New Mexico

Career Clusters Guide

16 Career Clusters, Career Pathways & Tools to help you discover where your interests and career clusters intersect

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Whether you are a student, a graduate, someone considering a career change, or a career counselor, this guide can **help with career planning and preparing for the jobs of today and tomorrow**.

Having information about career options and the education needed to prepare for those careers is an important first step to becoming job ready. You can use this guide to explore what jobs match your interests through the **career interest profiler**, learn about **in-demand careers in our state**, and find opportunities to **try out a career through work-based learning.**

The **New Mexico Career Clusters Guidebook** is a valuable resource to help guide students as they make important life and career decisions. The guide is designed to be a tool for planning and preparing students for a career.

The New Mexico Career Clusters Guidebook provides a structure for selecting careers. It links what they know about themselves with information about occupations and typical training requirements.

How to use this guide for career planning (over)

How to Use This Guide for Career Planning

Are you planning for high school, college, the workforce, or a career change? You will find the New Mexico Career Clusters Guide a valuable resource as you make these important decisions. This guide is designed to be a tool for planning and preparing for a career. It provides you a structure for selecting careers based on linking what you know about yourself with information about occupations and typical training requirements.

The career planning process is the cycle you follow when seeking employment in occupations that match your interests. You can repeat this process as needed to help you find your place in the world of work. Follow these steps to learn about Career Clusters, their multiple pathways, and to find career options that best fit you.

#1 Know Yourself The Interest Profiler on pages 5-7 gives you one option for finding career clusters and occupations that match your personal characteristics, strengths, and preferred activities. Results do not tell you which occupation or cluster you should choose, but they do provide information for determining the kinds of work you might want to explore.

#2 Explore Career Clusters Career Clusters help you sort through more than 900 careers. Each cluster contains occupations that have similar knowledge and skills. Career Pathways within each cluster help identify useful training to prepare for work in specific jobs. Connect your Interest Profiler results with clusters and occupations on pages 12-13 to discover which ones most closely match your work-related interests.

#3 Know Your Options Use your Step 2 information to choose one Career Cluster from the section starting on page 14. First, get the cluster's "big picture" and find online career resources. Then learn about the cluster, its pathways, and related occupations. Review the Selected Careers table's job descriptions, employment growth, salary data, and interests. Find out about successful people who work in the cluster. Repeat this process with other clusters that interest you.

#4 Experience Real Jobs You may want to learn what it's really like to work in a specific occupation. Check out page 144 to find ways you can get experience in and gain a deeper understanding of occupations you might like.