



CAREER CLUSTERS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Background

Career Clusters is a way of grouping all careers into sixteen categories. The careers in each cluster share a foundation of common knowledge and skills.

These clusters frame student opportunities in secondary and postsecondary education as they prepare for wide range of career opportunities.

Career Clusters

The sixteen national Career Clusters are

- Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- Architecture & Construction
- Arts, A/V Technology & Communications
- Business Management & Administration
- Education & Training
- Finance
- Government & Public Administration
- Health Science
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

Development of Career Clusters

Career Clusters began in the 1990s to promote career awareness and to help make the transition from “vocational education” to “Career and Technical Education.” Career Clusters developed as a result of a collaboration among the following:

- National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium
- U.S. Department of Education
- National Advisory Committees
 - Business and Industry
 - Labor
 - Government
 - Education (secondary and postsecondary)

Career Clusters (continued)

Outcomes/Results

Career Clusters impact economic development by providing

- Sources of competitive advantage
 - Business agility
 - Product and process innovation
 - Transitions to new workplaces
 - Careers and learning
 - Vertical and horizontal mobility
 - Self-directed career and learning management
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Benefits

Career Clusters benefits the educational program by

- Enhancing academic achievement with real-world relevance
 - Adapting the curriculum to meet the needs of the community
 - Integrating CTE and core academics
 - Broadening the scope of existing curricula
 - Encouraging coordination among teaching staff
 - Providing a framework for curriculum alignment
 - Ensuring seamless entry into postsecondary education
 - Helping students make informed career decisions
 - Helping students establish a career path
 - Connecting student's elective courses with career plan
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Essential Practices

Essential practices in Career Cluster Education provides:

- A framework for seamless education
 - More career options for learners
 - A framework for addressing the entire world of work
 - A picture of how Knowledge and Skills transfer vertically and horizontally
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Web sites

Websites for further study about Career Clusters:

- www.careerclusters.org
 - www.careervoyages.gov
 - www.ncpublicschools.org/cte/support/clusters
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Leadership

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Sixteen Career Clusters

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The production, processing, marketing, distribution, financing, and development of agricultural commodities and resources including food, fiber, wood products, natural resources, horticulture, and other plant and animal products/resources.



Designing, planning, managing, building and maintaining the built environment.



Designing, producing, exhibiting, performing, writing, and publishing multimedia content including visual and performing arts and design, journalism, and entertainment services.



Planning, organizing, directing and evaluating business functions essential to efficient and productive business operations. Business Management and Administration career opportunities are available in every sector of the economy.



Planning, managing and providing education and training services, and related learning support services.



Planning, services for financial and investment planning, banking, insurance, and business financial management.



Executing governmental functions to include governance; national security; foreign service; planning; revenue and taxation; regulation; and management and administration at the local, state, and federal levels.



Planning, managing, and providing therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development.



Management, marketing and operations of restaurants and other foodservices, lodging, attractions, recreation events and travel related services.



Preparing individuals for employment in career pathways that relate to families and human needs.



Design, development, support and management of hardware, software, multimedia, and systems integration services.



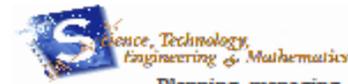
Planning, managing, and providing legal, public safety, protective services and homeland security, including professional and technical support services.



Planning, managing and performing the processing of materials into intermediate or final products and related professional and technical support activities such as production planning and control, maintenance and manufacturing/process engineering.



Planning, managing, and performing marketing activities to reach organizational objectives.



Planning, managing, and providing scientific research and professional and technical services (e.g., physical science, social science, engineering) including laboratory and testing services, and research and development services.



Planning, management, and movement of people, materials, and goods by road, pipeline, air, rail and water and related professional and technical support services such as transportation infrastructure planning and management, logistics services, mobile equipment and facility maintenance.