

# Career Clusters

## What is a Career Cluster?

In today's world, you have to plan for your career early. That means as early as middle school and high school, you should be thinking about what you'd like to do as an adult.

Career Clusters are all about giving you the information you need to decide about your career. A "cluster" describes a group of careers that have specific knowledge (things you know) and skills (things you do) in common. Clusters are groups of occupations and industries that have things in common:

- Common courses you need to take to be prepared for career success
- How well you have to communicate in writing or verbally
- What skills you need to "solve problems" or "figure things out"
- The different ways you'll use computers and technology on the job
- What types of leadership or teamwork abilities are necessary on the job
- Health, safety, and legal responsibilities of different jobs
- Technical skills for "hands on" jobs

Take a look at the list of the 16 Career Clusters on this page.  As you explore each cluster, ask yourself these questions:

- Does the general area interest me?
- Do I think careers in this area would fit my personality and what I value in life?
- Do I want to learn more about how to succeed in this career?

Once you have a general idea of what careers appeal to you, the next step is to find out how to get there. Each cluster contains several career pathways. "Pathways" give you a direction by linking your career interests to a specific educational program. As you move from high school to college, career clusters and pathways can be your guide to make the right choices about your education.

Check out the ICC programs on the reverse side to get your roadmap and start your journey to a great career.

**Contact the ICC Career Center for access to career planning tools and more information about occupations. (309) 694-5153**



1 College Drive  
East Peoria, Illinois 61635

Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources	
Architecture & Construction	
Arts, Audio/Visual Technology & Communications	
Business Management & Administration	
Education & Training	
Finance	
Government & Public Administration	
Health Science	
Hospitality & Tourism	
Human Services	
Information Technology	
Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security	
Manufacturing	
Marketing	
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics	
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics	

**For More Information About Career Clusters**  
[www.careerclusters.org](http://www.careerclusters.org)  
For information on each of the clusters, click on the "16 Career Clusters" tab.  
For information on plans of study, Career Cluster brochures, or interest guides, click on the "Resources" tab.

**For More Information on Jobs**  
Take a look at the online *Occupational Handbook* at:  
[www.bls.gov/oco/](http://www.bls.gov/oco/)

For current information on Illinois jobs and the occupational outlook, go to:  
[www.bls.gov/OES/current/oes\\_il.htm](http://www.bls.gov/OES/current/oes_il.htm)

## Architecture & Construction

If you like designing, building and maintaining structures, the Architecture and Construction Cluster offers you a variety of options. The building industry is one of the largest industries in the country. You'll find plenty of occupations in this cluster, from surveying the land to designing the structure to on site construction to building support and maintenance. So whether you like to use your imagination to envision a new building or get down to hammering out the details, this cluster offers a variety of ways to build your future.

### Sample Occupations in the Pathways

#### Design/ Pre-Construction

Architect  
Mechanical Drafter  
Civil Engineer and Technician  
Surveyor

#### Construction

Carpenter  
Cost Estimator  
Iron or Steel Worker  
Pipe Fitter, Plumber, Steamfitter  
Maintenance  
Construction Laborer or Inspector  
Refrigerator Mechanic and Installer  
Solar Energy Installation  
Power Line Installer and Maintenance Worker

#### Maintenance/ Operations

Highway Maintenance Worker  
Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration Mechanic and Installer

### Illinois Central College Programs

#### Transfer Programs

*(Associate in Arts and Science Degree which is the first two years of coursework for a bachelor degree)*

- Architecture

#### Career Programs

*(Associate in Applied Science Degree in preparation for employment; usually two years of study)*

- Architectural Construction Technology
- Green Building Environment
- HVAC/R Technology

#### Certificate Programs

*(less than two years of study in preparation for employment)*

- Architectural Drafting
- Commercial Refrigeration Technician
- Computer-Aided Mechanical Drafting
- Green Building Environment
- HVAC Technician

For more information about ICC programs, visit  
[www.icc.edu/catalog](http://www.icc.edu/catalog)



Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources



Architecture & Construction



Arts, Audio/Visual Technology & Communications



Business Management & Administration



Education & Training



Finance



Government & Public Administration



Health Science



Hospitality & Tourism



Human Services



Information Technology



Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security



Manufacturing



Marketing



Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics



Transportation, Distribution & Logistics



For more information about jobs in this cluster, visit <http://online.onetcenter.org/>

Select the "Find Occupations" column and choose "Career Cluster" from the drop-down menu.

On the Career Cluster page, choose the cluster you are interested in from the drop-down menu to view occupational information.