

Career Interest Survey: Cluster-by-Cluster Edition



EXPLORE YOUR FUTURE WITH CAREER CLUSTERS

Career Clusters are a way to explore the world of work by grouping similar careers and industries together—such as healthcare, digital technology, design, or education. This helps you see how your interests and strengths connect to real opportunities. But in real life, careers do not always fit into neat boxes. Skills you build in one Cluster can transfer to others, and many jobs involve work across multiple fields.

This activity is based on Advance CTE's [National Career Clusters® Framework](#), which is used in schools and Career Technical Education (CTE) programs to help learners like you explore options, build skills, and get ready for what comes next. Whether you plan to go to or continue college, start a job, or explore hands-on training, CTE programs can help you take that first step.

As you go through the survey, think about what you enjoy doing, what you're good at, and what kinds of problems you want to help solve in your community and the world. Your answers will point you toward Career Clusters that are a great place to start learning more about your future.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. There are 14 Career Clusters to explore. Each Career Cluster is represented by a table below.
2. For each Cluster, check the statements that sound like you. You can check as many or as few as you want—there are no wrong answers.
3. When you finish a Cluster, count how many statements you checked and write the total number in the box labeled “Total # Checked in this Career Cluster” on the right side.
4. After you've gone through all the Clusters, look at your top three scores. These are great places to start exploring careers that might be a good fit for you!

Want to go further? Talk to your school counselor or career advisor to find out how your top Career Clusters connect to CTE programs, classes, or career pathways offered at your school or institution.

Career Cluster 1

Things I like to do	Statements that describe me	Problems I want to solve in the world	Total # checked in this Career Cluster <input type="text"/>
Building or fixing things	I pay attention to small details	How do we make things faster and better?	
Using machines or tools	I'm careful and focused	How can we use less waste in workplaces?	
Following step-by-step directions	I enjoy solving technical problems	How can we make the things people need closer to home?	
Creating new inventions or products	I like figuring out how things work	How do we make safer tools and products?	
Making processes work faster and smoother	I'm good at using tools	How can we fix broken machines quickly?	

Career Cluster 2

Things I like to do	Statements that describe me	Problems I want to solve in the world	Total # checked in this Career Cluster <input type="text"/>
Gardening or growing plants	I like working with my hands	How can we grow healthy food for everyone?	
Taking care of animals	I believe both people and nature need what it takes to thrive	How do we take care of the land and living things?	
Learning how water could be used to grow food	I enjoy solving real-world problems	How can we save more clean water?	
Using tools or machines	I'm patient	How do we get food to people who need it?	
Trying new foods and wondering where they come from	I like being outside	How can we limit damaging land when we use it?	

Career Cluster 3

Things I like to do	Statements that describe me	Problems I want to solve in the world	Total # checked in this Career Cluster
Writing stories, poems, or scripts	I like creating and sharing my ideas	How can art tell powerful stories?	
Performing in music, dance, or theater	I like performing or entertaining	How do we use creativity to connect people?	
Creating videos, taking photos, or making animations	I enjoy making things look good	How can technology and art work together?	
Working on costumes, sets, or props	I like sharing my ideas in ways that influence people	How do we share news in a way that is both honest and easy to understand?	
Drawing, painting, or making designs	I like using my imagination	How can creativity help people understand big ideas?	

Career Cluster 4

Things I like to do	Statements that describe me	Problems I want to solve in the world	Total # checked in this Career Cluster
Building or designing outdoor spaces, houses, or other things	I like building things	How do we build safe, strong places to live?	
Helping plan how something should be built	I follow directions carefully	How can we make buildings that use less energy?	
Using tools and machines	I like hands-on work	How can we fix and upgrade old buildings?	
Measuring and cutting materials	I enjoy solving problems step by step	How do we build things that last a long time?	
Solving problems about how something should be built	I'm dependable and responsible	How do we make construction work safer?	

Career Cluster 5

Things I like to do	Statements that describe me	Problems I want to solve in the world	Total # checked in this Career Cluster <input type="text"/>
Solving puzzles or coding challenges	I like figuring out problems	How do we tell stories with data?	
Working with computers or apps	I enjoy learning new technology	How can we use technology to make life easier?	
Playing or making video games	I pay attention to details	How do we build new apps or websites that meet an unmet need?	
Fixing things when they break	I'm patient and a good problem solver	How can we stop hackers and protect privacy?	
Using AI or digital tools	I like using technology to be creative	How do we help people learn and connect online?	

Career Cluster 6

Things I like to do	Statements that describe me	Problems I want to solve in the world	Total # checked in this Career Cluster <input type="text"/>
Helping people learn new things	I like helping others	How can learning be fun for everyone?	
Explaining things in simple ways	I'm a good listener	How do we connect learning to culture, family, and community?	
Tutoring or mentoring others	I'm patient and kind	How can we support different ways of learning?	
Leading group projects or activities	I'm curious and love to learn	How do we make places for learning feel safe and welcoming?	
Coming up with fun ways to teach something	I enjoy speaking or presenting	How can education and training help people have a better life?	

Career Cluster 7

Things I like to do	Statements that describe me	Problems I want to solve in the world	Total # checked in this Career Cluster <input type="text"/>
Working with new and emerging technologies	I care about the environment	How can we use energy without harming the planet?	
Studying science or nature	I'm curious about how the Earth works	How do we protect animals and wild spaces?	
Learning how solar panels, wind turbines, or electric cars work	I enjoy learning how systems work	How do we make energy cleaner and safer?	
Working on outdoor projects	I like working outside	How can we stop pollution and waste?	
Helping keep parks, rivers, or forests clean	I want to protect natural places	How do we balance human needs with nature?	

Career Cluster 8

Things I like to do	Statements that describe me	Problems I want to solve in the world	Total # checked in this Career Cluster <input type="text"/>
Managing money or saving for goals	I'm organized and careful	How do we help people make smart money choices?	
Playing games with strategy or math	I like working with numbers	How do we plan for big life expenses?	
Keeping track of spending	I'm honest and responsible	How do we protect people from scams?	
Learning about investing or business	I'm curious about the economy	How do we help people grow their savings?	
Helping friends understand money	I'm a good explainer	How can we use money to build wealth for the future?	

Career Cluster 9

Things I like to do	Statements that describe me	Problems I want to solve in the world	Total # checked in this Career Cluster <input type="text"/>
Helping people feel better	I'm caring and patient	How can we take care of people who are sick?	
Learning about the body or medicine	I like science and health	How do we help people live healthier lives?	
Having caring conversations with people	I'm a good listener	How can we support mental health?	
Giving first aid or doing wellness activities	I stay calm in tough situations	How do we respond in emergencies?	
Volunteering or caring for others	I like making a difference	How do we make sure everyone gets care in their communities?	

Career Cluster 10

Things I like to do	Statements that describe me	Problems I want to solve in the world	Total # checked in this Career Cluster <input type="text"/>
Cooking or preparing food	I'm creative and enjoy making people happy	How do we make healthy meals that taste good?	
Planning trips or events	I'm organized and enthusiastic	How can we help people enjoy their time off?	
Helping visitors feel welcome	I'm friendly and helpful	How do we create great experiences for visitors?	
Decorating or preparing for a big party	I like busy, active places	How can we make travel easier and more fun?	
Learning about different places or cultures	I'm curious about the world	How can we make tourism good for local communities?	

Career Cluster 11

Things I like to do	Statements that describe me	Problems I want to solve in the world	Total # checked in this Career Cluster
Starting new projects or businesses	I'm a self-starter	How can we grow good ideas into real businesses?	
Leading a team	I'm confident and organized	How do we help businesses run better?	
Helping people grow	I'm good at talking to people	How do we create products people love?	
Solving complex problems	I like setting goals	How can people be motivated to do their best work?	
Finding ways to earn money	I'm creative and motivated	How can businesses make a positive difference?	<input type="text"/>

Career Cluster 12

Things I like to do	Statements that describe me	Problems I want to solve in the world	Total # checked in this Career Cluster
Using social media to engage people	I'm outgoing and persuasive	How do we get the right message to the right people?	
Creating eye-catching designs	I'm creative and like making things look great	How can we help people find products they love?	
Persuading people or giving presentations	I'm confident and clear	How do we build trust with customers?	
Coming up with ways to sell things	I'm good at explaining things	How do we understand what people want?	
Finding out what people like and don't like	I'm observant and analytical	How do we protect people from scams or unsafe products?	<input type="text"/>

Career Cluster 13

Things I like to do	Statements that describe me	Problems I want to solve in the world	Total # checked in this Career Cluster
Helping during a crisis	I'm fair and honest	How do we keep communities safe?	
Learning how to keep people safe	I'm dependable and quick-thinking	How do we respond to disasters or danger?	
Learning about laws and government	I'm calm in stressful situations	How do we protect people's rights?	
Helping the community meet a need	I like solving big problems	How do we prepare for future challenges?	
Supporting justice or public safety	I care about fairness and service	How can we make sure government programs reach all people?	

Career Cluster 14

Things I like to do	Statements that describe me	Problems I want to solve in the world	Total # checked in this Career Cluster
Making sure things get where they belong	I'm focused and reliable	How do we get products where they need to go?	
Planning routes or schedules	I'm organized and detail-oriented	How do we make deliveries faster and safer?	
Being around vehicles, ships, or planes	I like machines and engines	How can we move things in smart ways?	
Packing, shipping, or tracking orders	I like systems and logistics	How do we keep shelves stocked and stores running?	
Fixing things when they break	I like to keep things working well	How can we stop things from breaking down?	

Career Cluster Key - Discover Your Top Clusters!

1. Look at the three “Total # Checked” boxes where you had the highest number of checked items.
2. Look at the Cluster number above each table. Match it to the Career Cluster name below to reveal your top Clusters.
3. Use the Career Cluster List to learn more about each Cluster!

Cluster 1: Advanced Manufacturing	Cluster 2: Agriculture	Cluster 3: Arts, Entertainment, & Design
Cluster 4: Construction	Cluster 5: Digital Technology*	Cluster 6: Education
Cluster 7: Energy & Natural Resources	Cluster 8: Financial Services	Cluster 9: Healthcare & Human Services
Cluster 10: Hospitality, Events, & Tourism	Cluster 11: Management & Entrepreneurship*	Cluster 12: Marketing & Sales*
Cluster 13: Public Service & Safety	Cluster 14: Supply Chain & Transportation	*Also a Cross-Cutting Career Cluster

My Top Career Clusters

Which three Career Clusters had the most checks (highest scores)?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

If one of your top Career Clusters is not a Cross-Cutting Cluster, review Clusters 5, 11, and 12 to see if any are of interest to you. If so, consider how you might want to incorporate the Cross-Cutting Career Clusters into your future career exploration!

Remember: This activity is just a starting point for exploration—it's totally okay if you're unsure right now or if your answers change later. As you grow, try new things, and learn more about yourself, your interests might change too. Keep an open mind—you might discover something unexpected and exciting!

Career Cluster List - Start Exploring!

Now that you have picked your top three Career Clusters, you can learn more about each one. The following key gives you a quick look at what people in those fields do, the types of classes or programs you might find in school, and cool new careers to explore.

As you read, think about which programs your school, district, or region might offer that match your interests. You do not have to decide anything today—this activity is just about learning more and getting excited about your future.

You will also see that the Career Clusters are grouped into larger categories, such as Connecting & Supporting Success. These Cluster Groupings can help you explore related fields and spot connections between different Clusters that you might not have considered yet. You may find that other Clusters within the same group also match your interests and strengths.

Cross-Cutting Clusters - Connecting & Supporting Success

Cross-Cutting Clusters include jobs you'll find across all industries, not just in one field. These careers and skills connect everywhere!

Digital Technology

What it is: Using computers, code, and smart systems to solve problems.

Programs you might see: Cybersecurity, coding, game design, networking.

Emerging careers: AI programmer, cybersecurity specialist, app developer.

Management & Entrepreneurship

What it is: Leading people, starting businesses, and bringing new ideas to life.

Programs you might see: Business management, entrepreneurship, leadership.

Emerging careers: Startup founder, innovation strategist, business coach.

Marketing & Sales

What it is: Communicating ideas and helping people find products they love.

Programs you might see: Marketing, digital media, business communication.

Emerging careers: Social media strategist, brand content designer, digital campaign manager.

Building & Moving

Advanced Manufacturing

What it is: Making products using machines, robotics, and smart technology.

Programs you might see: Engineering tech, robotics, machine tools, industrial design.

Emerging careers: Robotics technician, 3D printing specialist, smart factory operator.

Construction

What it is: Building homes, schools, roads, and other structures using hands-on skills.

Programs you might see: Carpentry, electrical systems, HVAC, masonry.

Emerging careers: Green building technician, solar panel installer, 3D-printed home builder.

Supply Chain & Transportation

What it is: Moving people, goods, and information safely and efficiently.

Programs you might see: Logistics, automotive tech, aviation, commercial driving.

Emerging careers: Drone delivery coordinator, supply chain analyst, electric vehicle tech.

Caring for Communities

Education

What it is: Helping others learn, grow, and reach their goals.

Programs you might see: Teaching, early childhood education, peer mentoring.

Emerging careers: Virtual tutor, learning experience designer, coach.

Healthcare & Human Services

What it is: Taking care of people's physical and emotional health.

Programs you might see: Nursing assistant, health science, human development.

Emerging careers: Telehealth support tech, genetic counselor, mental health aide.

Public Service & Safety

What it is: Protecting people and helping communities stay safe and supported.

Programs you might see: Law enforcement, emergency services, public policy.

Emerging careers: Cybercrime analyst, emergency drone pilot, community outreach officer.

Creating & Experiencing

Arts, Entertainment & Design

What it is: Expressing ideas through art, performance, and digital creation.

Programs you might see: Graphic design, theater, media production, animation.

Emerging careers: Virtual reality designer, podcast producer, digital content creator.

Hospitality, Events, & Tourism

What it is: Helping people enjoy experiences like travel, dining, and entertainment.

Programs you might see: Culinary arts, hotel management, event planning.

Emerging careers: Experience designer, eco-tourism guide, food sustainability planner.

Cultivating Resources

Agriculture

What it is: Working with plants, animals, and the environment to grow food and protect natural resources.

Programs you might see: Animal science, plant science, agriculture mechanics, food systems.

Emerging careers: Urban farmer, drone crop monitor, precision agriculture tech.

Energy & Natural Resources

What it is: Powering the world and protecting the planet through clean energy and natural systems.

Programs you might see: Environmental science, renewable energy, wildlife management.

Emerging careers: Wind turbine tech, environmental data analyst, solar energy consultant.

Investing in the Future

Financial Services

What it is: Helping people and businesses make smart money decisions.

Programs you might see: Accounting, business finance, banking, insurance.

Emerging careers: Financial tech (fintech) advisor, cryptocurrency analyst, personal budgeting coach.