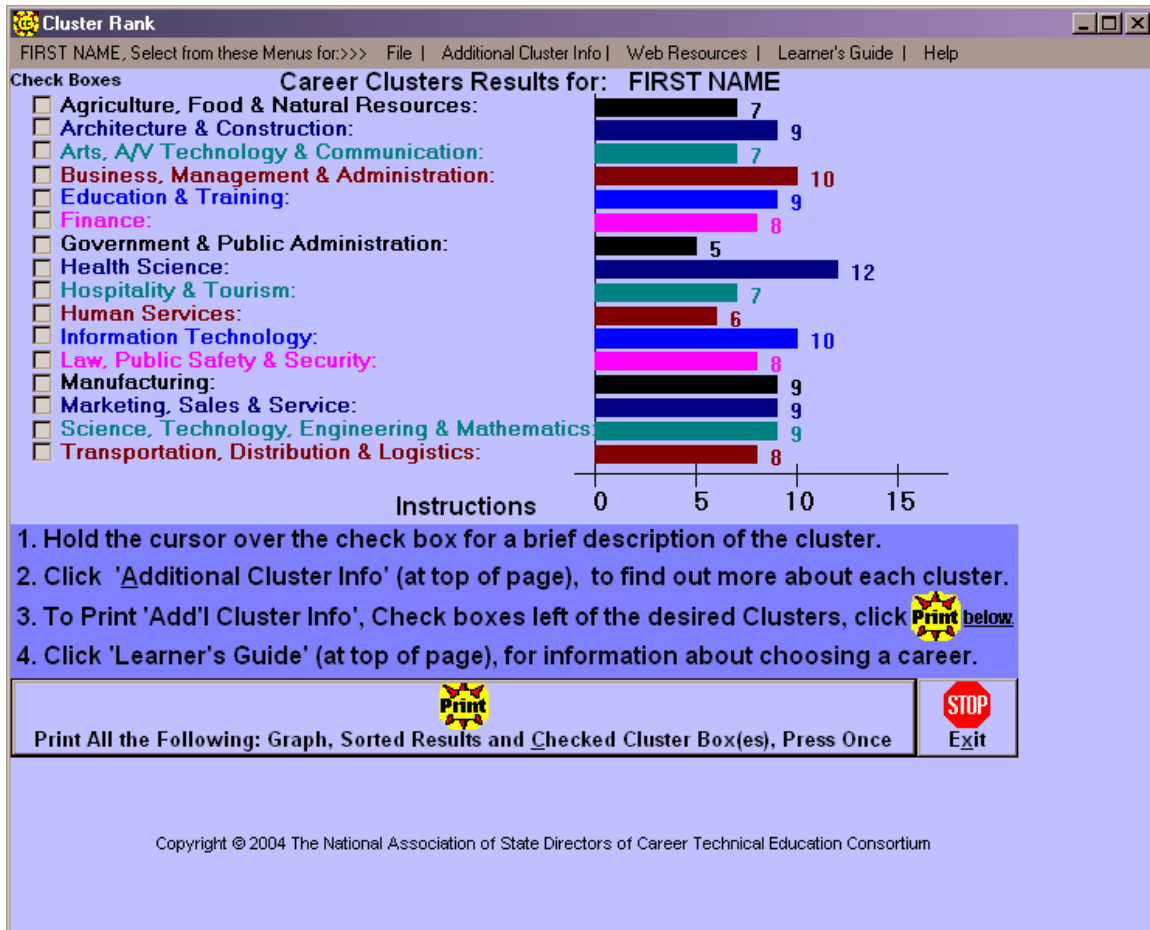


## Sample Cluster Inventory Results



The Career Clusters Interest Inventory ranks the 16 Career Clusters from high to low. Scores can range from a low of (0) to a high of (15). The rankings are based on how you respond to questions related to each cluster. Please note the inventory's main purpose is to help you start thinking about possible careers and related educational plans.

# CAREER CLUSTER INTEREST INVENTORY LEARNER'S GUIDE

## Choosing A Career

During your lifetime you will make a number of career related decisions, some of which are critical in determining your lifestyle. Here are four basic questions you might consider about choosing and planning a career.

### 1. Why choose a career?

All societies require career choices to be made, either by the individual or by someone else. There are role assignments for each of us. Your present role is that of student/learner, which will prepare you for a new career role. You want to have some control over what that new career will be, since your career will help you satisfy certain needs that all of us have such as:

- a. Basic physical/security needs for food, clothing, shelter, and transportation.
- b. Social needs for acceptance and a sense of belonging.
- c. Self-respect and self-fulfillment.

Your career choice will be important in determining which needs can be met. A wise career choice could help you satisfy all three types.

### 2. When should you choose a career and do career planning?

Career planning is an on-going process, not a one-time activity. You will change your career direction several times during your lifetime. In some cases this is by choice. Sometimes external conditions, such as a business closing, force you to make a choice.

### 3. Who is responsible for your career planning?

The primary responsibility rests with you. A first step is to recognize that you have the power to make your life work for you.

### 4. How do we choose a career?

Career planning involves obtaining information about yourself and the world of work and understanding the relationship between the two. As mentioned earlier, you will need to use this process several times in your lifetime.

First of all, you need to develop an accurate picture of yourself. What are your interests, abilities, personality preferences and values? You also need to develop a more accurate picture of the world of work. What are the different careers available? skills necessary? training required? job outlook? and potential earnings? These are just a few of the questions that have to be answered.

The *Career Clusters Interest Inventory* is a computerized interest inventory that will assist you in answering questions about career interests. The Inventory will not tell you what you should or should not do. But, it is an important step in the total career planning process. Your counselor, a teacher or a parent can help you relate the information obtained from the *Career Clusters Interest Inventory* to other information you have about yourself and the world of work.

You should allow about 15-20 minutes at the computer to answer the questions and receive your screen and/or printout information. Of course, this is just the beginning. You will then need to spend time reviewing the information, following up on the suggested information, and discussing your conclusions and concerns with those who can be of assistance, such as your counselor, parents, potential employers, teachers, etc.

# Understanding Your Career Clusters Printout

What does your *Career Clusters* printout tell you?  
There are four types of information provided:

- 1) Profile of your career interests
- 2) Descriptions of your Career Clusters
- 3) Related sample occupations and college majors
- 4) Related Internet Web sites

The following descriptions of these four types of information will help you use your *Career Clusters* information to its best potential.

## 1. Career Interest Profile

The first screen or page of the printout provides a picture of your career interests in a graphic format for the sixteen interest clusters. A second screen or printout provides a ranking from high to low based on the points printed in the parentheses. Scores can range from a low of 0 to a high of 15 depending on how you responded to statements related to each of the sixteen interest clusters.

How does this profile compare with your own thoughts about your career interests? It is not intended that the profile should be considered the answer, but rather as information to help you start thinking about your career interests.

## 2. Interest Area Descriptions

The Career Interest Profile focused on information about you, while this section of screens or printouts provide information about the world of work. A more detailed description of the interest cluster and the major pathways within each cluster is included. For each major pathway, the type of work is briefly described. You might have an interest in all the pathways within a cluster or, perhaps, a more specialized interest in only one.

## 3. Related Sample Occupations and College Majors

Another type of information provided is a list of some of the careers that are related to each interest cluster. This enables you to go from the more general career cluster information to specific career titles. Some people prefer to think about careers in more general terms, while others like to work with specifics. Also provided is a list of college majors that are closely related to each interest cluster. The college majors are listed in three sub-groups depending upon the amount of time to complete the study program. How much time are you prepared to invest in additional training?

## 4. Related Internet Web Sites

To obtain information about the specific careers you have identified, two Internet Web sites have been provided. One Web site is the Department of Labor's [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) and the other is [O'NET](#). You can learn about the nature of the work, working conditions, employment outlook, training required and earnings. For information about specific college majors, refer to university and college Web sites and catalogs.

## Summary

As stated previously, the primary responsibility for career planning rests with you. Therefore, *Career Clusters Interest Inventory* will not tell you what you should or should not do, but it is an important step in the total career planning process. You will need to spend time reviewing the printout, following up on the suggested printed information, and discussing your conclusions and concerns with those who can be of assistance.

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