



## Career Pathways and Goals

*For students who want to continue their education*

### Career Pathways

- There are 16 **career clusters**.
- The smaller groups of jobs in each career cluster are called **career pathways**.
- Jobs in the same career pathway use some of the same skills, knowledge, and interests.
- Learning about career pathways can help you learn about any classes you will need for a job.



### Career Interest Assessments

- **Career interest assessments** are tests you can take to help you find a job.
- Career interest assessments look at the activities you enjoy, your strengths, and the school subjects you like to find jobs that could be a good fit for you.



## Job Requirements

- It is important to research **job requirements** for a job you are interested in.
- Job requirements are the education, training, and skills you need to be able to do a job.
- Some skills you will need for a job include soft skills and technical skills.
- **Soft skills** are communicating, being flexible, working with coworkers, and being motivated.
- **Technical skills** are skills you must be able to perform to do the job, like using a machine or having a certificate.



## Goals

- It is great to set **goals** to help you plan your activities and education.
- You can get help from other people with creating your goals.
- They can help you create steps that will move you closer to your goals.
- One step to help you meet a goal might be to look at job requirements you are interested in to learn about job requirements.

### Set Goals



## More Choices to Keep in Mind

- Your career pathways and goals can help you pick where you want to continue your education.
- When you look at your options you also need to think about transportation, housing, finances, advocacy, and independence.

## Transportation

- How will you get to class? Will you walk, drive, or take the bus?
- Are classes in-person, online, or both?



## Housing

- Will you live on campus or off campus?
- Will you live by yourself, with family, or with a roommate?



## Finances and Budget

- How much does it cost to go to your school?
- Will you have help paying for your school?
- Will you need to get a job to help pay for college?



## Advocacy and Independence

---

- Do you need accommodations?
- Does your school offer the supports that you need?
- What paperwork do you need to disclose your disability?
- When should you disclose your disability?

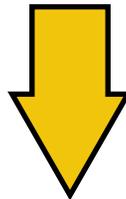


## Wrap Up

---

- There are 16 different **career clusters**.
- In each career cluster, there are **career pathways**.
- Jobs in the same career pathway use some of the same skills, knowledge, and interests.
- It is important to know what the job requirements are before you choose a postsecondary education program.
- Setting **goals** can help you plan for your future career.
- You also want to think about **transportation, housing, finances, budgeting, advocacy, and independence** skills.

KEEP READING FOR MORE DETAILS





## What is a Career Pathway?

---

- Career pathways are smaller groups of occupations within one of the 16 career clusters. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests.
- To learn about the specific career clusters click here: <https://www.tn.gov/education/career-and-technical-education/career-clusters.html>

Example: The “Hospitality and Tourism” career cluster includes the following career pathways:

- o **Lodging:** Hotel Desk Clerk, Laundry Attendant, Housekeeping Supervisor
  - o **Recreation, Amusements and Attractions:** Lifeguard, Customer Service, Usher
  - o **Restaurants and Food and Beverage Services:** Waiter, Cafeteria Manager, Chef
  - o **Travel and Tourism:** Tour Guide, Flight Attendant, Event Planner
- Career pathways show learners of all ages which courses will give them the specific knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to pursue their career choice
  - Career Interests Assessments match you with potential jobs based on the activities you enjoy, your personal qualities, and school subjects you like. There are 16 clusters that most jobs can be sorted into. For additional information on the individual career clusters, visit: <https://www.tn.gov/education/career-and-technical-education/career-clusters.html>

## Connecting Careers to Postsecondary Education

---

Once you know what career aligns with your interests and skills, it is important to research the job requirements.

Some careers have certain education requirements such as obtaining a bachelor’s degree, technical certificate, or on the job training.

Example:

- **Career Cluster:** Health Science



- **Career interest:** Veterinary Technician
- **Job requirements:** Associate Degree and passing of the Veterinary Technician National Exam
- **Postsecondary education program:** Community College that provides an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S) that prepares student with internship experiences and helps them in passing the Veterinary Technician National Exam

Example:

- **Career Cluster:** Arts, A/V Technology, and Communication
- **Career interest:** Journalist
- **Job requirements:** Bachelor's degree in a related field and related work experience
- **Postsecondary education program:** 4-year university that provides a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) with a major in Journalism

Setting a goal is a great place to start with preparing for a future career. Goals give you something to plan your activities and education around.

Setting education goals doesn't have to be complicated. Your goals can be as complex or as simple as you want. Remember, you can work with a Pre-ETS provider, teacher, or family member to develop your goals.

Identify steps that will move you closer to your goal.

Some activities you might include are:

- Learn about training requirements for a job of interest through reviewing job descriptions in job postings for desired careers
- Conduct informational interviews with practicing professionals in careers of interest to explore more about general requirements to obtain that job.



## Connecting Job Skills to Postsecondary Education

---

When exploring careers, you will need to examine what technical skills and soft skills are required for the different jobs you are interested in.

College and Training programs can help you to improve your soft skills and teach you technical skills that will expand your job opportunities.

- Soft skills include communication skills, your flexibility with job tasks, how you treat co-workers, your ability to work as a team, and your motivation
- Technical skills are skills you have to be able to do in order to meet the job requirements such as understanding how to use specific computer programs, operating machinery, or project management

## Other Factors to Consider

---

### Transportation

- How will you get to classes?
- Are classes in-person or online?

### Housing

- Will you live on campus or off campus?
- Will you live by yourself or with a roommate?

### Finances and Budget

- How much does it cost to go to each program?
- Will you receive financial aid or are their options for work study jobs?

### Finances and Budget

- Do you have a disability that would require you to receive accommodations and support to access your classes?
- Does the college or training program offer services and supports that you would need?