

Career Pathways

Read over the descriptions of the *Connecticut Career Clusters* attached and answer the questions below.

1. I would be most interested in a career in this career cluster: _____.
- a. I like this cluster most because:

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- b. Two jobs that people working in this cluster might have are:

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- c. What kind of education would be required for these jobs?

2. Another Career Cluster I considered was: _____.

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- a. Two jobs that people working in this cluster might have are:

Read over the sheet that lists 21st Century skills. Employers expect workers in the future to have these skills. Explain how these skills would be essential to people working in the jobs you listed above:

CAREER AWARENESS

CONNECTICUT'S CAREER CLUSTERS

Career clusters are occupations/career specialties that share a common foundation of knowledge and skills for career success. As a subgroup of career clusters, career pathways continually evolve and reflect occupational areas to meet the dynamics of the national and state economic landscape.

- Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
- Architecture and Construction
- Arts, Audiovisual Technology and Communications
- Business, Management and Administration
- Education and Training
- Finance
- Government and Public Administration
- Health Sciences
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security
- Manufacturing
- Marketing, Sales and Service
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
- Transportation, Distribution and Logistics



Arts and Media

This career cluster includes jobs performing in theater, dance and music, and behind-the-scenes jobs such as set design, set lighting and camera work. It includes the visual arts, such as painting and sculpture, and the management of theaters, museums, art galleries and concert spaces, both classical and popular. Also in this cluster are jobs in radio, television, films, newspapers and magazines (for example, announcing, acting, filming, producing, writing, editing and reporting). Advertising is part of this cluster, as are jobs in commercial art, design and photography.

Examples of job possibilities

Musician, Actor, Camera Operator, Writer, Graphic Designer, Multimedia Developer

Business and Finance

There are still many jobs in “offices” in Connecticut, despite the fact that banks and insurance companies are restructuring the way they use their work forces. There are jobs for graduates with accounting backgrounds, for employees who can manage both people and money, and for others who can make business decisions on developing and selling products and services. All offices depend upon well-trained administrative support staff people, who need to know how to use computers, fax machines and other business and office equipment.

Examples of job possibilities

Administrative Assistant, Tax Technician, Computer Technician, Systems Analyst, Executive, Sales Manager, Financial Manager, Securities Broker, Underwriter

Construction: Technologies and Design

The design and construction of homes, buildings, bridges and roads is a major category of jobs in the Connecticut economy. Some knowledge of the whole industry is a cornerstone for people who are interested in a range of different jobs — buying and developing land, designing or building projects, and so on.

Examples of job possibilities

Auto Mechanic, Facility Manager, Industrial Designer, Risk and Hazard Evaluator

Environmental, Natural Resources and Agriculture

This cluster includes jobs in which workers improve the indoor and outdoor environment, reduce waste and byproducts, manage forests and land, produce food from the land and sea, and nurture animals. Workers with the skills to monitor air, water and land quality and control environmental risks are in demand.

Examples of job possibilities

Hazmat Cleanup and Response Technician, Instrumental/Optical Lab Analyst, Food Scientist and Nutritionist, Pollution Control Engineer, Recycling and Recovery Specialist

Government, Education and Human Services

This cluster includes teachers at any level, educational administrators, political officeholders, government service workers, social workers, psychologists, librarians, public safety workers (police and fire) and legal professionals.

Examples of job possibilities

Child Services Worker, Parent Educator, Disability Specialist, Firefighter, Employment and Training Counselor, Urban/Regional Planner, Parole and Probation Officer

Health and Biosciences

The Health and Biosciences cluster embraces careers in a wide range of health-care settings, such as hospitals, medical laboratories, and medical and dental practices. It also includes industries involved in researching and manufacturing drugs and other medical products, including those in the fast-changing biotechnology/biomedical field.

Examples of job possibilities

Physical Therapy Assistant, Biomedical Equipment Technician, Home Health Care Worker, Laboratory Technician/Technologist, Pharmacist, Speech Pathologist

Retail, Tourism, Recreation and Entrepreneurship

Many young people get their first jobs in retail stores, restaurants, hotels and motels, tourist attractions and recreational facilities — often earning minimum wage. The opportunity to earn better salaries with benefits, and to build a career, usually requires getting into management and operations positions. Some retail companies have management training programs that will accept high school graduates, but college programs in marketing and business are a more expedient route. Many “fast food” companies have management training programs, while rising to become a chef in one of the state’s many restaurants usually requires being trained in a culinary institute.

Examples of job possibilities

Customer Service Representative, Travel Agent, Chef, Small Business Owner, Restaurant and Food Service Manager, Casino Manager, Cyberspace Specialist

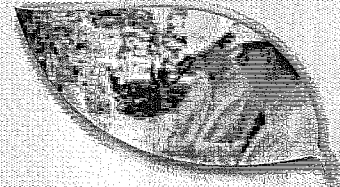
Technologies: Manufacturing, Communications and Repair

This cluster represents a broad range of industries that need employees with a technical background. Included are technical jobs in manufacturing, the electric utilities, and the telephone and cable companies. This cluster also includes jobs in companies that repair automobiles, airplanes, computers and other technical products, as well as companies that develop computer software.

Examples of job possibilities

Machinist, Tool and Die Maker, CAD Technician, Research and Design Engineer

Planting the seeds . . .



“Students will acquire the skills to investigate the world of work in relation to knowledge of self and to make informed career decisions.”

(A Guide to Comprehensive School Counseling Program Development. Connecticut State Department of Education, 2008)

WEB SITE LINKS

www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=320802

www.careerclusters.org

www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi

www.acrnetwork.org/careerdevelopment.htm

www.ctdol.state.ct.us

www.ctdol.state.ct.us/ccrn/ccrn.htm

www.bls.gov/oco

CAREER INTEGRATION

Harvesting

21st CENTURY SKILLS

Twenty-first century skills are the powerful means by which students make effective use of their content knowledge.

These skills empower students to find, manipulate and use content to learn, solve problems, create and think for a lifetime.

- Global awareness
- Financial, economic, business and entrepreneurial
- Civic literacy
- Health and wellness awareness
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Communication
- Creativity and innovation
- Collaboration
- Contextual learning
- Information and media literacy
- Leadership
- Ethics
- Accountability
- Adaptability
- Personal productivity
- Personal responsibility
- Interpersonal
- Self-direction
- Social responsibility
- Information literacy



