

## Activity 4: Career Cluster and ND Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program Area Match

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**Target Audience:** Grades 6-11

**Objective:** Students will:

- Explore CTE Program Areas related to top Career Clusters.
- Identify CTE Program Area(s) that correspond to top Career Cluster(s).
- Understand what a Career Pathway is and what occupations are related to the pathway.
- Identify occupations of interest related to Career Pathways.
- Explore course options that help prepare them for their occupations of interest.

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

**Resources and Materials:**

- **Career Outlook**, Career Clusters Interest Survey, pages 6-7, or Career Outlook User’s Guide (COUG) Activity 3 completed - Career Clusters Interest Survey.
- **Career Outlook**, CTE Program Area Section, pages 10-27
- Activity 4 worksheet-Career Cluster and ND CTE Program Area Match
- Resources: Advance CTE - [www.careertech.org/career-clusters](http://www.careertech.org/career-clusters) and [www.RUReady.ND.gov](http://www.RUReady.ND.gov) .

**Leading Questions and/or Comments:**

Career Clusters are groupings of occupations used as an organizing tool for curriculum design. Talk about the following:

- Today you will learn more about Career Clusters and which ND CTE Program Area offers courses that prepare you for the occupations that match your interests. Career and Technical Education (CTE) consists of eight program areas developed to provide students with the knowledge and skills they need to be prepared for college and career. Each program area includes instruction and pathways related to multiple “Career Clusters”.
- You will also find Career Pathways under the Career Clusters that will help you narrow down your search for careers that match your interests. **How is a career pathway different from a career cluster?** Career pathways are groups of careers that are paired together based on tasks and duties performed on the job. Each career cluster has two to nine pathways. It’s another way of grouping careers within a larger group, so you have less work to do!
- Each Career Pathway has unique careers, so knowing your interests will help you choose a pathway that will lead you to occupations that match your interests.
- ND CTE Program Areas offer courses for the occupations that are listed under a Career Pathway. It’s important to know that the list of occupations is only a sample. There may be many more occupations that are part of the Career Pathway. Also, all schools do not offer every course that is listed as an option and are suggestions for electives that may help you prepare for the next step.

**Activities:**

Instruct students to do the following:

- Use the **Career Outlook** pages 10-27 and your Career Clusters Interest Survey results (top Career Clusters) to complete the worksheet.
- Follow the steps listed on page 10 and use the chart on page 11 to find the Program Area(s) that aligns with your top Career Clusters.

**Making Connections for Students:**

Say to the students:

- You identified your top two to three clusters in My Career Clusters-Activity 3. What occupations found in the Career Outlook (pages 28-46) are of the most interest to you within those clusters?

**Optional Activities:**

Explore more careers at [www.RUReady.ND.gov](http://www.RUReady.ND.gov) and [www.careertech.org/career-clusters](http://www.careertech.org/career-clusters).

# Career Cluster and ND Program Area Match Answer Sheet

## Using the Program Area Section

Before making a career decision, it makes more sense to start with interests and matching career clusters first before choosing a career pathway.

- If you haven't already, take the **Career Clusters Interest Survey** on pages 6-7. The results of this assessment can help you identify Career Cluster(s) that match YOU and is a great resource for getting started with career exploration and planning your high school courses. Use your top cluster(s) to plan your high school courses!

My top career cluster(s): \_\_\_\_\_

## Understand "career clusters" and "career pathways"

1. What is a Career Cluster? A grouping of careers that have a lot in common. Knowing your top cluster(s) can help you figure out careers based on your likes and dislikes.

2. How is a career pathway different from a career cluster? Career pathways are groups of careers that are paired together based on tasks and duties performed on the job. Each career cluster has two to nine pathways. It's another way of grouping careers within a larger group, so you have less work to do!

3. What is a CTSO? A career and technical student organization (CTSO) is a co-curricular group for students in Career and Technical Education pathways to further their knowledge and skills by participating in activities, events, and state and national competitions.

\*CTSOs put students in contact with others who share their career interests and develop citizenship, technical, leadership, and teamwork skills essential for students who are preparing for the workforce and further education. The experience is fun and can lead to lifetime relationships with future professional colleagues.

Using the chart of page 11 of the **Career Outlook**, find a program area that includes your top cluster. You may have more than one cluster that interests you, so doing research on more than one will increase your chances of finding the perfect career!

1. Program area(s) that match my top career cluster(s): \_\_\_\_\_

2. What CTSO(s) align with your top career cluster(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

Using pages 12-27 in the **Career Outlook**, find the program area that matches your career cluster(s). Look at the Career Cluster(s) and Pathways listed under the program area that interests you. Each pathway has several unique careers, so knowing your interests will help you choose a pathway.

1. Choose a ND CTE Program Area that includes your top career cluster(s): \_\_\_\_\_

2. Choose a career cluster under this program area: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Which career pathway interests you under this cluster? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Choose an occupation that interests you from the list of occupations listed under that career pathway: \_\_\_\_\_

5. What are some classes that you could consider under this career pathway? \_\_\_\_\_