

Discover Career Clusters & Pathways

Objectives

Participants will understand:

- how to locate, evaluate and interpret career information
- the career cluster and pathway framework
- the connection between education and career goals

Using MnPOS

Length: 30-60 minutes

(split into two sessions if needed)

Materials Needed

- Minnesota Programs of Study website: www.mnprogramsofstudy.org
- Handout or description of career pathways framework (www.iseek.org/careers/aboutclusters.html)
- Students' portfolio or Individual Learning Plan (optional)

Instructions

1. Ask participants in large or small groups to list as many occupations they can think of (15-20 occupations). Write these on a whiteboard or paper.
2. Define career clusters and pathways as an organizational system of classifying careers. Discuss how clustering occupations can aid in career research. Return to the list of careers and discuss different ways the careers they named could be categorized into clusters or pathways.
3. Instruct the class to use the Minnesota Programs of Study website to find a career cluster or career pathway that is of interest to them.
4. Briefly discuss what occupation information is typically found in career information resources (definitions, interest profiles, wages, education, job outlook, etc.)
5. Have each student identify 3-5 career pathways or occupations within the same career cluster that they might want to research further. Students can record these occupation names in their Individualized Learning Plans or portfolios.

Evaluation of Learning

- Assess students' involvement in class discussion.
- Grade each student or group on their career pathway or occupational research.
- The list of chosen occupations or career pathways can be a required element of an Individualized Learning Plan or portfolio completion.

Enhanced Learning

- Have students create an education or career plan using the Minnesota Programs of Study website (www.mnprogramsofstudy.org).
- Advise students to use other career information resources, especially for national or regional information.
- Give a presentation on how to use labor market information in career research.
- Lead students through the “Careers Interesting to Me” activity (www.iseek.org/iseek/_mnpos/pdf/MnPOS-InterestingCareers.pdf).