

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
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/

For current information on Illinois jobs and the occupational outlook, go to:
www.bls.gov/OES/current/oes_il.htm

Manufacturing

Every day, everywhere people use manufactured products. But manufacturing is more than just putting the pieces together. In this cluster, you'll find jobs where you actually **do** work on a manufacturing line, assembling materials into a finished product, but you'll also find jobs where you design how something is built, make sure things keep running properly, assure high quality, figure out how to ship products, and make sure all these things happen in a safe environment. The bottom line is there are plenty of opportunities for you to manufacture a career in this cluster!

Sample Occupations in the Pathways

Production

Chemical Plant Operator
Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operator
Machinist
Sheet Metal Worker
Tool and Die Maker
Welder

Manufacturing Production Process Development

Manufacturing Production Technician
Industrial Production Manager
Materials Engineer
Mechanical Engineering Technician

Maintenance, Installation, and Repair

Industrial Machinery Mechanic
Medical Equipment Repairer
Telecommunications Equipment Installer

Quality Assurance

Process Control Technician
Quality Control Technician
Quality Engineer

Logistics & Inventory Control

Communications, Transportation or Utilities Manager
Traffic Manager
Traffic, Shipping, or Receiving Clerk

Health, Safety and Environmental Assurance

Environmental Specialist
Safety Coordinator
Safety Technician

Illinois Central College Programs

Career Programs

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

- Caterpillar Dealer Service Technology
- Electronics Technology
- Industrial Electrical Technology
- Machine Tool Technology
- Maintenance Mechanic Technology
- Manufacturing Engineering Technology
- Mechanical Engineering Technology
- Welding Technology

Certificate Programs

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

- Caterpillar Engine Technology
- CNC Machine Operator
- Machinist
- Mechanical/Electrical Maintenance
- Welding Operator
- Welding Specialist

For more information about ICC programs, visit
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.