



MICHIGAN CAREER PATHWAYS & NATIONAL CAREER CLUSTERS

Career Pathways are careers that are grouped together because many of the people in them share similar interests and strengths. All pathways include a variety of occupations that require different levels of education and training. Selecting a Career Pathway provides a focus into which one can begin directing energies and determining a tentative career “fit” though it is always acceptable to change one’s mind. By identifying with a pathway students are aided in selecting courses, extra-curricular activities and part-time employment. Career Pathways provide a plan for all students regardless of their interests, abilities, talents, or desired levels of education. All pathways have equal dignity. The following six (6) Career Pathways have been developed by the state of Michigan.

The U.S. Department of Education Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) has identified 16 career clusters representing career opportunities for the 21st century economy. These clusters will frame student opportunities as they pursue postsecondary education and a wide range of career opportunities from front-line to professional and managerial careers.

Michigan Career Pathways	U. S. Department of Education Career Clusters
Arts & Communications	Arts, A/V Technology & Communications
Business/Management/Marketing & Technology	Business, Management & Administration Finance Hospitality & Tourism Information Technology Marketing, Sales & Service
Engineering, Manufacturing & Industrial Technology	Architecture & Construction Manufacturing Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Transportation, Distribution & Logistics
Health Sciences	Health Sciences
Human Services	Education & Training Human Services Law, Public Safety & Security Government & public Services
Natural Resources & Agriscience	Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources

CAREER PATHWAYS

Arts and Communication

Careers in this path are related to the humanities and performing, visual, literary, and media arts. These include architecture; graphic, interior, and fashion design; writing; film; fine arts; journalism; languages; media; advertising; and public relations.

- Are you a creative thinker?
- Are you imaginative, innovative, and original?
- Do you like to communicate ideas?
- Do you like making crafts, drawing, playing a musical instrument, taking photos, or writing stories?

If your answer to any of these questions is “yes,” this may be the career path for you!

Business, Management, Marketing, and Technology

Careers in this path are related to the business environment. These include entrepreneur, sales, marketing, computer/information systems, finance, accounting, personnel, economics, and management.

- Do you enjoy being a leader, organizing people, planning activities, and talking?
- Do you like to work with numbers or ideas?
- Do you enjoy carrying through with an idea and seeing the end product?
- Do you like things neat and orderly?
- Would you enjoy balancing a checkbook, following the stock market, holding an office in a club, or surfing the Internet?

If your answer to any of these questions is “yes,” this may be the career path for you!

Engineering/Manufacturing and Industrial Technology

Careers in this path are related to technologies necessary to design, develop, install, and maintain physical systems. These include engineering, manufacturing, construction, service, and related technologies.

- Are you mechanically inclined and practical?
- Do you like reading diagrams and blueprints, and drawing building structures?
- Are you curious about how things work?
- Would you enjoy painting a house, repairing cars, wiring electrical circuits, or working with woodworking?

If your answer to any of these questions is “yes,” this may be the career path for you!

Health Sciences

Careers in this path are related to the promotion of health and treatment of disease. These include research, prevention, treatment, and related health technologies.

- Do you like to care for people or animals that are sick or help them stay well?
- Are you interested in diseases and in how the body works?
- Do you enjoy reading about science and medicine?
- Would it be fun to learn first aid or volunteer at a hospital or veterinary clinic?

If your answer to any of these questions is “yes,” this may be the career path for you!

Human Services

Careers in this path are related to economic, political, and social systems. These include education, government, law and law enforcement, leisure and recreation, military, religion, childcare, social services, and personal services.

- Are you friendly, open, understanding, and cooperative?
- Do you like to work with people to solve problems?
- Is it important to you to do something that makes things better for other people?
- Do you like to help friends with family problems?
- Do you like reading, storytelling, traveling, or tutoring young children?

If your answer to any of these questions is “yes,” this may be the career path for you!

Natural Resources and Agriscience

Careers in this path are related to agriculture, the environment, and natural resources. These include agricultural sciences, earth sciences, environmental sciences, fisheries, forestry, horticulture, and wildlife.

- Are you a nature lover?
- Are you practical, curious about the physical world, and interested in plants and animals?
- Do you enjoy hunting and fishing?
- Do you like to garden or mow the lawn?
- Are you interested in protecting the environment?

If your answer to any of these questions is “yes,” this may be the career path for you!