

## UNDERSTANDING THE CAREER CLUSTERS YOUR FAVORITE CAREER CLUSTER: LESSON 8

### Summary:

Students will review the results of their previously completed assessments and then explore their favorite career cluster with an emphasis on educational levels.

### Lesson Objectives:

*Students will be able to:*

- Define different educational levels
- Describe a single Career Cluster in depth
- Identify careers with various education levels and salary ranges from within a cluster.
- Identify their favorite Career Cluster and related program or major and career.

**Time Needed:** 45 minutes

### Resources Needed:

- Access to your online site
- Copy of the **Your Favorite Career Cluster** worksheet

**Prerequisite:** Students should have completed the Career Cluster Survey and the Career Cluster Map in CFVV prior to completing this lesson.

**Computer Use:** Yes

### Description:

In this lesson, students will review the concept of Career Clusters and the results of their Career Cluster Survey. Students will then review the Career Cluster Map and adjust their rankings of the career clusters, as needed. Students will identify their current favorite Career Cluster and complete the **Your Favorite Career Cluster** worksheet to describe the Career Cluster in depth.

### Preparation:

1. Print the **Your Favorite Career Cluster** worksheet
2. Write the following education levels on your board.
  - Certificate/Diploma: A short-term course focused on a specific topic. Sometimes these courses can be completed after high school, like a certification as a Realtor. Sometimes these courses supplement a higher-level degree
  - Associate Degree
  - Bachelor's Degree
  - Master's Degree
  - Graduate Certificate
  - Doctoral Degree

### Warm up:

3. Tell students that today they will be researching their favorite Career Cluster. They will explore what their career options could be with various education levels or if they join the military. They will also look at the range of salaries within the Career Cluster.
4. Tell the students that before they begin, they should understand the various education levels that they see within each Career Cluster under **Programs and Majors**.
5. Indicate each of the following education levels that you have written on your board. Ask the students to offer their own definitions for each education level to assess their current understanding. Once students have provided feedback, provide the actual definition. These definitions can be found on CFVV.com on any **Program Description**.

- **Certificate/Diploma:** A short-term course focused on a specific topic. Sometimes these courses can be completed after high school. Sometimes these courses supplement a higher-level degree. Remind students to read *carefully* to be sure they understand the total amount of education needed.
  - **Associate Degree:** Typically, a two-year program most commonly found at community colleges.
  - **Bachelor's Degree:** A three-to-four-year program at a four-year college or university.
  - **Master's Degree:** Usually a one to two-year program requiring a bachelors degree for entry.
  - **Graduate Certificate:** A short-term narrowly focused program requiring a bachelors or master's degree for entry.
  - **Doctoral Degree:** A highly specialized degree requiring either a Bachelor or Master's degree for entry.
6. Once you are confident that students understand the various levels of education, move on to the activity.

### Activity Part I:

1. Distribute the **Your Favorite Career Cluster** worksheet.
2. Ask students to log into CFWV.com and navigate to the **Career Planning** tab and then click **Learn About Yourself**. Next, students click the **Career Cluster Survey** to review their previously completed results.
3. Ask students to review their results, paying special attention to their top Career Clusters. Ask students to identify their favorite Career Cluster and write it on the **Your Favorite Career Cluster** worksheet. If needed, give students a few minutes to review their top few Career Cluster choices.
4. Next, ask students to click the **Your Portfolio** tab and navigate to the **School-to-College-to-Work** activities. They are at the top of the Portfolio home page for middle school students and at the bottom for high school students.
5. Ask students to click on **School-to-College-to-Work** and then click the **Career Clusters Map**. Ask students to review their previous star rankings near the upper left corner of the activity and adjust the rankings if their preferences have changed since the activity was completed. Remind them that there are no right or wrong choices.
6. Ask students to compare their top ranked Career Cluster on the **Career Cluster Map** with their top ranked Career Cluster from the **Career Cluster Survey**. If they need to change their favorite Career Cluster, they can erase it and put in a new top Career Cluster Choice.
7. When students are confident that they have identified their favorite Career Cluster and written it at the top of the **Your Favorite Career Cluster Worksheet**, move on to Activity Part II.

### Activity Part II:

1. Ask students to click the Career Planning tab in CFWV.com and then click Explore Careers. Then ask students to scroll down the page to the career clusters and then click the name of their favorite Career Cluster. They will use the information in this section to complete the **Your Favorite Career Clusters** worksheet.
2. When students have completed their worksheet, ask them to partner with another student to share why they chose their favorite Career Cluster.

### Wrap Up:

1. Give the class an opportunity to ask questions.
2. Let the class know that they can change their favorite Career Cluster choice at any time.
3. Explain to the class what opportunities (like extra-curricular activities, courses, or work based learning) might be available in your district to support the various Career Clusters.



## YOUR FAVORITE CAREER CLUSTER

Answer each of the questions below about your favorite Career Cluster. Use the information on CFWV.com under the Career Planning tab in the Explore Careers section.

| QUESTIONS   | YOUR ANSWERS |
|---|--------------|
| What is your favorite Career Cluster?   |              |
| Why is this Career Cluster your top choice?   |              |
| What is one program or major that interests you that requires a Certificate/Diploma                                     |              |
| What is one program or major that interests you that requires an associate degree?                                      |              |
| What is one program or major that interests you that requires a bachelor's degree?                                      |              |
| What is one program or major that interests you in that requires a master's or doctoral degree?                         |              |
| Which program or major that you listed interests you the most?  |              |
| How long will it take you to complete this program or major?  |              |
| Within the program or major profile, you will find a list of related careers. Which career interests you the most? Why? |              |
| What are some ways that you can start preparing to complete a program or start a career in this Career Cluster?         |              |