

# Activity 7: Career Clusters Research Project

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## FOR THE TEACHER

### Introduction

The purpose of this activity is to help students:

- Learn how careers can be grouped together into clusters based on common characteristics
- See how these career clusters can be used to discover and explore new career possibilities
- Learn about some of the commonly used ways of grouping occupations

### Setting the Stage

Classroom discussion can involve asking students to think of three careers that are related to one another. Select students to present their three careers and describe why they think they are related. Introduce the idea of career clusters and explain their importance. Choose a career cluster and have students suggest careers that might fit into the cluster. To view the career clusters in Career Cruising, click on **Careers** and click on the **16 Career Clusters** tab.

**IMPORTANT:** The Career Clusters Research Project is set up for use with the 16 National Career Clusters system. If this clustering system is not enabled at your site, or if you prefer to use a different clustering system that is available at your school (*e.g. your state cluster system*), we suggest you modify the instructions on Worksheet 7 to avoid any confusion.

### Starting the Program

Go to **www.careercruising.com**. Enter your personal My Plan username and password in the spaces provided, and click on **Log In**.

# Worksheet 7: Career Clusters Research Project

Log in to Career Cruising and click on **Careers**, then click on the **16 Career Clusters** tab.

Select a cluster that interests you, and then click on the **Related Careers** tab.

Optional: To further filter your results, you can select the level of education that you are planning on pursuing—high school, 2-year college or technical training, or 4-year college or university.

Scroll through the list and click on a career that interests you.

**Career:** \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. Read the Job Description and Working Conditions. Answer the following questions:

What do people in this career do?

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What are the working conditions like for people in this career? (*e.g., Where do they work? What are their typical work hours? What challenges do they face?*)

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## 2. Click on Earnings and Sample Career Path. Investigate the following:

What salaries do people in this career earn?

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How do their job responsibilities change as they gain more experience and seniority (*i.e. as they move along the Sample Career Path*)?

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Click on **Related Careers**. Click on a career that interests you.

**Career:** \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Read the Job Description and Working Conditions. Answer the following questions:

What do people in this career do?

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What are the working conditions like for people in this career? (e.g., *Where do they work? What are their typical work hours? What challenges do they face?*)

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### 4. Click on Earnings and Sample Career Path. Investigate the following:

What salaries do people in this career earn?

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How do their job responsibilities change as they gain more experience and seniority (*i.e. as they move along the Sample Career Path*)?

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## SUMMARY – YOUR VIEWS

5. Now that you have learned a little about these two related careers, answer the following questions:

What is similar about the two careers?

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Which career do you think you would like more and why?

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