



**Career Cluster**  
 At this level, students gain cluster level knowledge and skills in secondary, postsecondary, or adult bridge programs.

**Career Pathways**  
 At this level, students gain pathway level knowledge and skills and stackable credentials.

**Career and Program Options**  
 At this level, students follow a sequence of courses to certificates and degrees in a career field.

- Illinois Career Cluster Model**
- 1 Essential Knowledge & Skills
  - 2 CTE Areas: Secondary
  - 3 Career Cluster
  - 4 Career Pathways
  - 5 Career and Program Options

■ AVAILABLE IN THE ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM  
 ■ NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN THE ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

Created by OCCRL, University of Illinois and sponsored by ICCB and ISBE.

---

## How to Read the Career Cluster Fan

This brochure depicts the **Illinois career cluster graphic**, commonly called a “fan”, which shows the relationship between a secondary career and technical education (CTE) area in Illinois, a career cluster, associated career pathways, and a sample of career and program options within each pathway. **Career exploration and development** is integrated throughout all levels of the Illinois’ Career Cluster model.

The fan also shows entry points for adults, including **bridge programs** that integrate occupational cluster level knowledge and skills into adult education and developmental education course content. Bridge programs are designed to prepare students to transition to postsecondary credit instruction in a career pathway. The fan also illustrates the transition process by which students gain access to sequences of courses, taken at multiple levels that lead to certificate and degree attainment and employment.

Sections of the fan blur into one another to indicate the importance of **student transition** without difficulty from the cluster to the pathway, to the career option or Programs of Study level. Secondary students can access postsecondary level coursework through dual credit. Also noteworthy, the arrow labeled **Programs of Study** extends beyond the border of the fan, denoting that education and career development continue throughout an individual’s lifespan. The Programs of Study arrow also illustrates that individuals can earn **education credentials** beyond the associate and baccalaureate degree levels.

Note that the career pathways and career and program options shown in faded text are not currently available in the Illinois Community College System (ICCS). Where a career and program option is missing, none has been developed as of yet in the ICCS.

## For more information about the Illinois Career Cluster Model go to:

- Illinois’ Program of Study website: <http://www.ilprogramsofstudy.org>
- Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) Directory of Programs: <http://iccbdsrv.iccb.org/clusters/home.cfm>
- Office of Community College Research and Leadership (OCCRL) Programs of Study website: <http://occrll.illinois.edu/projects/pos>
- OCCRL Pathways to Results website: <http://occrll.illinois.edu/projects/pathways>
- ICCB Academic Affairs Home Page: <http://www.iccb.org/academicaffairs.html>
- ICCB Shifting Gears website: <http://www.iccb.org/>
- OCCRL Shifting Gears website: [http://occrll.illinois.edu/projects/shifting\\_gears](http://occrll.illinois.edu/projects/shifting_gears)

---

This publication was prepared pursuant to grants from the Illinois Community College Board and printed by the Authority of the State of Illinois, February, 2011 (ICCB Grant Agreement Numbers CTEL11002 and Joyce 11).

**ICCB contact:**  
Brian Durham  
Illinois Community College Board  
401 E. Capitol Avenue  
Springfield, IL 62701-1711  
[brian.durham@illinois.gov](mailto:brian.durham@illinois.gov)  
<http://www.iccb.org>  
217-524-5502

**OCCRL contact:**  
Debra Bragg  
Office of Community College Research and Leadership  
University of Illinois  
51 Gerty Drive, 129 CRC  
Champaign, IL 61820  
[occrll@illinois.edu](mailto:occrll@illinois.edu)  
<http://occrll.illinois.edu>  
217-244-9390



# ARTS, AUDIO/VIDEO TECHNOLOGY, & COMMUNICATIONS

## ILLINOIS CAREER CLUSTER MODEL



Illinois Community College Board  
Illinois State Board of Education