Preparing for Career Success in Law, Public Safety and Security
CAREER CLUSTERS—FOCUSING EDUCATION ON THE FUTURE

Career Clusters Prepare All Students for College, Technical Training, Apprenticeships 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, an internship or in the workplace.

How to Pursue Education and Training in Law, Public Safety and Security

There are thousands of challenging educational and training opportunities within the high-skilled world of Law, Public Safety and Security. Learners need a solid background in math, science and technical skills. Education and training can be obtained in high schools, technical colleges, two-year community colleges, four-year colleges 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 that prepare learners for professional and technical careers.
The Law, Public Safety and Security Cluster
is divided into five pathways. Pathways are
grouped by the knowledge and skills required
of occupations in these career fields. Each
pathway provides instruction, which will give
you the foundations necessary to become suc-
cessful in any of several careers and educational
pursuits.

The Five Pathways
- Correction Services
- Emergency and Fire Management Services
- Security and Protective Services
- Law Enforcement Services
- Legal Services

What Is the Law, Public Safety and Security Cluster?
The Law, Public Safety and Security Cluster helps
prepare students for careers in planning, managing, and
providing legal, public safety, protective services and
homeland security, including professional and technical
support services.

Employment Outlook
Renewed national interest in public safety
and security should help expand opportunities for
employment in the Law, Public Safety and Security
Cluster. Numerous job openings will stem from
employment growth attributable to the desire for
increased corporate, industrial and homeland
security. Also, a more security-conscious society
and concern about drug-related crimes should
contribute to the increasing demand.
Correction Services

Overview

Workers in the Correction Services pathway are responsible for overseeing individuals who have been arrested and are awaiting trial or who have been convicted of a crime and sentenced to serve time in a jail, reformatory, or penitentiary. While the primary mission of corrections is protection of the public, many in this field are involved with the treatment, education and reintegration of offenders.

Sample Occupations

- Warden
- Jail Administrator
- Program Coordinator and Counselor
- Public Information Officer
- Correctional Trainer
- Case Manager
- Community Corrections Practitioner
- Probation/Parole Officer
- Corrections Educator
- Corrections Officer
- Detention Deputy
- Youth Services Worker
- Transport Officer

Credentials

Most institutions require correctional officers to be at least 18 to 21 years of age and a U.S. citizen; have a high school education or its equivalent; demonstrate job stability, usually by accumulating two years of work experience; and have no felony convictions. Promotion prospects may be enhanced by obtaining a postsecondary education.

Employment Outlook

Employment of workers in the Corrections Services pathway is projected to grow by 36 percent or more through 2010. Despite recent decreases in the crime rate, vigorous law enforcement is expected to cause a continuing increase in the prison population. In addition to openings that result from growth, many openings will be created by replacement needs, especially openings created by workers entering retirement.
Emergency and Fire Management Services

Overview

Every year, fires and other emergencies take thousands of lives and destroy property worth billions of dollars. Firefighters and emergency services workers help protect the public against these dangers by rapidly responding to a variety of emergencies. They are frequently the first emergency personnel at the scene of a traffic accident or medical emergency and may be called upon to put out a fire, treat injuries or perform other vital functions.

Sample Occupations

- Emergency Management and Response Coordinator
- Emergency Planning Manager
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Fire Fighter
- Wildland Fire Fighter
- Wildland and Structure Fire Fighter Inspector and Investigator
- Hazardous Materials Responder
- Dispatcher
- Training Officer
- Rescue Worker
- EMT-Paramedic
- Associate or Bachelor’s Degree in Fire Engineering or Fire Science
- Master’s Degree in Public Administration
- First Responder
- EMT-Basic
- EMT-Intermediate

Credentials

Formal training and certification are received to become an EMT or paramedic. All 50 states have a certification procedure.

Employment Outlook

Although keen competition for jobs is expected, many people are attracted to fire and emergency services occupations because they provide considerable job security and the opportunity to perform an essential public service. Renewed national interest in public safety and security should help expand opportunities for employment.

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Security and Protective Services

Overview

Security personnel often work in public buildings such as museums or art galleries to protect paintings and exhibits by inspecting people and packages entering and leaving the building. In factories, laboratories, government buildings, data processing centers, and military bases, security officers protect information, products, computer codes, and defense secrets and check the credentials of people and vehicles entering and leaving the premises.

Sample Occupations

- Security Director
- Security Systems Designer/Consultant
- Physical Security Specialist
- Information Systems Security Specialist
- Computer Forensics Specialist
- Private/Corporate Investigator
- Security Trainer/Educator
- Loss Prevention Specialist
- Security Systems Technician
- Certified Security Officer
- Armored Car Guard

Credentials

Security personnel employed at establishments placing a heavy emphasis on security usually receive extensive formal training. For example, staff at nuclear power plants undergo several months of training before being placed on duty under close supervision. They are taught to use firearms, administer first aid, operate alarm systems and electronic security equipment, and spot and deal with security problems. Credentials or degrees for this pathway include:

- Certified Protection Professional (CPP)
- Certified Protection Officer (CPO)
- Personal Protection Specialist (PPS)
- Undergraduate and graduate degrees in Security Administration or Security Management

Employment Outlook

Opportunities for most jobs in the Security and Protective Services pathway should be favorable through the year 2010. Numerous job openings will stem from employment growth attributable to the desire for increased corporate, industrial, and homeland security.
Law Enforcement Services

Overview

People depend on police officers and detectives to protect their lives and property. Law enforcement officers have duties that range from controlling traffic to preventing and investigating crimes. They maintain order; enforce laws and ordinances; issue traffic summonses; investigate accidents; present evidence in court; serve legal documents for the court system; and apprehend, arrest and process prisoners.

Sample Occupations

- Criminal Investigator and Special Agent
- Immigration and Customs Inspector
- Federal Marshall
- Police Detective and Criminal Investigator
- Police, Fire and Ambulance Dispatcher
- Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff
- Private Detective and Investigator
- Police and Patrol Officer
- Evidence Technician

Credentials

Law enforcement officers usually receive training before their first assignments. In state and large local departments, recruits are trained in their agency’s police academy, often for 12 to 14 weeks. In small agencies, recruits often attend a regional or state academy. Training includes classroom instruction in constitutional law and civil rights, state laws and local ordinances, and accident investigation. Recruits also receive training and supervised experience in patrol, traffic control, use of firearms, self-defense, first aid and emergency response.

Game Enforcement Officer
- Bailiff
- Animal Control Officer
- Park Ranger

Employment Outlook

Employment of police and detectives are expected to increase faster than all occupations through 2010. A more security-conscious society and concern about drug-related crimes should contribute to the increasing demand for police services.
Legal Services

Overview
The legal system affects nearly every aspect of our society, from buying a home to crossing the street. Workers in the Legal Services pathway form the backbone of this vital system, linking it to society in myriad ways. For this reason, they hold positions of great responsibility and are obligated to adhere to a strict code of ethics.

Sample Occupations
- Judge
- Magistrate
- Attorney
- Case Management Specialist
- Legal Assistant
- Court Reporter
- File and Document Manager
- Investigator
- Law Clerk
- Paralegal
- Mediator/Arbitrator
- Legal Secretary

Credentials
Training requirements for careers in these highly specialized professions depend on the type of work performed. Most of the careers in the Legal Services pathway require a two-year degree, and many require a master’s or doctoral degree. Other examinations and credentials include:
- Multistate Bar Examination (MBE)
- Law School Admission Test (LSAT)
- Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE)
- Continuing Legal Education (CLE)
- American Arbitration Association
- Certified Legal Assistant (CLA)
- Registered Paralegal (RP)

Employment Outlook
The job outlook varies between the occupations in the pathway with employment of judges and magistrates expected to grow slower than the average.

Job opportunities for lawyers are expected to grow about as fast as the average, while the demand for paralegals and legal assistants is predicted to grow faster than the average.
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

For further information on the States’ Career Clusters, contact the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium at (202) 737-0303 or www.careerclusters.org.

The Career Clusters Initiative was designed and developed under a cooperative agreement with the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education. The findings and opinions expressed in this brochure do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of the U.S. Department of Education.

References:
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