

Activity 3: My Career Clusters

Target Audience: Grades 7-12

Objective: Students will:

- Complete an interest assessment to determine their top career cluster.
- Understand what a Career Cluster is and how to use their top cluster(s) to find careers of interest.

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 6-7
- **Career Outlook**, Career Outlook Occupational Section, pages 28-46
- Activity 3 Student Worksheets
 - Career Cluster Interest Survey pages 1 and 2
 - Career Cluster Match pages 3 and 4
 - Career Cluster Match Answer Sheet (attached to this activity)
- Resources: Advance CTE - www.careertech.org/career-clusters and www.RUReady.ND.gov.

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 6-7 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 third 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 28-46 of the *Career Outlook*. Read the descriptions at the top of the pages and look over the occupations listed in your top 3 clusters.
- Use the Career Cluster activity page to connect the grouping of occupations in the left-hand column with those career clusters in the right-hand list where you believe the occupation could reasonably be employed. (Occupations may be linked with more than one cluster.)

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.

Activity 3: Career Cluster Match – ANSWER SHEET

Occupations	Cluster #
Photographer Animator Art Director Broadcast Technician Desktop Publisher	3
Emergency Management Director Funeral Attendant Barber Nanny	10
Fish and Game Officer Veterinarian Biochemist Conservation Scientist	1
Power Plant Operator Jeweler Industrial Machinery Mechanic Fuels Processing Technician	13
Zoologist Microbiologist Statistician Industrial Engineer Astronomer	15
Surveyor Civil Engineer Architect Security System Installer	2
Instructional Coordinator Elementary Teacher Librarian Fitness Trainer Counselor	5
Aerospace Engineering Technician Automotive Body Repairer Logistics Manager Crane Operator	16
Eligibility Interviewer Legislator Special Forces Tax Examiner	7
Legal Secretary File Clerk Court Reporter Medical Secretary Market Research Analyst	4
Data Warehousing Specialist Computer Systems Analyst Web Developer Network Administrator	11
Travel Agent Pastry Chef Barista Tour Guide Food Service Manager	9
Radiologist Dentist Hearing Aid Specialist Nurse Assistant Athletic Trainer	8
Bank Teller Insurance Adjustor Financial Analyst Title Examiner	6
Cashier Sales Representative Marketing Manager Real Estate Broker	14
Lawyer Security Guard Transportation Security Screener Firefighter Social Worker	12

Career Cluster
1. Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources The production, processing, marketing, distribution, financing, and development of agricultural commodities and resources including food, fiber, wood products, natural resources, horticulture, and other plant and animal products/resources.
2. Architecture & Construction Careers in designing, planning, managing, building and maintaining the built environment.
3. Arts, A/V Technology & Communications Designing, producing, exhibiting, performing, writing, and publishing multimedia content including visual and performing arts and design, journalism, and entertainment services.
4. Business Management & Administration Careers in planning, organizing, directing and evaluating business functions essential to efficient and productive business operations.
5. Education & Training Planning, managing and providing education and training services, and related learning support services.
6. Finance Planning, services for financial and investment planning, banking, insurance, and business financial management
7. Government & Public Administration Planning and performing government functions at the local, state and federal levels, including governance, national security, foreign service, planning, revenue and taxation, and regulations.
8. Health Science Planning, managing, and providing therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development.
9. Hospitality & Tourism The management, marketing and operations of restaurants and other food services, lodging, attractions, recreation events and travel related services.
10. Human Services Preparing individuals for employment in career pathways that relate to families and human needs such as counseling and mental health services, family and community services, personal care, and consumer services.
11. Information Technology Building linkages in IT occupations for entry level, technical and professional careers related to the design, development, support and management of hardware, software, multimedia and systems integration services.
12. Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security Planning, managing, and providing legal, public safety, protective services and homeland security, including professional and technical support services.
13. Manufacturing Planning, managing and performing the processing of materials into intermediate or final products and related professional and technical support activities such as production planning and control, maintenance and manufacturing/process engineering.
14. Marketing Planning, managing and performing marketing activities to reach organizational objectives.
15. Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Planning, managing and providing scientific research and professional and technical services (e.g., physical science, social science, engineering) including laboratory and testing services, and research and development services.
16. Transportation, Distribution & Logistics Planning, management, and movement of people, materials, and goods by road, pipeline, air, rail and water and related professional support services such as transportation infrastructure planning and management, logistics services, mobile equipment and facility maintenance.