Career Clusters versus Career Pathways

A Career Cluster is a grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities. Within each career cluster, there are multiple career pathways that represent a common set of skills and knowledge, both academic and technical, necessary to pursue a full range of career opportunities within that pathway – ranging from entry level to management

**The 16 Career Clusters listed by the VA DOE with sample pathways:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cluster | **Sample Pathways** |
| Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources | **Farmers, Animal caretakers, Water Treatment Operators, Biological Technicians, Environmental Engineers** |
| Architecture & Construction | **Landscaping workers, Electricians, Plumbers, Carpenters, Construction Laborers, Painters** |
| Arts, A/V Technology & Communications | **Graphics Designers, Editors, Technical Writers, Authors, Floral Designers, Producers & Directors** |
| Business Management & Administration | **Office Clerks, Customer Service Reps, Analysts, Operations Manager, Accounting and Bookkeeping, Auditing Clerks** |
| Education & Training  | **School Teachers, Teacher Assistants, Education Administrators, Special Education Teachers, Coaches, Pre K Teachers, Guidance Counselors** |
| Finance | **Accountant, Insurance Sales, Bill and Account Collectors, Tellers, Tax Preparers, Budget Analysts, Financial Managers** |
| Government & Public Administration | **Court Clerks, Construction & Building inspectors, Urban and Regional Planners, Real Estate Appraisal, OSHA** |
| Health Science | **Home Health Aides, Nursing Assistants, LPN, RN, Dental Assistants, Pharmacy Tech, Medical Secretary**  |
| Hospitality & Tourism  | **Food Prep and Serving Workers, Janitors and Cleaners, Maids and Housekeeping, Dishwashers, Counter Attendants, Host and Hostesses** |
| Human Services | **Personal Care Aide, Childcare Worker, Cosmetologist, Fitness Trainer, Social Service Assistant, Laundry & Dry cleaning worker, Mental Health & Substance Abuse Counselor, Massage Therapist** |
| Information Technology | **Software Developer, Systems Analyst, Computer Support Specialist, Network Architect, Programmer, Network Support Specialist, Network Administrator, Software Developer** |
| Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security | **Security Guard, Lawyer, Police Officer, Firefighter, EMT, Dispatchers, Protective Service Workers, Investigators** |
| Manufacturing  | **Welders, Packaging and Filling Machine Operator, Maintenance, Machinists, Industrial Mechanic, Production Clerk, Electrical Technician** |
| Marketing | **Retail Salesperson, Cashier, Sales Representative, Market Research Analyst, Real Estate Agent, Counter Clerk, Driver** |
| Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics | **Engineers including Mechanical, Electrical, Electronics, Industrial, Nuclear, and Aerospace; Environmental Scientist, Architectural Management, Social Scientest** |
| Transportation, Distribution & Logistics | **Stock and Material Mover, Truck Driver, Packers and Packaging, Logisticians, Billing Clerk, Logisticians** |
| **Link to the Clusters** | [**Career Clusters in VA**](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/career_technical/career_clusters/transportation/index.shtml) |