

Career Cluster Graphic Summary

The six Career Fields are the broadest section of how careers are organized. The Career Fields are subdivided into the 16 Career Clusters and 81 Pathways.

Career Fields

Looking at the circular graphic on page 12-13 the six Career Fields are shown in the inner ring surrounding the Foundational Knowledge and Skills in the center. (See page 2 for more about knowledge and skills.) Exploring the six Career Fields is helpful to start exploring career options. Students normally explore Career Fields in middle school and early high school, and then narrow their research to one or two Career Clusters within a Career Field.

Career Clusters

On page 12-13, the names of the 16 Career Clusters are in bold with a square bullet (■). Clusters are groupings of occupations and industries based on common knowledge and skills. A student or job seeker can research the transferable skills and industry trends affecting a whole Cluster, or narrow their research to a Pathway or specific occupation.

Career Pathways

Career Pathways are identified by the symbol (●) under each Cluster heading on the circular graphic. Pathways are a more specific group of occupations within a Career Cluster. Employers have said that each of these Pathways has a specific skill set. Many of these Pathways match Programs of Study offered at Minnesota technical and community colleges.

Programs of Study

A Program of Study is a curriculum that helps learners prepare for a Career Pathway. Programs of Study include seamless sequential curricula based on academic and industry skill standards. Students can begin a Program of Study in high school by learning core skills needed in any career. They progress into more technical classes, and then move on to college to continue to learn the knowledge, skills and abilities needed for a specific Career Pathway.

