Career Fields, Clusters & Pathways Chart Explanation

**Foundation Knowledge and Skills**

Foundation Knowledge and Skills, located in the centermost circle of the Career Fields, Clusters & Pathways chart, represent the base from which to build work and college readiness.

See Reverse Side

**Career Fields**

Career Fields, which are identified in the segmented ring around Foundation Knowledge and Skills, are the organizing structure for the 16 career clusters and 81 pathways. The fields represent the broadest aggregation of careers. Students are normally exposed to career field exploration in middle school and early high school. Career fields have been identified as:

- Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources
- Arts, Communications, & Information Systems
- Engineering, Manufacturing, & Technology
- Health Science Technology
- Human Services
- Business, Management, & Administration

**Career Clusters**

Career Clusters, which are identified in the bold, colored bullets (n), represent a grouping of occupations and broad industries into a national classification of 16 clusters that are based upon common knowledge and skills. Career clusters include hundreds of occupations that may be grouped into pathways around which educational programs of study can be built.

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

**Career Pathways**

Career Pathways, which are identified by the symbol (> ) under each cluster heading, represent an organization of related occupational areas within a specific career cluster. Each of these pathways has identified knowledge and skills validated by industry from which programs and programs of study are developed.

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**Programs of Study**

The Career Fields, Clusters & Pathways chart, on the reverse side, graphically depicts the organizing framework of the foundation knowledge and skills, career fields, career clusters, and career pathways that will use for developing programs of study in career and technical education. Once developed, learners at various levels (high school, collegiate, or workforce training level) will then be able to choose from several individual programs within a program of study in order to attain the specific knowledge, skills and abilities needed to pursue a career of their choice.

Programs of study are sets of aligned programs and curricula that begin at the high school level and continue through college and university certificate, diploma and degree programs. The following are some of the key elements that underlie the definition:

- Competency based curricula tied to industry expectations and skill standards;
- Sequential course offerings that provide strategic entry and exit points as needed throughout a lifetime - this leads to manageable “stepping stones” of skill building, high school graduation and postsecondary education completion;
- Flexible course and program formats convenient for learner segments;
- Course portability for seamless progression;
- Multiple entry and exit points to support continuing education, returning adults, and dislocated workers;
- Connections between high school and postsecondary education, skill progression, and career opportunities that align academic credentials with job advancement in high-skill, high-wage or high-demand occupations.

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