



# CAREER CLUSTERS FAQs

## What are Career Clusters?

- **Career Clusters** are a framework that serves as an organizing tool for career and technical education (CTE) programs, curriculum design and instruction.
- There are **16 Career Clusters** that represent virtually every career opportunity that falls within today's public and private workforce sectors. This arrangement is used by learners to navigate their way to greater success in college and career.

## What are Career Pathways?

- A **Career Pathway** is a roadmap leading to a chosen career and includes:
  - Occupations within the pathway;
  - General and technical courses for both secondary and postsecondary;
  - Dual and articulated credit opportunities;
  - Related industry certificates, apprenticeships, associates and bachelor's degrees; and
  - Entry and exit points for semi-, mid- and high-level skilled careers to support life-long learning.

## Why do we need Career Clusters and Career Pathways?

- Career development has evolved from the **vocational education** framework of the past to today's **career/technical education** framework.

Vocational (Then)	Career/Technical (Now)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For a few students</li><li>• For a few "jobs"</li><li>• 6-7 program areas</li><li>• In lieu of academics</li><li>• Less rigorous</li><li>• High school focused</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For ALL students</li><li>• For ALL "careers"</li><li>• 16 clusters representing more than 80 pathways</li><li>• Aligns with and supports academics</li><li>• Requires highly specialized knowledge/skills set by industry</li><li>• High school, postsecondary and industry partnerships</li></ul>

## How are Career Clusters used?

- Career Clusters allow students to explore a wide variety of careers related to their skills and interests. Each cluster includes a broad range of specialization, from entry-level through post-doctoral studies.

## How are Career Pathways used?

- Career Pathways support the development of a students' Individual Learning Plan by listing both general and technical courses and opportunities for earning dual/articulated credit, apprenticeships and industry certificates in high school. Educational degrees and industry credentials are often stackable, and individuals often move between the world of work and education to fulfill individual goals. Career Pathways provide a tool to navigate these options based on the individual needs of students and show the multiple entry and exit points into the postsecondary and working worlds.



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## Advance CTE Career Clusters and Career Pathways

### Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources

- Agribusiness Systems
- Animal Systems
- Environmental Service Systems
- Food Products & Processing Systems
- Natural Resources Systems
- Plant Systems
- Power, Structural & Technical Systems

### Architecture & Construction

- Construction
- Design/Pre-Construction
- Maintenance/Operations

### Arts, A/V Technology & Communications

- A/V Technology & Film
- Journalism & Broadcasting
- Performing Arts
- Printing Technology
- Telecommunications
- Visual Arts

### Business Management & Administration

- Administrative Support
- Business Information Management
- General Management
- Human Resources Management
- Operations Management

### Education & Training

- Administration & Administrative Support
- Professional Support Services
- Teaching/Training

### Finance

- Accounting
- Banking Services
- Business Finance
- Insurance
- Securities & Investments

### Government & Public Administration

- Foreign Service
- Governance
- National Security
- Planning
- Public Management & Administration
- Regulation
- Revenue & Taxation

### Health Sciences

- Biotechnology Research & Development
- Diagnostic Services
- Health Informatics
- Support Services
- Therapeutic Services

### Hospitality & Tourism

- Lodging
- Recreation, Amusements & Attractions
- Restaurants & Food/Beverage Services
- Travel & Tourism

### Human Services

- Consumer Services
- Counseling & Mental Health Services
- Early Childhood Development & Services
- Family & Community Services
- Personal Care Services

### Information Technology

- Information Support & Services
- Network Systems
- Programming & Software Development
- Web & Digital Communications

### Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security

- Correction Services
- Emergency & Fire Management Services
- Law Enforcement Services
- Legal Services
- Security & Protective Services
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### Manufacturing

- Health, Safety & Environmental Assurance
- Logistics & Inventory Control
- Maintenance, Installation & Repair
- Manufacturing Production Process Dev.
- Production
- Quality Assurance

### Marketing

- Marketing Communications
- Marketing Management
- Marketing Research
- Merchandising
- Professional Sales

### Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

- Engineering & Technology
- Science & Mathematics

### Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

- Facility & Mobile Equipment Maintenance
- Health, Safety & Environmental Management
- Logistics Planning & Management Services
- Sales & Service
- Transportation Operations
- Transportation Systems/Infrastructure
- Planning, Management & Regulation
- Warehousing & Distribution Center
- Operations