

Surveying My Career

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Essential Question(s)

- How can understanding my skills, personality traits, and interests help me identify career pathways that align with my strengths and future goals?

Summary

This resource, centered around the career clusters, is designed to help students reflect on their skills, personality traits, and interests to identify career clusters that align with their interests. Although students' interests will naturally evolve over time, Advance Career Technical Education's (Advance CTE) "Career Interest Survey: Motivators Edition" offers a starting point for career exploration. The insights students gain from this activity can support further discussions, guide additional career-focused lessons, and help inform long-term academic and career planning.

Learning Goals

Attachments

- Activity Slides—Surveying My Career.pptx
- Cluster Exploration—Surveying My Career.docx
- Cluster Exploration—Surveying My Career.pdf

Materials

- Activity Slides (attached)
- Career Exploration handout (attached; one per student; print two-sided)
- Paper
- Sticky notes

10 minutes

Introduction

Use the attached **Activity Slides** to facilitate this session. Display **slide 2** and introduce the session to students. Move through **slides 3–4** and share the essential questions and learning objectives.

Transition to **slide 5** and introduce the Commit and Toss instructional strategy. Give each student one piece of paper. Have students respond to the question on the slide on the paper, and then have them crumple up the paper and toss it across the room. Have students retrieve someone else's paper and encourage them to share out what the person wrote.

15 minutes

Activity Part I

Move to **slide 6** and pass out one copy of the attached **Cluster Exploration** handout to each student. Have students access the "Career Interest Survey: Motivators Edition" either online or on paper depending on the version you prepared. Encourage students to answer each question truthfully and take their time. Share that they should record the number of check marks they have in each cluster section.

Provide students with time to complete the survey. Then, display **slide 8** and ask students to write down their top three scoring career clusters.

Alternate Survey Option

In this activity, students complete the "Career Interest Survey: Motivators Edition" online or on paper. You may consider having students complete the "Career Interest Survey: Cluster-by-Cluster Edition" in lieu of or in addition to the Motivators survey. If you choose to have students complete this alternate survey, unhide and display **slide 7**.

Follow the below directions to have students complete the "Cluster-by-Cluster" version:

1. Go to k20.ou.edu/8d
2. Select the method you want to use to facilitate survey, either printable PDF or online.
    1. if completing on paper:
        1. Download the PDF. Print a copy of pages 1–12 for each student.
    2. if completing online:
        1. Go to k20.ou.edu/k8
        2. Provide students with the link to complete.
        3. Confirm that this resource is not blocked by your district internet policy.

Have students complete the survey and record their three top-scoring career clusters.

25 minutes

Activity Part II

Move to **slide 9** and have students access the *Making CENTS: Career Clusters* infographic. Have students explore the infographic and use the information provided to summarize the focus of each of their top three career clusters using the chart on the Cluster Exploration handout. Ask students to select one cluster they would like to explore further and explain why on the handout. Have them then select one career from their chosen cluster and record it on the handout.

Transition to **slide 10**. Direct students to mynextmove.org or onetonline.org. Have students use the information from these resources to respond to the Career Questions on the Cluster Exploration handout.

Additional Resources

Consider sharing additional career information using the Career Clusters Framework One-Pagers. The one-pagers are available as printable PDFs that can be passed out in your classroom and as PNG files that can be uploaded to your school's LMS. If you choose to use this resource, explain to students that each cluster is divided into three Cross-Cutting Sectors: Digital Technology, Marketing & Sales, and Management & Entrepreneurship.

5 minutes

Reflection

Pass out one sticky note to each student. Display **slide 11** and introduce the instructional strategy How Am I Feeling? What Am I Thinking? Ask students to reflect on the career survey they took and the information they learned about their chosen career clusters and career pathway. Have them complete the prompts "I am feeling..." and "I am thinking about..." using either words or images.

Optional Anchor Chart Activity

Pass out blank paper and colored pencils, markers, or crayons to students. Unhide and display **slide 12**. Introduce the Anchor Chart instructional strategy and have each student create an Anchor Chart that explains their chosen cluster. Share that their anchor charts should include the cluster name, examples of jobs within the cluster, and various colors, symbols, or images that represent the cluster.

Optional Roundabout Conversations Activity

Display **slide 13** and introduce the Roundabout Conversations instructional strategy. Divide the class in half. Have one half form an inside circle by standing almost shoulder to shoulder then face right. Have the other half form an outside circle around the others and face left.

Play music and have students walk in their circle in the direction they are facing.

Stop the music. Have students turn toward the closest student in the opposite circle, shake hands with their partner, and introduce themselves, if necessary.

Have each student introduce the cluster they researched to their partner and share their answers to the Career Questions on the handout. Start the music again and repeat the process for 3–4 more rounds.

Resources

- Advance CTE. (2025, October 30). *Career interest surveys*. https://careertech.org/resource-center/series/career-interest-surveys/
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Anchor charts. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/58
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Commit and toss. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/119
- K20 Center. (n.d.). How am I feeling? What am I thinking?. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/187
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- K20 Center. (n.d.). Roundabout conversations. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/196