



Exploring Career Clusters

KEY TERMS

Careers

EDUCATION STANDARDS

South Dakota Department of
Education Standards

- IHS2.0: Investigate careers within a specific career cluster.
- IHS3.0: Examine professional behaviors, skills, and abilities necessary within a specific career cluster.
- IHS3.3: Analyze the importance of a professional image and professional behavior.

21st Century Skills Framework

TIME NEEDED

45-60 minutes

MATERIAL LIST

- Career cluster handouts/posters
- Career cluster interest survey (printed or digital)
- Computer/tablet access (optional for research)
- Career scenario cards (optional activity)



EXPECTED LEARNER OUTCOMES

Students will explore the 14 career clusters, understand the variety of career options available, and identify clusters that align with their interests and skills.

INTRODUCTION TO MATERIAL

Begin by asking students: *"What do you think of when you hear the word 'career'?"*

- Explain that careers are grouped into **14 career clusters** based on common knowledge and skills.
- Show a visual of the career clusters and briefly introduce each one.

ACTIVITY

Career Cluster Interest Survey

- Students complete a Career Cluster Interest Survey to identify their top-matching clusters.
- Discuss how personal interests and strengths align with career pathways.

Interactive Exploration – Career Cluster Challenge (Choose one or more activities)

- Career Cluster Gallery Walk:
 - Set up posters/stations for each cluster. Students walk around, read descriptions, and jot down one interesting job per cluster.

Career Scenario Matching:

- Distribute **career scenario cards** with job descriptions. Students match them to the correct cluster.

Online Research:

- Students explore career websites (e.g., O*NET, My Next Move) to find jobs in their identified cluster and report back.

REFLECTION

- Pair-share: Students discuss their top career clusters with a partner.
- Whole-class discussion: “What surprised you about career clusters? Which clusters interest you the most?”
- Encourage students to explore further careers in their top clusters.

EXTENDED LEARNING

- **Exit Ticket:** “What career cluster interests you the most and why?”
- **Extension:** Research a job within a cluster and create a short presentation.