

Career Exploration – Career Clusters

All careers are divided into fourteen distinctive areas called career clusters. Each cluster or group has some characteristic or job related elements that each of the careers have in common. Career Clusters provide a way for schools to organize instruction and student experience around 14 broad categories that encompass virtually all occupations from entry through professional levels. It does not mean all the careers in one cluster will appeal to you but there will be “areas” that each of the careers in that cluster will have in common. There are thousands of careers and new careers are developed each day as older ones become out dated. So no one list is complete. And often times the cluster titles are sometimes even changed to encompass new careers. However here is the list of the fourteen basic clusters as they appear today with a short list of careers that you might find that fall under that cluster title.

1. **Agribusiness, Environment and Natural Resources** – (Prepare and support individuals for careers, build awareness, and develop leadership for production and services involving the food, farms, fiber, soil, plants, trees, and animals. Prepare individuals to apply scientific principles and mathematical knowledge and technical skills to research and development of the environment and our natural resources.)

Examples:

Animal Kennel Owner/Trainer

Biochemist

Conservation Officer

Grain Elevator Manager

2. **Business, Office and Finance**– (Prepare individuals to perform managerial, research, and technical support functions of business and prepare individuals to plan and execute the buying, selling, promotion, and distribution of ideas, goods, services and finance.)

Examples:

Department Store Manager

Casino Accountant

Bank Public Relations/Marketing

Analog Circuit Design Engineer

3. **Communications, Information, Media, and Technology** – (Prepare individuals to apply technical knowledge and skills to effectively communicate ideas and information in a variety of media (television, radio, newspaper, internet, etc.) Prepare individuals to apply technical knowledge and skills in the rapidly growing occupational fields of computer networking, programming, digital media, support services and e-commerce/web design.)

Examples:

Audiovisual Technician

Broadcast Meteorologist

Children's Book Author
Newspaper Reporter

4. **Construction and Architecture** – (Prepare individuals to apply technical knowledge and skills in the designing, planning, constructing, inspecting, and maintaining of structures and related properties.)
Examples:
Architect
Land Surveyor
Urban Planner
Stone/Brick Layer
5. **Education** – (Prepare individuals for planning, technical knowledge, teaching methods, human growth and development, for educating both young and old within a wide variety of academic areas.)
Examples:
College Professor
Elementary Teacher
Tutor
Health Educator for Hospital
6. **Fine Arts and Humanities** – (Prepare individuals for creating, performing, and conducting literacy, artistic, entertaining, and sporting activities, or to explore man and his culture through the study of philosophy, religion, literature, or language.)
Examples:
Historic Novelist
Magazine Stylist
Theater Director/Owner
Performer (Music, Dance, etc.)
7. **Health Services and Science** – (Prepare individuals to apply technical knowledge and skills for maintenance of health, prevention of illness, medical research, lab technicians, and personal care of the ill.)
Examples:
Addiction Counselor
Medical Secretary
Nutrition Researcher
Medical Examiner
8. **Hospitality, Recreation and Tourism** – (Prepare individuals for employment in occupations that relate to families and human needs as they relate to recreation and a healthy use of leisure time, hospitality and tourism needs.)
Examples:
Airport Director

Fitness Trainer
Public Park Director
Hotel Manager/Owner

9. **Manufacturing** – (Prepare individuals to apply technical knowledge and skills in the production, maintenance, assembly, or repair of all products.)

Examples:

Assembly Line Worker
Industrial Machinist/Welder
Union Grievance Director
Video/Game Producer

10. **Marketing, Sales and Distribution** – (Prepare individuals to perform managerial, research, and technical support functions of business and prepare individuals to plan and execute the buying, selling, promotion, and distribution of ideas, goods, and services.)

Examples:

Army Field Recruiter
Candy Maker/Baker
Ski Shop Manager/Owner
Department Store Manager/Owner

11. **Personal or Human Service** – (Prepare individuals for employment in occupations that relate to families and human needs. Prepare individuals for the practice of learning and teaching, and related research, administrative and a variety of support and educational services.)

Examples:

Animal Shelter Director/Worker
Piano Teacher
Cosmetologist
Massage Therapist

12. **Transportation** – (Prepare individuals to apply technical knowledge and skills in the maintenance, and/or repair and transportation of products and people.)

Examples:

Aircraft Mechanic/Pilot
Consultant
Truck Driver
Taxi/ Bus Driver

13. **Law, Safety or Public Service** – (Prepare individuals to analyze, manage, and deliver public services such as police, fire and safety, postal services, public utilities and a variety legal services.)

Examples:

Attorney
Truck Driver
Travel Agent
Police Officer

14. **Government** – (Prepare individuals to work a wide variety of jobs that provide human services, government representation, law making, areas of military service, security services, economist, construction inspector, nuclear control and other government agencies.)

Examples:
Postal Worker
State Representative
Social Worker
Mayor

Note: 8th Grade students at NHMS develop a self-assessment folder that includes an interest inventory (IDEAS), a personality profile (Personality Types) and an aptitude test (DAT) – see the counselor for copies of any or all). Students use these three resources to help them develop a personal career plan with one or more careers areas to study. Students then investigate post-secondary educational options available to them in our area. Each student develops a four-year plan for high school that integrates the information they have gathered for their personal career plans.