

Exploring Career Pathways in Family and Consumer Sciences Clusters

Exploring Career Pathways in Family and Consumer Sciences Clusters is a 7th and 8th grade course. This course introduces middle school students to Career Clusters/Career Pathways in the field of Family and Consumer Sciences. These career pathways identify career opportunities related to services and products consumed and produced for individuals and families. In the Human Services Cluster, students explore the Family Studies and Community Services; Early Childhood Development and Services; Food, Wellness, and Dietetics; Fashion; Interior Design; and Consumer Services career pathway programs. In the Education and Training Cluster, students explore career pathway programs in Early Childhood Education, Teaching and Training, and Administrative and Professional and Support Services. Students also study Restaurant and Beverage and Food Services; Lodging; and Recreation, Travel, and Tourism career pathway programs within the Hospitality and Tourism Cluster. Exposure to self-discovery assessments and career opportunities in the career pathways allow students to successfully integrate their own interests, skills, and abilities into a college and career plan.

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), an integral part of the curriculum, provides opportunities to apply instructional competencies and workplace readiness skills, enhances leadership development skills, and provides opportunities for community service.

The Workplace

Students will:

1. Explain how work is related to meeting the needs and functions of the economy, society, and personal fulfillment.
 - a. Explain reasons why people need to work.
 - b. Describe how the free enterprise system of the United States economy works.
 - c. Analyze how the global economy affects individuals, communities, as well as the entire country.
2. Describe how employment trends and job/career training are impacted by societal, economic, technological, workforce development data, and global changes.
3. Explain how workplace laws and regulations impact the workplace.
Examples: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), national and state Child Labor Laws, Worker's Compensation, Social Security, Equal Opportunity Employment, etc.
4. Differentiate between a job, an occupation, and a career.
5. Discuss the need for career planning and lifelong learning as they relate to personal satisfaction.

Personal Preferences and Career Choices

6. Use the results of an interest assessment to determine students' major interest areas.
7. Explain why it is important for an individual to consider his/her values when making a career choice.

8. Identify personal priorities and goals for making life and career decisions.
9. Identify basic skills needed for specific career choices and match these skills to your personal abilities, interests, and skills.
10. Identify personal strengths and weaknesses in your abilities to pursue your specific career choice.

Career Discovery Skills

11. Demonstrate the ability to locate, understand, and use career information.
 - a. Identify sources of career information.
 - b. Determine types of career information.
Examples: working conditions, physical demands, skills needed, education level, job outlook, etc.
 - c. Participate in activities to learn about careers.
Examples: visit worksites, field trips, job shadowing, virtual labs, YouTube videos, etc.
12. Demonstrate critical thinking skills and the decision making process as it relates to personal career situations.
13. Use the results of assessments of personal abilities in order to make realistic career choices.

Educational Discovery Skills

14. Investigate various postsecondary and higher educational institutes for their entrance requirements.
15. Explain how ACT scores and GPAs from high school are used for admittance into college and how they may effect receiving scholarships.
16. Explore how involvement in both Career and Technical Education and academic programs of study may better prepare an individual for both college and careers.

Exploring Careers in Human Services

17. Explore the Family Studies and Community Services; Early Childhood Development Services; Food, Wellness, and Dietetics; Fashion; Interior Design, Consumer Services career pathways within the Human Services Cluster.
 - a. Explore labor market information on career opportunities in each career pathway program within the Hospitality and Tourism Cluster.
 - b. Investigate career and entrepreneurship opportunities in each career pathway program within the Human Services Cluster
 - c. Research academic requirements for careers of personal interest in each career pathway program within the Human Services Cluster.
 - d. Research the certification/credential requirements for careers of personal interests in each career pathway within the Human Services Cluster.
 - e. Describe the technical-skill requirements for careers of personal interest in each career pathway program within the Human Services Cluster.

- f. Explore careers of personal interests in more detail within each career pathway program within the Human Services Cluster.
- g. Develop a 4-Year Plan for at least one career within the Human Services Cluster.
- h. Compare and contrast the various dress codes for employees working in the Human Services Cluster.
- i. Identify types of professional organizations within each career pathway program within the Human Services Cluster.

Exploring Careers in Hospitality and Tourism

- 18. Explore the Restaurant and Food and Beverage Services; Lodging; and Recreation, Travel, and Tourism career pathways within the Hospitality and Tourism Cluster.
 - a. Explore labor market information on career opportunities in each career pathway program within the Hospitality and Tourism Cluster.
 - b. Investigate career and entrepreneurship opportunities in each career pathway program within the Hospitality and Tourism Cluster.
 - c. Research academic requirements for careers of personal interest in each career pathway program within the Hospitality and Tourism Cluster.
 - d. Research the certification/credential requirements for careers of personal interests in each career pathway program within the Hospitality and Tourism Cluster.
 - e. Describe the technical-skill requirements for careers of personal interest in each career pathway program within the Hospitality and Tourism Cluster.
 - f. Explore careers of personal interests in more detail in each career pathway program within the Hospitality and Tourism Cluster.
 - g. Develop a 4-Year Plan for at least one career within this cluster.
 - h. Compare and contrast the various dress codes for employees working in the Hospitality and Tourism Cluster.
 - i. Identify types of professional organizations in each career pathway program within the Hospitality and Tourism Cluster.

Exploring Careers in Education and Training

- 19. Explore the Teaching and Training, Early Childhood Education, and Administration and Support Services career pathways in the Education and Training Cluster.
 - a. Explore labor market information on career opportunities in each of the career pathway programs within the Education and Training Cluster.
 - b. Investigate career and entrepreneurship opportunities in each of the career pathway programs within the Education and Training Cluster.
 - c. Research academic requirements for careers of personal interest in each of the career pathway programs within the Education and Training Cluster.
 - d. Research the certification/credential requirements for careers of personal interests within this career cluster.
 - e. Describe the technical-skill requirements for careers of personal interest in each of the career pathway programs within the Education and Training Cluster.
 - f. Explore careers of personal interests in more detail in each of the career pathways programs within the Education and Training Cluster.
 - g. Develop a 4-Year Plan for at least one career within the Education and Training Career Cluster.
 - h. Compare and contrast the various dress codes for employees working in the Education and Training Cluster.

- i. Identify types of professional organizations in each career pathway program within the Education and Training Cluster.

Skills for Personal Success

20. Implement effective study habits.
21. Use interpersonal skills to facilitate effective teamwork.
22. Use problem-solving and critical-thinking skills to make informed decisions.
23. Use effective time management and goal setting strategies.
24. Use information and communication technology tools effectively.
25. Identify skills that can be transferable among a variety of careers.
26. Recognize the impact of how a career choice effects an individual's and/or family's personal lifestyle.

Skills for Professional Success

27. Demonstrate effective verbal, nonverbal, written, and electronic communication skills.
28. Evaluate the impact of how positive and negative personal choices, including use of electronic communication such as social networking sites, may have an effect on career opportunities.
29. Model characteristics of effective leadership, teamwork, and conflict management.
30. Explain the importance of a healthy lifestyle, including the ability to manage stress.
31. Model appropriate workplace etiquette and characteristics for professional success such as work ethics, integrity, dedication, perseverance, punctuality, greetings, and the ability to interact with a diverse population.

Job-Seeking Skills

32. Identify the steps for an effective job search.
33. Describe appropriate appearance for an interview.
34. Research appropriate interviewing etiquette skills.
35. Participate in a mock interview.

Employment Professional Documents

36. Develop a résumé.
37. Write appropriate business correspondence such as a letter of intent and a thank-you letter.
38. Complete sample job applications.
39. Explain protocol for use of references.
40. Create an electronic personal career portfolio.