



Career Pathways

LEARN

It can be exciting *and* intimidating to think about your future and the kind of job you want to have—especially when there are endless possibilities!

Thankfully, the U.S. Department of Education has narrowed down all of the career possibilities into 16 different career clusters. Each cluster—such as Business Management & Administration, Architecture & Construction, and Education & Training—contain a large group of careers that share common features.

The careers in every cluster are then further broken down into different career pathways that require similar skills and knowledge. The careers in the Architecture & Construction cluster, for example, contain three pathways: Design/Pre-Construction, Construction, and Maintenance/Operations. Every pathway outlines steps you can take (such as academic courses and career/technical training) to begin to prepare for careers in this area.

INVESTIGATE

Ready to start exploring your future? Below are three ways to use these Career Clusters and Pathways as you begin to investigate and pursue your career goals.

1. **Take a Quiz!** Take the Career Quiz available at careerbridge.wa.gov/Survey_Cluster.aspx to see which career clusters best match your interests and experiences.

Once you get to the Results Page, record your top three clusters below. Then click on these clusters to read more about the careers in each one. As you come across careers that interest you, record them below.

- **Cluster:** _____
Interesting Careers: _____

- **Cluster:** _____
Interesting Careers: _____

- **Cluster:** _____
Interesting Careers: _____

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CAREER FINDER (CONTINUED)



2. **Research, Research, Research:** Another way to learn more about careers that could be a good fit for you is to conduct research. Exploring/investigating can help you learn more about the jobs that interest you now, as well as jobs that could interest you in the future!

Check out the websites below to get started, and use the Career Investigation Questions on page three to help you focus your research.

Suggested Websites:

- U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook: [bls.gov/ooh](https://www.bls.gov/ooh)
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, especially for students in grades K-12: [bls.gov/k12/home.htm](https://www.bls.gov/k12/home.htm)
- CareerOneStop, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor: [careeronestop.org](https://www.careeronestop.org)

3. **Go Straight to the Source:** People are another resource that can help you explore career pathways—especially those who have jobs that you find interesting! Can you think of someone in your own life who has done or is currently doing work that is intriguing to you? If so, see if you can interview them! Even people who you don't know personally may be willing to set up a phone, virtual, or in-person interview. Consider reaching out by introducing yourself and explain why you are interested in learning more about their career.

You may use the Career Investigation Questions on page three to guide your conversation, but also prepare your own list of relevant questions. After the interview is complete, don't forget to write a thank you note to show your appreciation for the interviewee's time.



CAREER INVESTIGATION QUESTIONS

Curious to learn more about careers that interest you? The thought starters below may be helpful as you perform research and/or conduct interviews. Be sure to also add your own questions so you get the answers you're looking for!

Job/Career Title: _____

1. Which Career Cluster does this job/career belong to?
2. Salary Range:
3. Typical Schedule (i.e., Monday–Friday from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, etc.):
4. Career Benefits:
5. Career Challenges:
6. Educational requirements/Minimum training necessary:
7. Schools/colleges that offer programs for this career choice:
8. Total number of years (post-high school) that the required education/training takes:
9. If there is a particular college or university that you're interested in attending, does that college or university offer the education/training necessary for this career choice?
10. Does this career require any special certification or license? What kind?
11. Does this career require you to continue your education once you've started doing the job?
12. Personal requirements? (i.e., Written skills? Public speaking? Languages? Travel?)
13. What is the work environment like? (i.e., Indoors/outdoors? Office? Lab?)
14. Are there opportunities for advancement? If so, what?
15. Additional Questions: