customers, and/or help companies develop persuasive marketing plans. Workers in this career cluster help businesses, companies, and organizations connect with customers and achieve their sales and marketing goals.

Career Opportunities

Account manager
Advertising manager
Buyer
Customer service representative
Database administrator
Entrepreneur
Marketing manager
Real estate agent
Retail salesperson
Sales associate
Sales manager
Stock/inventory clerk
Telemarketer
Warehouse manager
Wholesale buyer

Related College Majors

Business administration
Communication
Consumer economics
Customer service
Entrepreneurship
Finance
Management information systems
Marketing
Real estate

To see if this is a career cluster you might enjoy, consider these activities:

- ▶ Work at a concession stand.
- ▶ Help with school fundraisers.
- ▶ Work part-time in a retail store.
- ▶ Join the speech or debate team.
- ▶ Take business courses in high school.

Rate your interest in this career cluster

could be a good fit for me

would like to learn more

not interested

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math



Consider this career cluster if...

- ▶ you are good with details.
- ▶ you enjoy working with computers.
- ▶ you are good at solving problems and puzzles.
- ▶ you like figuring out how things work.
- ▶ you have strong math and science skills.

A career in Science, Technology, Engineering & Math gives you the opportunity to solve complex problems in order to improve society. Workers in this career cluster work in labs, corporations, and in the field. They study diseases, do scientific research, develop new technologies, oversee construction projects, and much more.

Career Opportunities

Aerospace engineer
Biologist
Botanist
Chemical engineer
Chemist
Computer programmer
Electrical engineer
Engineering technician
Environmental scientist
Geologist
Mathematician
Mechanical engineer
Physicist
Statistician
Technical writer

Related College Majors

Biology
Chemical engineering
Chemistry
Civil engineering
Computer engineering
Electrical engineering
Geology
Mathematics
Mechanical engineering
Physics

To see if this is a career cluster you might enjoy, consider these activities:

- ▶ Participate in a STEM camp or science fair.
- ▶ Help family and friends with technical issues.
- ▶ Join a math or science club.
- ▶ Learn new computer applications.
- ▶ Take science and math courses in high school.

Rate your interest in this career cluster

18

could be a good fit for me

would like to learn more

not interested

Transportation, Distribution & Logistics



Consider this career cluster if...

- ▶ you are organized.
- ▶ you like working with tools.
- ▶ you are good at solving problems and puzzles.
- ▶ you are detail-oriented.
- ▶ you like to fix things.

A career in Transportation, Distribution & Logistics gives you the opportunity to plan and manage the movement of people, materials, and goods by road, air, water, and pipeline. Workers in this career cluster often maintain vehicles or work in distribution or logistical centers to organize the transporting of people and products.

Career Opportunities

Air traffic controller
Ambulance driver
Automotive mechanic
Avionics technician
Civil engineer
Dispatcher
Flight attendant
Logistician
Packer/packager
Safety technician
Shipping clerk
Taxi driver
Truck driver
Truck mechanic
Warehouse manager

Related College Majors

Air transportation
Automotive engineering
Business operations
Ground transportation
Logistics
Marine transportation
Mechanical engineering
Traffic engineering
Transportation management
Vehicle maintenance

To see if this is a career cluster you might enjoy, consider these activities:

- ▶ Learn new computer applications.
- ▶ Repair small appliances or electronics.
- ▶ Work on restoring or repairing a bike or car.
- ▶ Take math electives in high school.
- ▶ Go to car, truck, and air shows.

Rate your interest in this career cluster

could be a good fit for me would like to learn more not interested

Career Clusters Worksheet

Now that you've explored the 16 career clusters and indicated your level of interest in each, answer the questions below to see how much you've learned. (If you get stuck, you can check the career cluster pages to help you answer the questions.)

1. Match careers and career clusters

Beside each career, write the letter (A-P) of the career cluster it's in.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 <u>C</u> Photographer | 6 _____ Truck driver | 11 _____ Politician |
| 2 _____ Business manager | 7 _____ Chemist | 12 _____ Cosmetologist |
| 3 _____ Chef | 8 _____ Forester | 13 _____ Solar panel installer |
| 4 _____ Police officer | 9 _____ Bank teller | 14 _____ Machinist |
| 5 _____ Middle school teacher | 10 _____ Nurse | 15 _____ Advertising manager |
| | | 16 _____ Computer programmer |

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources | I. Hospitality & Tourism |
| B. Architecture & Construction | J. Human Services |
| C. Arts, A/V Technology & Communications | K. Information Technology |
| D. Business Management & Administration | L. Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security |
| E. Education & Training | M. Manufacturing |
| F. Finance | N. Marketing |
| G. Government & Public Administration | O. Science, Technology, Engineering & Math |
| H. Health Science | P. Transportation, Distribution & Logistics |

2. Fill in the grid

Choose three career clusters to investigate further. Then complete the grid.

Career Cluster	What is a subject someone in this career may have liked in school?	What is a skill someone who works in this career might have?	What is one career in this career cluster?

3. What career cluster should they choose?

- A. Sophia loves animals, being outside, and hiking in nature.
Which career cluster will she most likely find interesting? _____
- B. Sydney likes science and learning about the human body.
Which career cluster has careers that are a good fit for her? _____
- C. Michael is fascinated with the stock market.
Which career cluster do you think he should look at for career ideas? _____
- D. Hannah wants to go to college to become an occupational therapist.
Which career cluster does occupational therapist belong in? _____
- E. Xavier is a real leader and he says he wants to run for public office someday.
Which career cluster best matches his career goals? _____
- F. Jada is a “people person” and likes the idea of traveling all over the world.
Which career cluster should she learn more about? _____

Answers to questions 1 & 3 are at the bottom of page 24.

4. Which career clusters are you most interested in?

Look at your ratings at the bottom of the individual career cluster pages and choose one you checked “could be right for me.” _____

Write down three careers in that career cluster that seem like they might be a good match for you.

What interests, abilities, and/or values do you have that make this career cluster seem like a good fit?



VIDEO

For a quick review of the 16 career clusters, check out this short video.

Ways to Prepare for a Career

As you advance in your career exploration journey, it's important to think about how you are going to prepare for your career. Almost all careers require some kind of post-high school education and/or training, and many careers have specific education/training requirements. For example, to be a high school teacher you need to have a four-year college degree. *Read through each of the following ways to prepare for a career and think about which of these options would be a good fit for you and your career goals.*

Two-Year College

Two-year colleges provide affordable, career-oriented one- and two-year programs.

- ▶ Two-year colleges can be an excellent choice for students who have specific career goals.
- ▶ Attending a two-year public college for one year generally costs less than half of what it costs to attend a public four-year college for a year. To save money, many students start at a two-year college and then transfer to a four-year college after a year or two.
- ▶ Popular two-year career programs include automotive technology, business management, dental hygiene, early childhood education, engineering technology, and nursing.

What do you see as a pro or a con of attending a two-year college?

Four-Year College

A four-year college education can prepare you for a wide range of careers.

- ▶ Four-year colleges vary greatly in their size, cost, programs, majors, and requirements.
- ▶ Students at four-year colleges take about half of their courses in their major (the subject they have chosen to study in depth).
- ▶ Students who didn't follow a college prep program in high school may be required to take remedial courses in college.
- ▶ Popular four-year college majors include accounting, art, biology, business administration, computer science, elementary education, engineering, journalism, nursing, and social work.

What do you see as a pro or a con of attending a four-year college?



For more information on ways to prepare for a career, check out this short video.

Career/Trade School

Career/trade schools offer short-term training in a variety of career fields.

- ▶ Some programs take one or two years to complete; others can be completed in just weeks.
- ▶ These schools are in business to make a profit. Their costs vary, and they can be expensive.
- ▶ Thoroughly check out any school you're considering. Some of these schools are not reputable.

What do you see as a pro or a con of attending a career/trade school?

Apprenticeship

Apprentices learn a skilled trade through classroom instruction and on-the-job training.

- ▶ Apprentices start by doing simple tasks under the supervision of a journey worker.
- ▶ The majority of programs are in construction and manufacturing.
- ▶ Apprentices start off earning about half of what experienced workers earn.

What do you see as a pro or a con of learning a trade through an apprenticeship program?

The Military

The U.S. military offers enlistees free job training in over 2,000 job specialties.

- ▶ After basic training, enlistees typically receive advanced training for a specific job.
- ▶ Enlistees who contribute to a college fund can receive \$70,000+ for college.
- ▶ The career, training, and educational opportunities are different for each branch of the military.

What do you see as a pro or a con of joining the military?

Indicate how you feel about each of the following ways to prepare for a career.

Check **Yes** (this is how you want to prepare for your career), **Maybe** (you'd like to learn more), or **No** (you don't think this option is for you).

- | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Two-year college | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2. Four-year college | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 3. Career/trade school | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 4. Apprenticeship | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 5. The military | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Narrowing Your Focus

Now that you've explored the career clusters and learned about your education options, narrow your focus and answer the following questions.

Which career cluster are you MOST interested in? _____

Why? _____

Choose a career in the cluster that most interests you and do a little research. Go to bls.gov/ooh and find the answers to the following questions.

Career to research: _____

What does someone in this career do? _____

What education/training is needed? _____

What is the average pay? _____

What is the job outlook? _____

What about this career appeals to you? _____

What are three things you can do now to help you prepare for your future career?

Answers for questions on pages 20-21:
Question #1: 1-C, 2-D, 3-I, 4-L, 5-E, 6-P, 7-O, 8-A, 9-F, 10-H, 11-G, 12-J, 13-B, 14-M, 15-N, 16-K
Question #3: A. Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources, B. Health Science, C. Finance,
D. Human Services, E. Government & Public Administration, F. Hospitality & Tourism

All About Career Clusters



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