



HIGH SCHOOL

Career Success Workbook

PART 2 OF 3:

EXPLORE & EVALUATE



Excellent
Content



Activities



Real World
Application



Icon Key

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THESE!

While you're reading, you will come across the following symbols and frequently-used acronyms:



Thumbs-Up Icon

This icon indicates an activity for you to complete. When you see one, stop and look for instructions or action items.



Exclamation Point Icon

All information detailed in this workbook is important, but this icon indicates a particularly vital section.

CDMP: Career Decision-Making Process

CP: Career Portfolio

FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid

LMCI: Labor Market & Career Information

TWC: Texas Workforce Commission



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Step 3



Explore

LOOK FOR YOUR OPTIONS

Research your career options. Since hundreds of potential careers exist, the best way to look at your options is to first understand career clusters.

 The following pages include 14 industry groups, called career clusters. Look at each of the career clusters to see which interest you. Later, you will have the opportunity to explore the work content, requirements, and outlook for related occupations.

Information such as education requirements, employment projections and wage data will also be very useful in your career decision-making process. We recommend you research the jobs that interest you using TexasCareerCheck.com. For now, explore the clusters and become familiar with all the different options.

WHAT IS A CAREER CLUSTER?

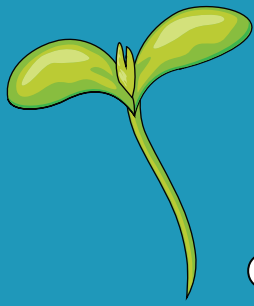
A Career Cluster is a group of occupations that share certain characteristics. There are 14 different Career Clusters in total.

Each Career Cluster includes different Programs of Study for you to choose from. A program of study is an approved sequence of courses that can prepare you for careers in that cluster.

Each Program of Study will prepare you for more specific types of jobs. Clusters include some jobs that have various education requirements listed.

The education listed is the minimum needed to work in these jobs. Each job may also require additional skills, licenses or certifications.

If you see a job that interests you, and it happens to say "Less than a high school diploma," DO NOT take that to mean you can drop out.



Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources

WHAT'S THIS?

This cluster encompasses careers in the production, processing, marketing, distribution, financing, and development of agricultural commodities and resources, including food, fiber, wood products, natural resources, horticulture and other plant and animal resources.

Explore CAREERS:

1. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
2. Select "Explore Careers." Choose "Occupation Information" in the drop-down menu
3. Search any occupation, or click through the pages to find an occupation you like
4. Click on an occupation title to see more information

Sample Careers



GEOLOGICAL PETROLEUM TECHNICIAN

- \$59,130 a year, mean wage
- 990 annual job openings
- Bachelor's degree



SERVICE UNIT OPERATORS: OIL, GAS, & MINING

- \$52,512 a year, mean wage
- 3,032 annual job openings
- High school diploma



FARMERS, RANCHERS, & OTHER AGRICULTURAL MANAGERS

- \$64,781 a year, mean wage
- 28,020 annual job openings
- Bachelor's degree



Explore PROGRAMS OF STUDY:

1. Review the Programs of Study listed below
2. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
3. Select "Explore Education." Choose "Programs of Study" in the drop-down menu
4. Explore your options

I'm most interested in these programs of study:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Sample Programs of Study

The following titles are high school programs of study, followed by bulleted examples of related college (or postsecondary) programs of study:



ANIMAL SCIENCE

- Animal Health
- Animal Nutrition
- Dairy Science

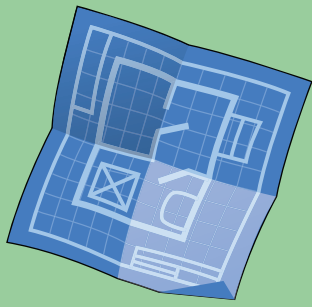


FOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

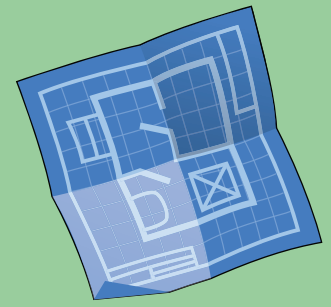
- Food Science
- Food Technology & Processing

NEXT STEPS:

Create a place in your CP to save programs of study and occupations that interest you. Challenge yourself to find interesting programs of study in each of the 14 clusters. Then, think about why you are interested in what you have selected.



Architecture & Construction



WHAT'S THIS?

This cluster encompasses careers in designing, planning, managing, building and maintaining the built environment.

Explore CAREERS:

1. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
2. Select "Explore Careers." Choose "Occupation Information" in the drop-down menu
3. Search any occupation, or click through the pages to find an occupation you like
4. Click on an occupation title to see more information

Sample Careers



ARCHITECTS, EXCEPT LANDSCAPE & NAVAL

- \$90,901 a year, mean wage
- 966 annual job openings
- Bachelor's degree



INTERIOR DESIGNERS

- \$59,365 a year, mean wage
- 791 annual job openings
- Bachelor's degree



ELECTRICIANS

- \$53,080 a year, mean wage
- 9,221 annual job openings
- Post-secondary certificate



Explore PROGRAMS OF STUDY:

1. Review the Programs of Study listed below
2. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
3. Select "Explore Education." Choose "Programs of Study" in the drop-down menu
4. Explore your options

I'm most interested in these programs of study:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Sample Programs of Study

The following titles are high school programs of study, followed by bulleted examples of related college (or postsecondary) programs of study:



ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

- Architectural & Building Sciences
- City/Urban Planning

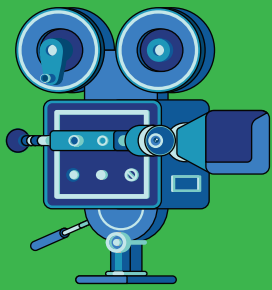


HVAC & SHEET METAL

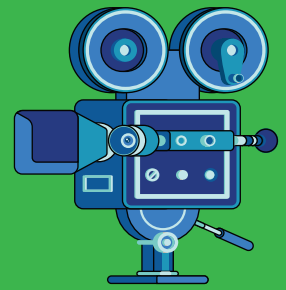
- HVAC Technology

NEXT STEPS:

Create a place in your CP to save programs of study and occupations that interest you. Challenge yourself to find interesting programs of study in each of the 14 clusters. Then, think about why you are interested in what you have selected.



Arts, AV Tech & Communications



WHAT'S THIS?

This cluster encompasses careers in designing, producing, exhibiting, performing, writing, and publishing multimedia content, including visual/performing arts and design, journalism, and entertainment services.

Explore CAREERS:

1. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
2. Select "Explore Careers." Choose "Occupation Information" in the drop-down menu
3. Search any occupation, or click through the pages to find an occupation you like
4. Click on an occupation title to see more information

Sample Careers



FILM & VIDEO EDITORS

- \$55,476 a year, mean wage
- 230 annual job openings
- Bachelor's degree



PRODUCERS & DIRECTORS

- \$69,543 a year, mean wage
- 522 annual job openings
- Bachelor's degree



GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

- \$50,919 a year, mean wage
- 1,766 annual job openings
- Bachelor's degree



Explore PROGRAMS OF STUDY:

1. Review the Programs of Study listed below
2. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
3. Select "Explore Education." Choose "Programs of Study" in the drop-down menu
4. Explore your options

I'm most interested in these programs of study:

1

2

3

Sample Programs of Study

The following titles are high school programs of study, followed by bulleted examples of related college (or postsecondary) programs of study:



DESIGN & MULTIMEDIA ARTS

- Graphic Design
- Illustration
- Digital Arts



DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Audiovisual Communications
- Graphic Communications

NEXT STEPS:

Create a place in your CP to save programs of study and occupations that interest you. Challenge yourself to find interesting programs of study in each of the 14 clusters. Then, think about why you are interested in what you have selected.

Business, Marketing & Finance

WHAT'S THIS?

This cluster encompasses careers in operating and running a business as well as managing personnel and operations in any industry. Administrators in the business industry are those who sit in executive positions.

Explore CAREERS:

1. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
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3. Search any occupation, or click through the pages to find an occupation you like
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Sample Careers



BUDGET ANALYSTS

- \$77,035 a year, mean wage
- 385 annual job openings
- Bachelor's degree



PAYROLL & TIMEKEEPING CLERKS

- \$46,577 a year, mean wage
- 1,180 annual job openings
- Bachelor's degree



GENERAL & OPERATIONS MANAGERS

- 106,391 a year, mean wage
- 25,450 annual job openings
- Bachelor's degree



Explore PROGRAMS OF STUDY:

1. Review the Programs of Study listed below
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4. Explore your options

I'm most interested in these programs of study:

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Sample Programs of Study

The following titles are high school programs of study, followed by bulleted examples of related college (or postsecondary) programs of study:



BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

- Retail Management
- Business Administration & Management

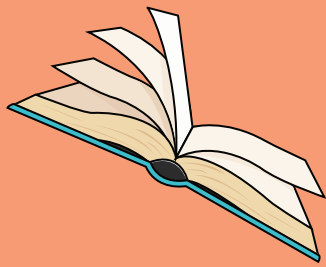


MARKETING & SALES

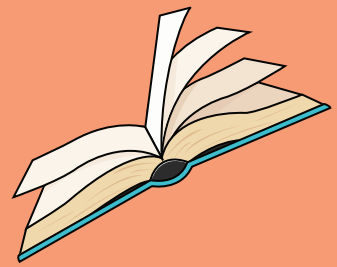
- International Marketing
- Merchandising & Buying Operations

NEXT STEPS:

Create a place in your CP to save programs of study and occupations that interest you. Challenge yourself to find interesting programs of study in each of the 14 clusters. Then, think about why you are interested in what you have selected.



Education & Training



WHAT'S THIS?

This cluster encompasses careers in planning, managing and providing education and training services, and related learning support services.

Explore CAREERS:

1. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
2. Select "Explore Careers." Choose "Occupation Information" in the drop-down menu
3. Search any occupation, or click through the pages to find an occupation you like
4. Click on an occupation title to see more information

Sample Careers



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

- \$569,212 a year, mean wage
- 11,712 annual job openings
- Bachelor's degree



EDUCATIONAL, GUIDANCE, SCHOOL & VOCATIONAL COUNSELORS

- \$59,565 a year, mean wage
- 3,053 annual job openings
- Master's degree



INSTRUCTIONAL COORDINATORS

- \$69,685 a year, mean wage
- 2,176 annual job openings
- Master's degree



Explore PROGRAMS OF STUDY:

1. Review the programs of study listed below
2. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
3. Select "Explore Education." Choose "Programs of Study" in the drop-down menu
4. Explore your options

I'm most interested in these programs of study:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Sample Programs of Study

The following titles are high school programs of study, followed by bulleted examples of related college (or postsecondary) programs of study:



TEACHING & TRAINING

- Middle/High School Education & Teaching
- Instructional Design



EARLY LEARNING

- Early Childhood Education & Teaching

NEXT STEPS:

Create a place in your CP to save programs of study and occupations that interest you. Challenge yourself to find interesting programs of study in each of the 14 clusters. Then, think about why you are interested in what you have selected.



Energy



WHAT'S THIS?

This cluster encompasses careers in the designing, planning, maintaining, generating, transmission, and distribution of both traditional and alternative energy.

Explore CAREERS:

1. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
2. Select "Explore Careers." Choose "Occupation Information" in the drop-down menu
3. Search any occupation, or click through the pages to find an occupation you like
4. Click on an occupation title to see more information

Sample Careers



OIL & GAS DRILL OPERATORS

- \$49,941 a year, mean wage
- 738 annual job openings
- Some high school



WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS

- \$135,297 a year, mean wage
- 3,202 annual job openings
- Bachelor's degree



SOLAR ENERGY INSTALLATION MANAGERS

- \$70,576 a year, mean wage
- 9,513 annual job openings
- Post-secondary certificate



Explore PROGRAMS OF STUDY:

1. Review the Programs of Study listed below
2. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
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4. Explore your options

I'm most interested in these programs of study:

1

2

3

Sample Programs of Study

The following titles are high school programs of study, followed by bulleted examples of related college (or postsecondary) programs of study:



ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCES

- Environmental Science
- Energy Management & Systems Technology/Technician



REFINING & CHEMICAL PROCESSES

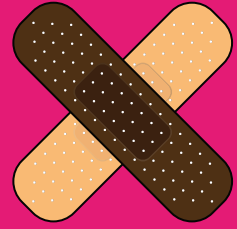
- Mining & Mineral Engineering
- Petroleum Technology

NEXT STEPS:

Create a place in your CP to save programs of study and occupations that interest you. Challenge yourself to find interesting programs of study in each of the 14 clusters. Then, think about why you are interested in what you have selected.



Health Sciences



WHAT'S THIS?

This cluster encompasses careers in planning, managing, and providing therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development.

Explore CAREERS:

1. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
2. Select "Explore Careers." Choose "Occupation Information" in the drop-down menu
3. Search any occupation, or click through the pages to find an occupation you like
4. Click on an occupation title to see more information

Sample Careers



SURGEONS (ALL OTHERS)

- \$279,599 a year, mean wage
- 120 annual job openings
- Doctoral degree



EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS & PARAMEDICS

- \$34,067 a year, mean wage
- 1,590 annual job openings
- Associate's degree



DENTAL HYGIENISTS

- \$75,971 a year, mean wage
- 1,352 annual job openings
- Associate's degree



Explore PROGRAMS OF STUDY:

1. Review the Programs of Study listed below
2. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
3. Select "Explore Education." Choose "Programs of Study" in the drop-down menu
4. Explore your options

I'm most interested in these programs of study:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Sample Programs of Study

The following titles are high school programs of study, followed by bulleted examples of related college (or postsecondary) programs of study:



HEALTHCARE DIAGNOSTICS

- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Cardiovascular Technology

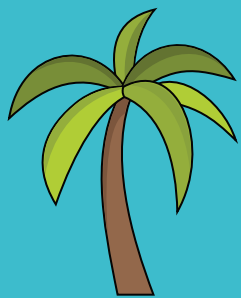


NURSING SCIENCE

- Registered Nurse
- Critical Care Nurse
- Pediatric Nurse

NEXT STEPS:

Create a place in your CP to save programs of study and occupations that interest you. Challenge yourself to find interesting programs of study in each of the 14 clusters. Then, think about why you are interested in what you have selected.



Hospitality & Tourism

WHAT'S THIS?

This cluster is focused on the management, marketing, and operations of restaurants and other food services, lodging, attractions, recreation events and travel-related services.

Explore CAREERS:

1. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
2. Select "Explore Careers." Choose "Occupation Information" in the drop-down menu
3. Search any occupation, or click through the pages to find an occupation you like
4. Click on an occupation title to see more information

Sample Careers



LODGING MANAGERS

- \$76,132 a year, mean wage
- 609 annual job openings
- Bachelor's degree



FOOD SERVICE MANAGERS

- \$63,068 a year, mean wage
- 3,553 annual job openings
- Some high school



FIRST-LINE SERVICES, JANITORIAL & HOUSEKEEPING WORKERS

- \$40,283 a year, mean wage
- 2,117 annual job openings
- High school diploma



Explore PROGRAMS OF STUDY:

1. Review the Programs of Study listed below
2. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
3. Select "Explore Education." Choose "Programs of Study" in the drop-down menu
4. Explore your options

I'm most interested in these programs of study:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Sample Programs of Study

The following titles are high school programs of study, followed by bulleted examples of related college (or postsecondary) programs of study:



CULINARY ARTS

- Culinary Arts
- Culinary Science
- Baking & Pastry



LODGING & RESORT MANAGEMENT

- Hotel Administration & Management

NEXT STEPS:

Create a place in your CP to save programs of study and occupations that interest you. Challenge yourself to find interesting programs of study in each of the 14 clusters. Then, think about why you are interested in what you have selected.



Human Services



WHAT'S THIS?

This cluster encompasses careers that prepare individuals for employment in career pathways that relate to families and human needs.

Explore CAREERS:

1. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
2. Select "Explore Careers." Choose "Occupation Information" in the drop-down menu
3. Search any occupation, or click through the pages to find an occupation you like
4. Click on an occupation title to see more information

Sample Careers



CHILD, FAMILY & SOCIAL WORKERS

- \$49,309 a year, mean wage
- 2,342 annual job openings
- Bachelor's degree



HEALTHCARE SOCIAL WORKERS

- \$59,089 a year, mean wage
- 1,339 annual job openings
- Master's degree



COUNSELORS (ALL OTHERS)

- \$50,245 a year, mean wage
- 474 annual job openings
- Bachelor's degree



Explore PROGRAMS OF STUDY:

1. Review the Programs of Study listed below
2. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
3. Select "Explore Education." Choose "Programs of Study" in the drop-down menu
4. Explore your options

I'm most interested in these programs of study:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Sample Programs of Study

The following titles are high school programs of study, followed by bulleted examples of related college (or postsecondary) programs of study:



FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Family & Consumer Sciences
- Housing & Human Environments
- Work & Family Studies



HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Food, Nutrition & Wellness Studies
- Health Education

NEXT STEPS:

Create a place in your CP to save programs of study and occupations that interest you. Challenge yourself to find interesting programs of study in each of the 14 clusters. Then, think about why you are interested in what you have selected.



Information Technology



WHAT'S THIS?

This cluster encompasses careers in design, development, support and management of hardware, software, multimedia, and systems integration services.

Explore CAREERS:

1. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
2. Select "Explore Careers." Choose "Occupation Information" in the drop-down menu
3. Search any occupation, or click through the pages to find an occupation you like
4. Click on an occupation title to see more information

Sample Careers



COMPUTER & INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGERS

- \$154,865 a year, mean wage
- 3,064 annual job openings
- Bachelor's degree



COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYSTS

- \$105,126 a year, mean wage
- 4,985 annual job openings
- Bachelor's degree



SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS (APPS)

- \$111,831 a year, mean wage
- 15,324 annual job openings
- Bachelor's degree

NEXT STEPS:

Create a place in your CP to save programs of study and occupations that interest you. Challenge yourself to find interesting programs of study in each of the 14 clusters. Then, think about why you are interested in what you have selected.



Explore PROGRAMS OF STUDY:

1. Review the Programs of Study listed below
2. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
3. Select "Explore Education." Choose "Programs of Study" in the drop-down menu
4. Explore your options

I'm most interested in these programs of study:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Sample Programs of Study

The following titles are high school programs of study, followed by bulleted examples of related college (or postsecondary) programs of study:



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT & SERVICES

- Computer & Information Sciences
- Computer Programming



WEB DEVELOPMENT

- Web Page Design
- Computer Graphics
- Webmaster



Law & Public Service

WHAT'S THIS?

This cluster encompasses careers in planning, managing, and providing legal services, public safety, protective services, and homeland security, including professional and technical support services.

Explore CAREERS:

1. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
2. Select "Explore Careers." Choose "Occupation Information" in the drop-down menu
3. Search any occupation, or click through the pages to find an occupation you like
4. Click on an occupation title to see more information

Sample Careers



POLICE & SHERIFF'S PATROL OFFICERS

- \$66,893 a year, mean wage
- 5,424 annual job openings
- High school diploma



LAWYERS

- \$150,350 a year, mean wage
- 3,915 annual job openings
- Doctoral degree



FIREFIGHTERS

- \$53,311 a year, mean wage
- 2,294 annual job openings
- High school diploma



Explore PROGRAMS OF STUDY:

1. Review the Programs of Study listed below
2. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
3. Select "Explore Education." Choose "Programs of Study" in the drop-down menu
4. Explore your options

I'm most interested in these programs of study:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Sample Programs of Study

The following titles are high school programs of study, followed by bulleted examples of related college (or postsecondary) programs of study:



LEGAL STUDIES

- Pre-Law Studies
- Court Reporting
- Legal Assistant/Paralegal

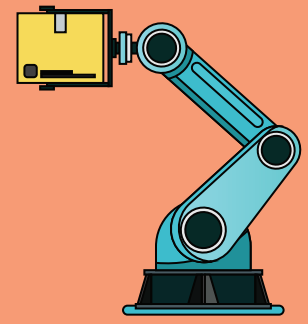
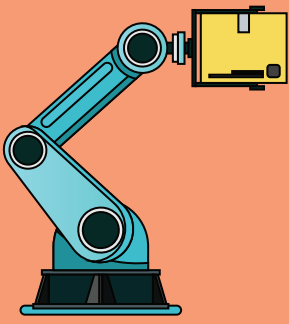


EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Emergency Medical Technician
- Fire/Arson Investigation & Prevention

NEXT STEPS:

Create a place in your CP to save programs of study and occupations that interest you. Challenge yourself to find interesting programs of study in each of the 14 clusters. Then, think about why you are interested in what you have selected.



Manufacturing

WHAT'S THIS?

This cluster encompasses careers in planning, managing and performing the processing of materials into intermediate or final products. It includes related professional and technical support activities, such as production planning and control, maintenance, and manufacturing/process engineering.

Explore CAREERS:

1. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
2. Select "Explore Careers." Choose "Occupation Information" in the drop-down menu
3. Search any occupation, or click through the pages to find an occupation you like
4. Click on an occupation title to see more information

Sample Careers



WELDERS, CUTTERS, SOLDERERS & BRAZERS

- \$50,560 a year, mean wage
- 7,183 annual job openings
- Post-secondary certificate



CHEMICAL EQUIPMENT OPERATORS & TENDERS

- \$64,765 a year, mean wage
- 1,470 annual job openings
- High school diploma



MACHINISTS

- \$49,807 a year, mean wage
- 3,385 annual job openings
- High school diploma



Explore PROGRAMS OF STUDY:

1. Review the Programs of Study listed below
2. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
3. Select "Explore Education." Choose "Programs of Study" in the drop-down menu
4. Explore your options

I'm most interested in these programs of study:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Sample Programs of Study

The following titles are high school programs of study, followed by bulleted examples of related college (or postsecondary) programs of study:



ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

- Industrial Mechanics
- Heavy Equipment Maintenance Technology

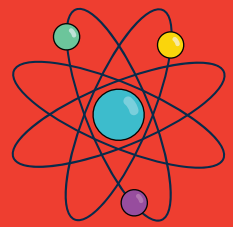
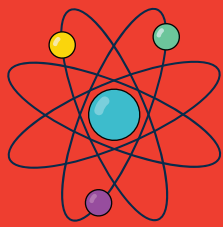


WELDING

- General Construction Trades
- Welding

NEXT STEPS:

Create a place in your CP to save programs of study and occupations that interest you. Challenge yourself to find interesting programs of study in each of the 14 clusters. Then, think about why you are interested in what you have selected.



Science, Technology, Engineering & Math

WHAT'S THIS?

This cluster encompasses careers in planning, managing and providing scientific research and professional and technical services (e.g. physical science, social science, engineering) including laboratory and testing services, and research and development services.

Explore CAREERS:

1. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
2. Select "Explore Careers." Choose "Occupation Information" in the drop-down menu
3. Search any occupation, or click through the pages to find an occupation you like
4. Click on an occupation title to see more information

Sample Careers



CHEMICAL ENGINEERS

- \$164,474 a year, mean wage
- 504 annual job openings
- Bachelor's degree



ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS

- \$66,643 a year, mean wage
- 1,156 annual job openings
- Post-secondary certificate



MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

- \$111,329 a year, mean wage
- 1,755 annual job openings
- Bachelor's degree



Explore PROGRAMS OF STUDY:

1. Review the Programs of Study listed below
2. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
3. Select "Explore Education." Choose "Programs of Study" in the drop-down menu
4. Explore your options

I'm most interested in these programs of study:

1

2

3

Sample Programs of Study

The following titles are high school programs of study, followed by bulleted examples of related college (or postsecondary) programs of study:



ENGINEERING

- Electrical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Aerospace Engineering

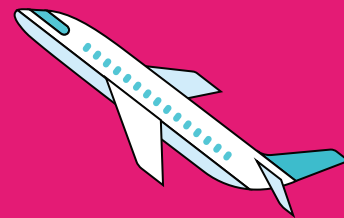
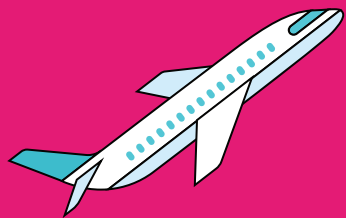


CYBER SECURITY

- Computer Forensics & Counterterrorism

NEXT STEPS:

Create a place in your CP to save programs of study and occupations that interest you. Challenge yourself to find interesting programs of study in each of the 14 clusters. Then, think about why you are interested in what you have selected.



Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

WHAT'S THIS?

This cluster encompasses careers in planning, management, and movement of people, materials, and goods by road, pipeline, air, rail and water. It also includes related professional and technical support services, such as transportation infrastructure planning and management, logistics services, mobile equipment, and facility maintenance.

Explore CAREERS:

1. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
2. Select "Explore Careers." Choose "Occupation Information" in the drop-down menu
3. Search any occupation, or click through the pages to find an occupation you like
4. Click on an occupation title to see more information

Sample Careers



AIRLINE PILOTS

- \$210,163 a year, mean wage
- 1,204 annual job openings
- Bachelor's degree



AIRCRAFT MECHANICS & SERVICE TECHNICIANS

- \$50,934 a year, mean wage
- 1,276 annual job openings
- Post-secondary certificate



AUTOMOTIVE BODY & RELATED REPAIRERS

- \$50,934 a year, mean wage
- 1,276 annual job openings
- High school diploma



Explore PROGRAMS OF STUDY:

1. Review the Programs of Study listed below
2. Go to **TexasCareerCheck.com**
3. Select "Explore Education." Choose "Programs of Study" in the drop-down menu
4. Explore your options

I'm most interested in these programs of study:

1

2

3

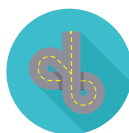
Sample Programs of Study

The following titles are high school programs of study, followed by bulleted examples of related college (or postsecondary) programs of study:



AVIATION MAINTENANCE

- Aviation Technology
- Aircraft Mechanics



DISTRIBUTION & LOGISTICS

- Truck & Bus Drivers
- Flagging & Traffic Control

NEXT STEPS:

Create a place in your CP to save programs of study and occupations that interest you. Challenge yourself to find interesting programs of study in each of the 14 clusters. Then, think about why you are interested in what you have selected.

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

Maybe the traditional classroom environment has not been your preferred or most successful method to learn. That's okay. This doesn't mean that you can't learn. It just means you need a different way of collecting and synthesizing new information so that it sticks with you.



Now that you are close to graduating high school and contemplating your next move, you should learn about all of the options that can prepare you for work. One secret to keep in mind is that not all of the pathways to success will lead you through a traditional college experience. In fact, that is the wonderful thing about today's workplace. The skills you need to perform a job do not always have to be learned in a classroom. Some of your options are listed here, briefly:

1

APPRENTICESHIP

An apprenticeship combines paid on-the-job training under the supervision of experienced journey workers with related classroom instruction. Most registered apprenticeship programs last from 3 to 5 years as determined by industry standards, but apprentices are paid from the first day they begin training.

2

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Operating your own business can help you build all sorts of skills, but keep in mind you may need to learn some basic business savvy in order to do this successfully. Jumping into this kind of endeavor without the proper training may lead to running a business through trial and error, which can be detrimental when you are the person financially responsible for the business. However, if you have the proper foundation and access to help when needed, being your own boss has great rewards.

3

MILITARY TRAINING

While serving in one of the branches of the U.S. military, you are trained to learn the skills needed to perform specific functions. The training is mostly hands-on and in the field. Once you complete your service, you can transfer the skills you learned in the military to equivalent civilian positions in the workforce.

4

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Post-high school institutions that specialize in education and training for very specific occupations. They combine a hands-on as well as classroom approach. Usually, the class size in these institutions can be small to promote ease of learning, but they can also be quite expensive, and the training learned applies to specific occupations. For example, you can attend a technical school to become certified or licensed in phlebotomy, but once you leave that institution, the credits you earned there may not be transferable to other schools. You would have to return to a training program or college to earn advanced skills, and in many cases, that may mean you starting over.

5

WORKFORCE TRAINING

Your local Workforce Solutions office or community college campuses may offer training programs that provide courses to prepare you for very specific jobs (much like technical schools). These programs, once completed, can also provide participants with licensing or certifications in certain fields. However, these programs may be offered at a lower cost than programs provided through technical schools. In some cases, there may be funding available to help you cover the cost of these training programs. Visit your local Workforce Solutions Office to learn more about these opportunities.

6

LEARNING ON THE JOB

One method of gaining new career skills is to learn them while on the job. For example, say you are working in a movie theater as a ticket seller, but you want to learn how to manage the theater. You can let your manager know of your interest, and when they are ready, someone already doing the job can train you. Keep in mind that this method may take the longest to complete, as it takes time to get these kinds of opportunities from an employer. Also, this kind of training does not usually result in industry-recognized licensing or certifications; therefore, leveraging this experience may be harder to do if you decide to change employers later.

You have a lot of options available in terms of how you learn and train for a job. The method you choose to use should be the option that is best suited for your lifestyle as well as the style in which you learn the easiest. Keep all your options open, then follow the method that works for you. Continue reading to explore these options in more detail.

Registered Apprenticeship



EARN AS YOU LEARN

The Registered Apprenticeship program is a job training system for multiple occupations. Possible apprenticeship careers include electrician, carpenter, baker, accounting technician, chemical engineering technician, computer support specialist, computer programmer, dental laboratory technician, EMT, home health aide, and medical coder, to name a few.



If you choose to pursue an apprenticeship, you will want to make sure that it is registered, meaning that the program's standards (curriculum, wage increments, and competency levels) have been approved by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship. When you complete this type of program, you will be awarded a nationally recognized certificate. That is significant to your future employers. Registered apprenticeships combine related classroom instruction with structured on-the-job learning supervised by experienced workers. Registered apprentices who successfully complete the prescribed training hours in a registered apprenticeship program become certified, highly skilled workers.

Registered apprentices are full-time, paid employees who work a regular 40-hour week and attend related classroom training a few hours a week, which is the "earn while you learn" model of registered apprenticeship. Most training programs last three to five years. As participants complete each year of the registered apprenticeship program, they will usually experience an increase in classification as well as a wage increase. The experiences you gain as a registered apprentice can help make you a more informed, productive, and motivated employee.

Statistics show that registered apprenticeship graduates earn more, have more stable work records, and are promoted sooner and more often than workers who have not been trained through apprenticeship programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For additional information on how you can get paid to learn, ask your counselor about registered apprenticeship programs, or visit Apprenticeship.gov—a site where you can learn more about becoming an apprentice and use an Apprenticeship Job Finder tool to discover opportunities near your location.



Apprenticeship.gov



EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS

Visit some apprenticeship resources and write what you learn:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Entrepreneurship



BUILD YOUR OWN BUSINESS

One of the more exciting options is to strike out on your own and start a business. It involves planning, making key financial decisions, and completing a series of legal activities. Here is a brief outline of the steps involved:



1

Conduct market research. Market research will tell you if there's an opportunity to turn your idea into a successful business. It's a way to gather information about potential customers and businesses already operating in your area. Use that information to find a competitive advantage.

2

Write your business plan. Your business plan is the foundation of your business. It's a roadmap for how to structure, run, and grow your new business. You'll use it to convince people that working with you — or investing in your company — is a smart choice.

3

Fund your business. Your business plan will help you figure out how much money you'll need to start your business. If you don't have that amount on hand, you'll need to either raise or borrow the capital. Fortunately, there are more ways than ever to find the capital you need.

4

Pick your business location. Your business location is one of the most important decisions you'll make. Whether you're setting up a brick-and-mortar business or launching an online store, the choices you make could affect your taxes, legal requirements and revenue.

5

Choose your business structure. The legal structure you choose for your business will impact your business registration requirements, how much you pay in taxes, and your personal liability.

6 Choose your business name. It's not easy to pick the perfect name. You'll want one that reflects your brand and captures your spirit. You'll also want to make sure your business name isn't already being used by someone else.

7 Register your business. Once you've picked the perfect business name, it's time to make it legal and protect your brand. If you're doing business under a name different than your own you'll need to register with the federal government, and maybe your state government as well.

8 Get federal and state tax IDs. You'll use your employer identification number (EIN) for important steps to start and grow your business, like opening a bank account and paying taxes. It's like a social security number for your business. Some — but not all — states require you to get a tax ID as well.

9 Apply for licenses and permits. Keep your business running smoothly by staying legally compliant. The licenses and permits you need for your business will vary by industry, location, and other factors.

10 Open a business bank account. A small business checking account can help you handle legal, tax, and day-to-day issues. The good news is it's easy to set one up if you have the right registrations and paperwork ready.



SBA.gov



CHECK IT OUT

You can find these steps and learn more about each of them by going to the U.S.

Small Business Administration website [SBA.gov](https://www.sba.gov) and clicking on "Business Guide" at the top.



Military Service



GET PAID TO SERVE

Putting on a military uniform is about honor and service. You get to protect your country's freedom and way of life. You might also get to work with some pretty cool hardware, and software.

Today's military is more computerized than ever, offering many high-tech occupations. There are over 140 military enlisted and officer occupations.



While in the military you get a steady paycheck, free training in a job specialty, free medical and dental care, free gym and exercise facilities, free on-base housing (if available), 30 days per year of vacation with pay, and more. After your tour of enlistment is over, you can use funds from the Montgomery GI Bill toward your education. Depending on your length of service and other factors, your benefit amount will vary. Joining the military does not cost you money, just a commitment of time.



FIND YOUR FIT

If you want to participate on a team, learn job skills, earn money for education, and meet some challenges, the military may be for you. Information about all that the U.S. military offers can be found by talking to a local recruiter or your high school counselor; or check out the benefits for service online at [Military.com](https://www.military.com). See if your school offers the ASVAB military aptitude assessment to explore occupational specialties for which you qualify. Use the following resources to research which branch of the military would be best for you.

Military.com

- **Army.com**
- **Navy.com**
- **AirForce.com**
- **Marines.com**
- **GoCoastGuard.com**



Vocational Training



TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Some institutions of higher learning are similar to traditional colleges, but they focus on building technical skills that lead to very specific occupations. The state of Texas has one public technical school district called Texas State Technical College (TSTC). There are several TSTC campuses located across the state. The programs available on these campuses are specific to the occupations and industries that are in demand in the regions in which they are located, so the programs offered are different on each campus. It is recommended that you research these campuses to see the variety of programs available and pay close attention to the costs of each program. There are many other Technical Schools located throughout the state as well, but TSTC is the only one that is state-run.



These campuses offer a variety of credentials to choose from so the education you get (and pay for) is exactly what you need to get the occupation you desire.

For Example:

Let's say you want to be a tax assessor. Some companies will hire you to work for them once you complete six specified courses and pass one certification exam.

If you want to be a cosmetologist, you will have to complete 1500 hours of specialized training and education in a cosmetology school, pass both a written and practical exam, and pass a licensing exam.

If you want to be an athletic trainer, you need to earn a bachelor's degree in athletic training from a university, be certified in CPR, and pass a written and practical licensing exam.

TECHNICAL SCHOOL, CONTINUED

The education and hands-on training you will need to meet the requirements for becoming a tax assessor or cosmetologist, and many other occupations, can be earned at a technical school. But to meet the requirements to become an athletic trainer, you will need to earn a college degree, then pass a licensing exam. Your education at a traditional college, in the athletics training program, will prepare you to pass the licensing exam.



LMCI.state.tx.us

If you want to learn more about the requirements for the variety of occupations which require certifications and licenses, you can read them in our publication Texas Directory of Licensed Occupations. You can find it by visiting LMCI.state.tx.us and clicking on the Products and Publications link. Under LMCI Publications, select the books hyperlink. Once there, find the book and click on its PDF link.



LOCATE A CAMPUS

Once you begin exploring your campus options, if you need help picking the right campus, check out our publication Beyond High School. You can find its PDF under Magazines on our publication website, as well as under LMCI Publications. This booklet helps you and your parents work through an 8-step process to narrow your options down and find the campus that is the best fit for you.

Internship



DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS

You can also secure an internship opportunity to help explore an occupation or industry you may be interested in. An internship is a form of learning through EXPERIENCE that integrates knowledge learned in the classroom with practical application and skills in a professional setting. Internships give students the opportunity to gain valuable experience in fields they are considering for career paths. Internships also give employers the opportunity to guide and evaluate talent.



TxInternshipChallenge.com



INTERNSHIPS CAN



BE
PAID



BE
UNPAID



GIVE
SCHOOL CREDIT



NOT GIVE
SCHOOL CREDIT



PUT YOU FIRST
IN LINE FOR
NEW HIRES



LET YOU
TEST DRIVE A
CAREER



MAKE YOU
MORE
MARKETABLE

Students pursue internships because they want to gain professional experience that links their academic coursework to the disciplines they want to pursue for their careers. Learning by doing and being exposed to professionals working in the field provides valuable experience, a professional reference and often leads to a position upon graduation. In fact, a recent Vault survey of U.S. employers with interns found that 73% of those interns were given job offers after their terms were complete.



RESEARCH INTERNSHIPS

In addition to learning hard skills used to complete work tasks, internships help build soft skills needed to interact in a professional setting. Internships also help you hone communication, interpersonal skills, and experience and understand organization/company culture. A great way to research internship opportunities across the state is to complete the Texas Internship Challenge by visiting TxInternshipChallenge.com. Here you can explore internship postings, use the resume or cover letter builder, browse the scholarship finder, or explore career exploration tools.

Volunteerism



GIVE YOUR TIME

No matter how you choose to train and educate yourself for the career choice of your future, there is one additional method you can use to explore different career paths to ensure you select the best fit — volunteering. This approach is so valuable because it is a low-stakes method which can provide several benefits. For example, you can have an opportunity to experience a wide range of careers and industries; you can build a skill set that is as diverse as the variety of your volunteer experiences; you can “test out” working in different professional environments and make decisions about which experiences you enjoyed the most; and you can build a network of professional contacts you can use as references on your résumé or college applications.



Suppose you want to be an elementary school teacher when you grow up. After you graduate from high school, your next step will be to get into a four-year university to pursue a bachelor’s degree in education. Might your chances of getting accepted into your university of choice improve if you volunteer five hours a week starting this year as an after-school tutor for elementary kids who struggle with their math homework?



VolunteerMatch.org



FIND LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

Go to [VolunteerMatch.org](https://www.VolunteerMatch.org) and enter your zip code and your interest area (animal rescue, disaster relief, journalism, etc.). You will be provided a list of volunteer opportunities in your area. Or look for other volunteer opportunities through your place of worship, school or community center.

VOLUNTEERISM CAN

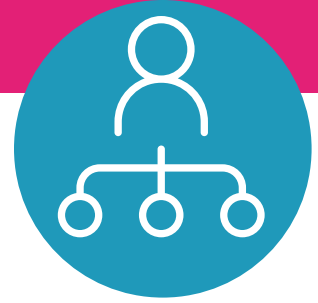


Other Options

KEEP EXPLORING

Remember, you also have the option of gaining the skills you need for the jobs you desire by joining forces with your local Workforce Solutions office or Community Colleges to attend workforce training programs. Whether you are looking to enter a new industry or gain skills to expand your abilities, these programs may be just what you're looking for.

You also have the option of learning new skills on the job, but this approach can only take you so far. Remember, if the occupation you want requires that you pass a state exam for licensing or certification purposes, you may not gain the knowledge you need to do this through the hands-on training you get on the job. Therefore, if you have your eyes on a specific occupation, browse [TexasCareerCheck.com](https://www.texascareercheck.com) to get more information; search the Texas Directory of Licensed Occupations publication at [LMCI.state.tx.us](https://lmc.state.tx.us) to learn which, if any, licenses are required; or talk to an expert at your local Workforce Solutions office to determine the variety of education and training options available to you, and take your time in determining your best approach.



Step 4:



Evaluate

REVIEW YOUR OPTIONS

This section will provide you with some additional considerations for selecting a career path. If you plan to work in Texas, you will want to know which career clusters will provide the most jobs. You will also want to know about future career trends and see if they will affect your career direction.



Do You Have Any Favorites?

So far, you have engaged in thinking about a career direction, identified your interests and abilities, and explored different career directions by looking at various career clusters. Now, it is time to review your options. Did any sample careers catch your attention? If you found some favorites, great! Record them in your CP.

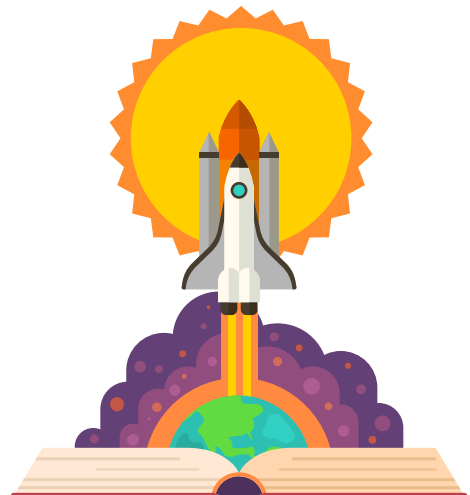
Work Using New Technologies

Are you interested in working with the kinds of advanced technologies that could help humans live on Mars, cure diseases, or provide alternative sources of energy? You might be interested in an emerging occupation. If this is the kind of career path you might consider, you must keep up with modern technologies and how they can be used in a job because changing technology is revolutionizing the way we live and work.

EMERGING OCCUPATIONS

Texas has some very exciting emerging occupations in industries such as nanotechnology, information technology, biotechnology, commercial spaceports, and even energy. In fact, the following 8 career clusters have the greatest growth potential in our state:

- Advanced Technologies and Manufacturing
- Aerospace, and Defense
- Biotechnology, Life Sciences, and Healthcare
- Information and Computer Technology
- Petroleum Refining and Chemical Products
- Energy
- Construction
- Transportation & Logistics



EMERGING OCCUPATIONS, CONTINUED

You can explore any of these industries that are driving Texas' economic growth and job creation by going to [JobsYall.com](https://www.jobsyall.com). To keep your options open, do your research and pay attention to the courses you take now. Be sure each year to take at least one class in a subject that falls within your chosen industry of interest. These steps will help you prepare for your dream job later.



MY PLAN: JAEDA

Rate this plan from 1 to 5 stars, with 1 star meaning it needs work and 5 stars as a success. Why did you give this rating?



"Hi, my name is Jaeda and my plan is to become a chef. My uncle has his own restaurant, and I work there during the summer. I have learned it's a lot of fun, but also a lot of work. I did some research, and

in order to become a successful chef, I will go to school for two years, then hopefully become an apprentice at a nice restaurant. One thing about being a chef is that there will always be work-- people have to eat! My opportunities are endless: I could become a White House chef, host my own cooking show, or open up my own restaurant."

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

Future Considerations

The ultimate goal is to choose a satisfying career that will pay a salary which matches your lifestyle expectations, but you also want to make sure the career you chose also has excellent job opportunities. For example, working as a barista may be fun, but it also may not provide an income large enough to pay your bills depending on the lifestyle you want to live. At the same time, working as an archeologist may offer a much larger salary potential, but not many job openings exist each year for this occupation. This could mean that without the right research and planning techniques, you could choose to study archeology in college to be an archeologist, but after graduation find yourself working as a barista because it was the only occupation hiring in your area.

Therefore, understanding how economic and job trends affect career opportunities in the future is just as important as knowing how advancements in technology affect the workforce too.



LIMITING FACTORS

Below are some of the factors that can limit the number of job opportunities available in the future:

- Jobs requiring repetitive and stationary tasks can be replaced by automation
- Outsourcing work to other countries can be cost-effective for some business models
- Advanced skills are needed while programs can only offer outdated skills training
- Jobs needing advanced skills require education and/or training beyond a high school diploma

CAREER BOOSTERS

Alternatively, here are some ways you can make yourself more competitive for the jobs of the future:

- Seek out job opportunities that require not only degrees or certification, but also that the applicants be creative and innovative
- Learn a skilled trade
- Invest in education and/or training beyond high school. When it comes to your career opportunities this will be an investment in your favor
- Ensure that the skills and training you plan to receive lead to occupations that are available in the area you choose to live
- Learn about job market trends



Many employers are looking for applicants that can use a variety of skills and technology to solve business problems and create opportunities. Therefore, being skilled and creative can be of great benefit to you. If you learn a skilled trade for specific occupations such as dental hygienist, carpenter, or nurse, these kinds of jobs cannot be outsourced. This means these job opportunities will continue to be available locally. If you know about the jobs which have high demand in your community later, selecting one that fits your interest will ensure you have a better chance of getting the job you've trained for when you are done with school. Whatever career you choose, make sure it is the right fit for you and will be in demand in the future.



Check us out!



ADDRESS

Texas Workforce Commission
Labor Market & Career Info.
101 E. 15th St., Room 380
Austin, TX 78778-0001



PHONE

Hotline: 1 (800) 822-7526
Fax: (512) 936-3204



EMAIL

lmci@twc.texas.gov



WEBSITES

www.texasrealitycheck.com
www.texascareercheck.com
www.texasworkforce.org
www.lmci.state.tx.us

Equal
Opportunity
Employer/
Program.

Auxiliary aids
& services
are available
upon request
to individuals
with
disabilities.

Relay Texas:
800-735-2989
(TTY) and 711
(Voice).