Career Clusters and Programs of Study: Connecting School to Careers

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PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES

- Provide a greater understanding of Career Clusters and Programs of Study.
- To explain the potential of Career Clusters and Programs of Study as effective counseling tools and a means of assisting with career exploration and development.
Percent of population age 18-24 with no high school diploma or equivalency, 2006

Source: 2006 ACS (Public Use Microdata Areas -PUMS)
Percent of population age 25-64 with an associate’s degree or higher, 2006

Source: 2006 ACS (Public Use Microdata Areas -PUMS)
IN THE PAST

Insufficient career preparation
THE CHALLENGES

- **Engagement** – attending school and completing (graduating) high school
- **Achievement** – academic (and technical) course taking; grades, test scores
- **Transition** – to postsecondary education without the need for remediation; and to the workplace
WHY AREN’T STUDENTS ENGAGED?

- Students lack motivation to learn
  - Don’t see relevance
  - Lack focus
  - Abstract subject matter
  - Academics that lack rigor

- Students *need*:
  - Awareness of the link between education & the workplace
  - Career information that links to education
CHALLENGES WE FACE – INFLUENCERS THAT ARE PUSHING CHANGE

○ A high and rising drop out rate of secondary students
○ Devalued high school diploma
  ● High school graduates lack in basic math and science skills
  ● Extraordinarily high remediation rates
○ Most students think they are going to college, but do not prepare for it or any other possible future
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THEN</th>
<th>NOW</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>VOCATIONAL EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td><strong>CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For a few students</td>
<td>For ALL students</td>
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<tr>
<td>For a few “Jobs”</td>
<td>For ALL “Careers”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 7 “Program Areas”</td>
<td>16 Clusters - 79 Pathways</td>
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<td>In lieu of academics</td>
<td>Aligns/Supports academics</td>
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<tr>
<td>High School focused</td>
<td>High School and College Partnership</td>
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</table>
CTE PROGRAM COMPONENTS MUST INCLUDE……

- Alignment of rigorous academic standards and student achievement standards
- Include academic and CTE content in a coordinated, non-duplicative progression of courses
- Are relevant and challenging at the secondary and postsecondary level
- Lead to employment in high skill, high wage, or high demand occupations
- Offer opportunities for dual credit or dual enrollment
- Lead to a degree, certificate, or credential
Secondary and Postsecondary Alignment

- Aligned curricula
- Seamless transitions
- Dual credit
- Career development
- Professional development

- Articulation agreements
- Data-sharing agreements
- Partnerships and Collaboration
- Continuous improvement
Career Clusters
Career Pathways
Programs of Study (POS)
What are Career Clusters?

Career Clusters are groups of occupations and industries that have in common a set of foundational level knowledge and skills.

- Organizer of knowledge and skills needed by a broad industry
- There are 16 nationally recognized clusters, within which are multiple career pathways.
What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are multi-year programs of academic and technical study that prepare students for a full range of postsecondary options within each of the 16 clusters.

- Organizer of knowledge and skill statements shared by professions.
- Currently, there are ~79 nationally recognized pathways, each with specific pathway level knowledge and skills.
What are Programs of Study (POS)

- sequences of courses that incorporate:
  - a non-duplicative progression of secondary and postsecondary elements
  - both academic and CTE content
  - opportunities to earn dual credit
  - curriculum alignment to challenging standards and rigorous content
  - opportunities to earn an industry recognized certificate or credential
Career Development, CTE and POS

○ CTE
  ● important aspect of the comprehensive curriculum

○ Career Clusters and Career Pathways
  ● a way to guide through the career decision-making process
  ● assist to more clearly understand how educational choices affect future career options

○ POS
  ● combination of coursework, innovative instruction including work-based learning experiences, and support services that are aligned with career clusters and career pathways
  ● support structures and information guide students’ course taking as they explore their career interests
Illinois Career Cluster Model

1. Essential Knowledge & Skills
2. CTE Areas
3. Career Cluster
4. Career Pathways
5. Programs of Study
What Can You Do To Facilitate Quality Career Development?

- assist with personalized plans of education
- guide students in choosing relevant coursework
- promote practical educational and career experiences
- work with other career services providers
- encourage students to access career information and explore options
- BENEFIT TO COUNSELORS-
Career Development Across Grades

Programs of Study as a centerpiece of a guidance program can:

- assist students plan an individualized, coherent, educational path
- connect learner interest with coursework
- motivate learners to reach higher academic achievement
- show relevance of school to postsecondary and lifelong learning
**Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources: Agribusiness Systems**

**Career Pathway Plan of Study for: Learners | Parents | Counselors | Teachers/Faculty**

This Career Pathway Plan of Study (based on the Agribusiness Systems Pathway of the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Career Cluster) can serve as a guide, along with other career planning materials, as learners continue on a career path. Courses listed within this plan are only recommended coursework and should be individualized to meet each learner’s educational and career goals. *This Plan of Study, used for learners at an educational institution, should be customized with course titles and appropriate high school graduation requirements as well as college entrance requirements.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EDUCATION LEVEL</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>English/Language Arts</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Social Studies/Sciences</th>
<th>Other Required Courses</th>
<th>Other Electives</th>
<th>Recommended Learner Activities</th>
<th>CAREER AND TECHNICAL COURSES AND/OR DEGREE MAJOR COURSES FOR AGROBUSINESS SYSTEMS PATHWAY</th>
<th>SAMPLE Occupations Relating to This Pathway</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>English/Language Arts I</td>
<td>Algebra I</td>
<td>Earth or Environmental Science</td>
<td>State History Civics</td>
<td>All plans of study should meet local and state high school graduation requirements and college entrance requirements.</td>
<td>Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) and participation in appropriate FFA activities support and reinforce classroom and laboratory learning and should be a requirement for all students.</td>
<td>- Introduction to Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources</td>
<td>- Agricultural Economics</td>
<td>Occupations Requiring Postsecondary Education</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>English/Language Arts II</td>
<td>Geometry</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>U.S. History</td>
<td>- Introduction to Agricultural Marketing, Business and Entrepreneurship</td>
<td>- Agricultural Business Management</td>
<td>- Agricultural Economics</td>
<td>- Internship in Agribusiness</td>
<td>- Agricultural Commodity Broker</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>English/Language Arts III</td>
<td>Algebra II or other math course</td>
<td>Chemistry or other science course</td>
<td>World History</td>
<td>- Principles of Agribusiness</td>
<td>- Agricultural Salesmanship</td>
<td>- Agricultural Advertising/Marketing</td>
<td>- Complete Agribusiness Systems Major (4-Year Degree Program)</td>
<td>- Agricultural Economist</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>English/Language Arts IV</td>
<td>Statistics or other math course</td>
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<td>- Agricultural Economics</td>
<td>- Agricultural Finance</td>
<td>- Complete Agribusiness Systems Major (4-Year Degree Program)</td>
<td>- Produce Commission Manager</td>
<td>- Agricultural Educator</td>
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**College Placement Assessments-Academic/Career Advisement Provided**

**Articulation/Dual Credit Transcribed** Postsecondary courses may be taken/moved to the secondary level for articulation/dual credit purposes.

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>English Composition</th>
<th>Algebra</th>
<th>Chemistry</th>
<th>American Government</th>
<th>All plans of study need to meet learners’ career goals with regard to required degrees, licenses, certifications or journey worker status. Certain local student organization activities may also be important to include.</th>
<th>- Introduction to Agribusiness</th>
<th>- Principles of Agribusiness</th>
<th>- Agricultural Economics</th>
<th>- Agricultural Salesmanship</th>
<th>- Agricultural Advertising/Marketing</th>
<th>- Complete Agribusiness Systems Major (4-Year Degree Program)</th>
<th>- Produce Commission Manager</th>
<th>- Produce Commission Manager</th>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Speech/Oral Communication</td>
<td>Biological Science or Botany</td>
<td>American History</td>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>- Agricultural Economics</td>
<td>- Agricultural Finance</td>
<td>- Agricultural Advertising/Marketing</td>
<td>- Complete Agribusiness Systems Major (4-Year Degree Program)</td>
<td>- Produce Commission Manager</td>
<td>- Produce Commission Manager</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Technical Writing</td>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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Career Clusters
Career Pathways and Programs of Study

In the year 2007, Badger High School began to incorporate the 16 Career Clusters into the course selection process. These tools, Plans of Study and Career Pathways, are ways for students to group their required courses and electives into a cohesive sequence in preparation for college and careers. Utilizing the 16 Career Clusters, students can identify pathways from high school to work, two- and four-year schools, and even graduate school. By connecting education to future goals, students are motivated to work harder and enroll in more rigorous and relevant courses.

http://lakegeneva.badger.groupfusion.net/
CAREER EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

- positively impact:
  - academic achievement
  - career maturity
  - educational motivation
  - coping skills
  - self-esteem
  - career decision-making
  - relevant and personalized education
RESOURCES

Career Exploration and Development


MORE RESOURCES

Associations
Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education (IACTE): http://www.iacte.org/
Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE): http://www.acteonline.org/

Career Clusters, Pathways, and Programs of Study
Illinois
Illinois Community College Board: http://www.ilprogramsofstudy.org/
Illinois State Board of Education: http://www.isbe.net/career/default.htm
  Curriculum Revitalization http://www.ilcte.org/default.asp
Office of Community College Research and Leadership: http://occrll.illinois.edu/projects/pos/
Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support: http://www.icsps.ilstu.edu/POS/

National
The States’ Career Cluster Initiative: http://www.careerclusters.org
National Career Pathways Network (NCPN): http://www.cord.org/ncpn-index.cfm
National Center for Career and Technical Education:
http://136.165.122.102/mambo/mos/Frontpage/Itemid,1/
FOR FURTHER READING


REFERENCES


REFERENCES (continued)

Thank you!

We appreciate your time and attention!