

CAREER CLUSTERS—FOCUSING
EDUCATION ON THE FUTURE



Preparing for
Career Success
in Human Services



Career Clusters Prepare All Students for College, Technical Training and Careers

Career Clusters prepare learners of all ages for the information age as schools, colleges and employers strive for higher achievement in science, math and communication. One key to improving learner achievement is providing learners with relevant contexts for studying and learning. Career Clusters offer these contexts by linking school-based learning with the knowledge and skills required for continued success.

The Concept of Career Clusters

Career Clusters identify the knowledge and skills learners need as they follow a pathway toward their career goals. The knowledge and skills identified form a strong basis for learner success whether the learners are in high school, college, technical training or in the workplace.

How to Pursue Education and Training in Human Services

There are thousands of challenging educational and training opportunities within the high-skilled world of Human Services. Learners need a solid background in communication, science and technical skills. Education and training can be obtained



in high schools, technical colleges, two-year community colleges, four-year colleges/universities and career technical schools/institutes.

Along the way, career guidance professionals assist learners in assessing their

educational goals, interests, abilities and skills to facilitate a good match to the cluster's many pathway options. Learners participate in relevant educational opportunities framed in the context of the cluster. They gain knowledge and skills through coordinated workplace learning experiences such as site visits, job shadowing and internships. If they choose, they may achieve valuable skill certifications that lead to employment. Colleges and universities offer advanced degrees and industry certifications that prepare learners for professional and technical careers.

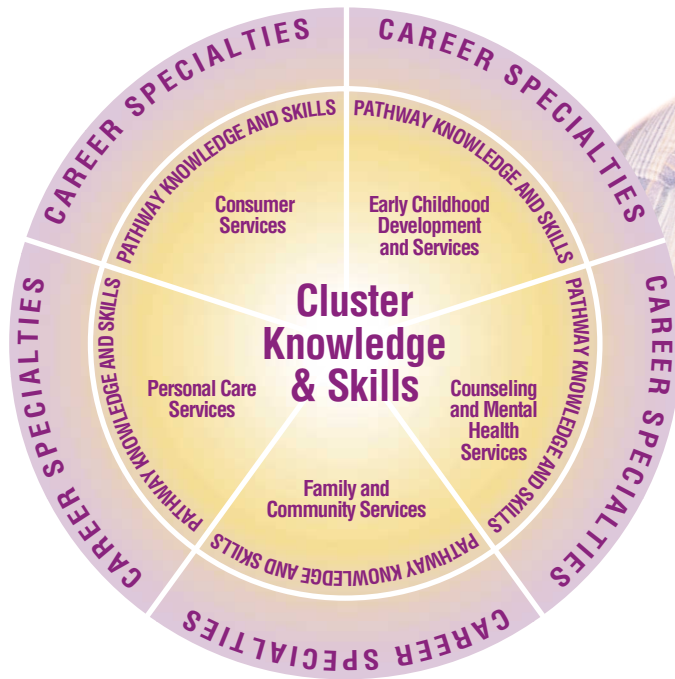
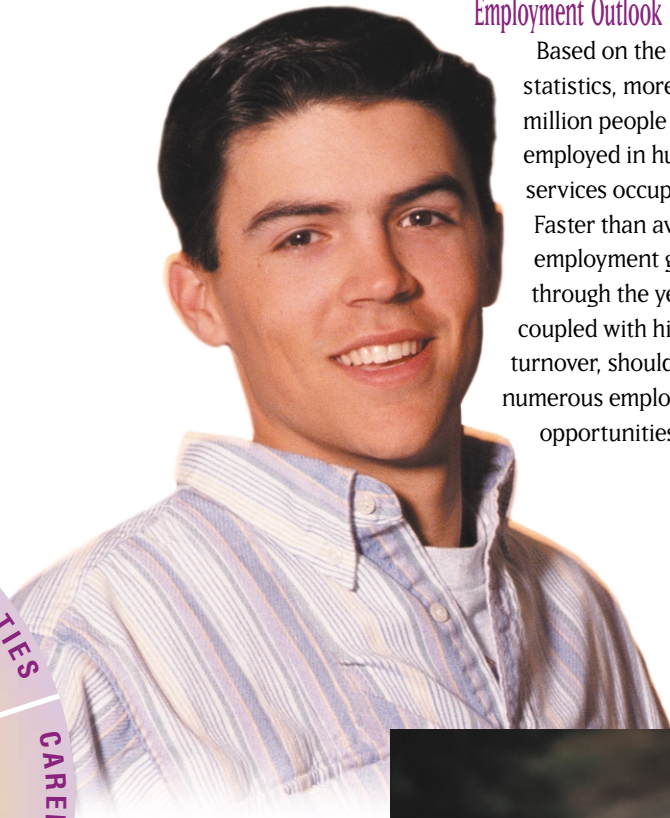


Career Pathways at a Glance

The Human Services Career Cluster is divided into five pathways. Pathways are grouped by the knowledge and skills required for occupations in these career fields. Each pathway provides instruction as a basis for success in an array of careers and educational pursuits.

Employment Outlook

Based on the latest statistics, more than 7.2 million people are employed in human services occupations. Faster than average employment growth through the year 2010, coupled with high turnover, should create numerous employment opportunities.



What Is the Human Services Career Cluster?

This diverse Career Cluster prepares individuals for employment in career pathways related to families and human needs.



The Five Pathways

- Early Childhood Development and Services
- Counseling and Mental Health Services
- Family and Community Services
- Personal Care Services
- Consumer Services

Early Childhood Development and Services

Overview

People with careers in early childhood development and services nurture and teach children.



They provide services in childcare centers, nursery schools, preschools, public schools, private households, family childcare homes, and before- and after-school programs.

Sample Occupations

- Assistant Director, Childcare Facilities
- Childcare Assistant/Worker
- Director, Childcare Facilities
- Educator for Parents
- Nanny
- Preschool Teacher
- Teacher's Assistant

Credentials

- Each state has its own licensing requirements that regulate caregiver training, ranging from a high school diploma to community college courses, to career technical programs, to a college degree in child development or early childhood education.

from a nationally recognized childcare organization.

Employment Outlook

According to the latest statistics, early childhood development and services employees hold about 1.2 million jobs. Employment is projected to increase about as fast as the average for all



- Community colleges, technical institutes and career technical schools offer one-, two- and three-year programs in childcare and parenting as well as child development.
- Four-year colleges and universities offer degree programs in child development and early childhood education.
- Some employers prefer to hire childcare workers who have received credentials

occupations through 2010. High turnover should create good job opportunities for childcare workers. About two out of five childcare workers are self-employed. Pay depends on the educational attainment of the worker and the type of establishment. Hourly earnings of non-supervisory workers in the childcare services industry average \$8.69, much less than the average of \$13.74 for all industries combined.

Counseling and Mental Health Services

Overview

People working in counseling and mental health services assist people with personal, family, educational, mental health, and career decisions and problems. Mental health care may be provided in hospitals, clinics, schools or private settings.

Sample Occupations

- Career Counselor
- Clinical and Counseling Psychologist
- HIV/Aids Counselor
- Marriage, Child and Family Counselor
- Mental Health Counselor
- Rehabilitation Counselor
- Residential Counselor
- School Counselor
- Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorder Counselor

Credentials

- For counselors, most states require some form of credentialing, licensure, certification or registry for practice outside schools. All states require school counselors to hold a state

school counseling certificate.

- Most counselors have a master's degree, and a doctoral degree usually is required for employment as a licensed clinical or counseling psychologist.
- Colleges and universities offer degree programs in college student affairs, elementary or secondary



school counseling, education, gerontological counseling, marriage and family counseling, substance abuse counseling, rehabilitation counseling, agency or community counseling, clinical mental health counseling, career counseling, psychology, industrial-organizational psychology and school psychology.

Employment Outlook

Based on the latest statistics, counselors and psychologists hold about 650,000 jobs. Through 2010, overall employment of counselors is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations, while employment of psychologists is expected to grow about as fast as the average for all



psychologists are self-employed. The median annual wage of salaried psychologists

occupations. Numerous job openings will occur as many counselors reach retirement age. Latest statistics indicate more than four out of ten

is \$48,596, while the median annual wage for counselors ranges from \$24,450 to \$42,110.

Family and Community Services

Overview

Employees with careers in family and community services help the homeless, housebound, and infirm cope with circumstances of daily living; counsel troubled and emotionally disturbed individuals; train or retrain the unemployed or under-employed; care for the elderly and the physically and mentally disabled; help the needy obtain financial assistance; and solicit contributions for various social services organizations.

Sample Occupations

- Adult Day Care Worker
- Community Service Director
- Coordinator of Volunteers
- Director, Religious Activities/Education Programs
- Emergency and Relief Worker

- Geriatric Service Worker
- Grief Counselor
- Social and Human Services Assistant
- Social Services Worker

Credentials

- Occupations requiring specific clinical training also require appropriate state licensure or certification.
- Many employers prefer social and human service assistants with some related work experience or college courses in human services, social work or

one of the social or behavioral sciences, while others prefer an associate degree or a bachelor's degree in human services or social work.

- Formal education, usually a bachelor's or master's degree in counseling, human services, rehabilitation, social work, family and consumer sciences or a related field is necessary for social and human service assistants to advance in their careers.

2.2 million jobs. Some of the fastest-growing occupations in the nation are concentrated in social services, especially those that involve working with the elderly. Job opportunities in social services should be numerous through 2010. Average earnings are low because of the large number of part-time and low-paying service jobs.

Employment Outlook

Based on the latest statistics, family and community service employees hold about



Personal Care Services

Overview

People with careers in personal care services assist individuals with their personal appearance, including shampooing, cutting, coloring and styling hair; giving manicures, pedicures, and scalp and facial treatments; providing makeup analysis; cleaning and styling wigs and hairpieces; and providing personal fitness training. Also, within personal care services, funeral directors and attendants make funeral arrangements for grieving families.

Sample Occupations

- Barber
- Cosmetologist
- Embalmer
- Funeral Attendant
- Funeral Director
- Nail Technician
- Personal Trainer
- Skin Care Specialist
- Spa Attendant



Credentials

- All states require barbers, cosmetologists and most other personal appearance workers to be licensed by the state in which they work. Applicants for a

license usually are required to pass a written test and a practical test of skills.

- Funeral directors must be licensed by the state in which they work (except Colorado). Most states require applicants to be 21 years old, have two years of formal education that includes studies in mortuary science, serve a one-year apprenticeship and pass a qualifying examination.

in order to maintain their licenses.

- Colleges and universities offer degree programs in mortuary science.

Employment Outlook

According to the latest statistics, employees in personal care services hold over one million jobs. Through 2010, employment of personal appearance workers is projected to grow about as

fast as the average for all occupations, while employment of funeral directors is projected to increase more slowly than the average for

all occupations. Numerous employment opportunities for personal care services workers will arise from the need to replace workers who transfer to other occupations, retire, or leave the labor force for other reasons. The median annual wage of personal appearance workers ranges from \$13,690 to \$20,080, while the median annual wage for embalmers and funeral directors ranges from \$32,870 to \$41,110.



- Community colleges, technical institutes and career technical schools offer one- and two-year programs in personal appearance services and two-year programs in mortuary science.
- Personal appearance workers participate in continuing education and training at salons, cosmetology schools and product shows.
- A total of 32 states require funeral directors to receive continuing education credits

Consumer Services

Overview

People with careers in consumer services assist individuals with decisions and problems relating to finance, real estate, insurance and consumer goods.

Sample Occupations

- Certified Financial Planner
- Consumer Advocate
- Consumer Affairs Officer
- Consumer Credit Counselor
- Consumer Research Department Representative
- Customer Service Representative
- Employee Benefits Representative
- Financial Advisor
- Market Researcher

- Community colleges, technical institutes and career technical schools offer one- and two-year programs in business, sales and customer service.
- Colleges and universities offer degree programs in consumer and family economics, business administration, accounting, statistics, finance, financial planning, economics, business, mathematics and law.



Credentials

- Personal financial advisors who sell stocks, bonds, mutual funds, insurance or real estate may need licenses to perform these additional services.
- Industry certifications are available to customer service representatives, financial analysts and personal financial advisors.

Employment Outlook

Consumer services comprise a large segment of available jobs. Latest statistics indicate customer service representatives alone hold 1.9 million jobs. The job outlook through 2010 is



Median annual earnings vary widely by occupation and experience with customer

favorable with employment expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations.

service representatives at \$24,600 and personal financial advisors at \$55,320.

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The 16 Career Clusters

Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
Architecture & Construction
Arts, A/V Technology & Communications
Business, Management & Administration
Education & Training
Finance
Government & Public Administration
Health Science
Hospitality & Tourism
Human Services
Information Technology
Law, Public Safety & Security
Manufacturing
Marketing, Sales & Service
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics



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