

An Introduction to Career Clusters

The U.S. Department of Education Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) has identified 16 career clusters representing career opportunities for the 21st century economy. A Career Cluster is a grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities.

Career Clusters prepare learners of all ages for the information age as schools, colleges and employers are striving for higher achievement in science, math and communication. One key to improving learner achievement is providing learners with relevant contexts for studying and learning. Career Clusters offer a context by linking school-based learning with the knowledge and skills required for continued success.

Career Clusters identify the knowledge and skills learners need as they follow a pathway toward their career goals. The knowledge and skills identified form a strong basis for learner success in high school, college, technical training, apprenticeship programs and the workplace.

Students can use career clusters to investigate a wide range of career choices. The career cluster approach makes it easier for students to understand the relevance of their required courses and helps them select their elective courses more wisely. For more information on the career cluster and areas of concentration, visit our website, www.PathwayBuilder.com

The 16 Career Clusters

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| 1. Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources | 9. Hospitality & Tourism |
| 2. Architecture and Construction | 10. Human Services |
| 3. Arts, Technology & Communications | 11. Information Technology |
| 4. Business, Management & Administration | 12. Law, Public Safety and Security |
| 5. Education and Training | 13. Manufacturing |
| 6. Finance | 14. Marketing Sales & Services |
| 7. Government and Public Administration | 15. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics |
| 8. Health Science | 16. Transportation Distribution & Logistics Services |