

Activity 3: My Career Clusters

Target Audience: Grades 7-12

Objective: Students will:

- Complete an interest assessment to determine their top career cluster.
- Explore related career options.

ASCA Standard	National Career Development Goal	National Career Development Guidelines
Career Development Standard A: Students will acquire the skills to investigate the world of work in relation to knowledge of self and to make informed career decisions.	Career Management Goal 3: Use accurate, current, and unbiased career information during career planning and management.	CM3.K4: Identify several ways to classify occupations. CM3.A4: Give examples of how occupational classification systems can be used in career planning. CM3.R4: Assess which occupational classification system is most helpful to your career planning.

Resources and Materials:

- Career Outlook, Career Clusters Interest Survey, pages 10-11
- Career Outlook, Career Outlook Occupational Section, pages 12-51

Leading Questions and/or Comments:

This is an informal approach to the Career Clusters. Though much time has been invested in assuring that this survey is a reliable checklist, it should be used as an introduction and not as a valid, reliable assessment tool. Ask/state the following:

- With so many careers and occupations available today, how do you determine where to start your search?
- Career Clusters are groupings of occupations used as an organizing tool for curriculum design.

Activities:

Instruct students to do the following:

- Complete the Career Cluster Interest Survey, pages 10-11 of the Career Outlook.
- Draw their attention to the instructions at the top of each column
 - In the first column, check the activities that describe what you like to do
 - In the second column, check the personal qualities that describe you
 - In the 3rd column, check the school subjects you like
- Complete all sixteen boxes and add them up, putting your total in the last column. The top three highest totals will tell you your top 3 clusters. The highest total will be your #1 cluster, the second highest #2 and the third highest #3. Write the totals in the spaces provided in the career cluster chart at the bottom of the page. Circle or highlight your top choice(s).
- Your top clusters will give you a grouping of occupations that are closely related to your personal preferences and interests.
- If your scores are even or close, explore both clusters to see if one seems like a better fit than the other.
- Find out more about your clusters on pages 12-51 of the Career Outlook. Read the descriptions at the top of the pages and look over the occupations listed in your top 3 clusters.

Making Connections for Students:

Say to the students:

- Now that you have determined your top 3 clusters, especially your top cluster, it becomes much easier to look and search for occupations that are the most closely related to your personal preferences and interests.

Optional Activities:

Explore more careers at www.RUReady.ND.gov and www.careertech.org/career-clusters.