



Helping Students Use Career Clusters to Examine PSE Options

Examining career clusters gives students an opportunity to explore many different careers that are similar in practice. Each career cluster has different careers with different educational requirements for entry. Showing students the link between careers and educational requirements will ensure that they choose a postsecondary education option that supports their career goals.

Understanding Career Clusters

Careers are divided into six career fields:

- Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
- Arts, Communication, and Information Systems
- Engineering, Manufacturing, and Technology
- Health Science Technology
- Human Services
- Business, Management, and Administration

Within the six career fields are sixteen career clusters:

- Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Architecture and Construction
- Arts, A/V Technology, and Communications
- Business Management and Administration
- Education and Training
- Finance
- Government and Public Administration
- Health Science
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security



- Marketing, Distribution, and Logistics
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
- Transportation

Students can begin their career exploration by taking an interest inventory. Based upon these results, students will be able to identify careers of interest to them so they can begin researching the different career clusters. There are many great free interest inventories available for students:

- Career Onestop's Interest Assessment: <https://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/careers/interest-assessment.aspx>
- O*Net OnLine's My Next Move Interest Profiler: <https://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip>
- Education Planner's Career Cluster Activity: <http://www.educationplanner.org/students/career-planning/find-careers/career-clusters.shtml>

Next, the students can begin to research the different careers. Encourage students to identify various career options within their career clusters of interest. Here are some great tools for students to use when exploring different career clusters:

- Career Onestop's Career Videos: <https://www.careeronestop.org/Videos/CareerVideos/career-videos.aspx>
- Career Onestop's Career Cluster Industry Videos: <https://www.careeronestop.org/Videos/IndustryVideos/industry-videos.aspx>
- O*Net OnLine's Browse by Career Clusters search: <https://www.onetonline.org/find/career>

As students begin to narrow down careers they are interested in, guide them in exploring their postsecondary education options. A few activities to consider are:

- Discuss the educational and training required for career options
- Research what colleges, universities, or vocational training programs offer degrees or certifications needed for career options
- Compare their options and ensure they have the information needed to make an informed decision about a postsecondary education option that will help them achieve their career goals

Students can complete the Transition Tennessee's student lesson titled [Career Pathways and Goals](#) to understand more about how the career they pick can help them determine their PSE options. This lesson can be found at:

<https://transitiontn.org/student/school/exploring/career-pathways-and-goals/>