***Basics of Career Clusters***

The U.S. Department of Education, working with numerous education and business partners, has designated 16 different Career Clusters. These 16 broad Career Clusters will help students focus on an area of interest and enhance the link between the knowledge they acquire in school and the skills they need to pursue their career.

The models of each of these broad Career Clusters shows the core knowledge and skills needed for the cluster as well as the career pathways that each includes.

They are an excellent resource as students identify an area of interest and begin to chart their future. Beginning with their high school academic courses, certain skill sets are being added to your students’ portfolio by taking CareerTech and other classes. It is imperative to help students understand that education today is a life-long process, and by creating an ICAP, career goals are attainable. For more information concerning Career Clusters, visit [www.careerclusters.org](https://officemgmtentserv-my.sharepoint.com/personal/nathan_brubaker_careertech_ok_gov/Documents/Desktop/Teachers%20as%20Advisors/Section%202/www.careerclusters.org). For additional resources or implementation strategies, visit OK Career Guide at [okcareerguide.org](http://www.okcareerguide.org/).

The 16 Career Clusters are:

* Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
* Architecture and Construction
* Arts, A/V 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 Math
* Transportation, Distribution and Logistics
* Energy (Oklahoma Only)

The following graphics explain how careers are laid out within OKCG. There are 6 Major Career Fields. Then there are 16 National Career Clusters under the 6 Major Career Fields. That have 79 pathways under the 16 Clusters. All the occupations fall under a Pathway, Cluster and Field. As you or your students work their way through the accompanying ICAP curriculum make sure they are aware of how Occupations are grouped under Pathways, Clusters and Fields.

**6 CAREER FIELDS**

The career fields are the six large groups.

They include all of the occupations in the United States, and their titles tell you something about the focus of work in that group of occupations.

**CAREER EXPLORATION**

It is easier to choose from many options when they are organized in some way. So, occupations in our system are first divided into six very large groups. Then, each of those groups is divided into smaller groups.

**16 NATIONAL CAREER CLUSTERS**

Each of the six career fields is divided into 1-4 sub-groups, called clusters. Each cluster is made up of several occupations and post-secondary majors related to the specialty of that cluster. The results of your interest and skills assessments are linked to these same clusters.

**PATHWAYS**

Each cluster is broken down into pathways. A pathway is made up of a group of occupations that focus on a

specialty within a cluster. Your score report on both the interests and skills assessments identifies the five

pathways (out of 79) of your highest interest or skill.

Oklahoma has an additional cluster called Energy