



## Architecture & Construction Career Cluster Fact Sheet

**Career Cluster Name:** Architecture & Construction

**Cluster Leader:** Home Builders Institute

**Career Cluster Overview:**

Architecture & Construction Career Cluster Definition: Careers in designing, planning, managing, building and maintaining the build environment.

Cluster Pathways: Design/Pre-Construction, Construction and Maintenance/Operations.

What is a Career Cluster: A Career Cluster is a grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities. The Architecture & Construction Career Cluster includes the following industries – architecture and commercial, industrial and residential construction. Industry career opportunities are represented by a total of 16 career clusters.

Industry/Education Working Together: The Architecture & Construction Career Cluster provides an organizing tool for schools, small learning communities, academies and magnet schools. Partnerships involve states, schools, educators, employers, industry groups, and other stakeholders working together to create curriculum guidelines, academic and technical standards, assessments, and professional development materials for the career cluster.

Student Benefits: The Architecture & Construction Career Cluster links what students learn in school with the knowledge and skills they need for success in college and careers. The cluster approach makes it easier for students to understand the relevance of their required courses and helps them select their elective courses more wisely. Career clusters are designed to motivate students to work harder and enroll in more rigorous courses. The cluster initiative identifies pathways from secondary school to two- and four-year colleges, graduate school, and the workplace, helping students to investigate a wide range of career choices. Students learn about career options and the numerous skilled and professional opportunities in the architecture and construction industries.

Keep Parents Informed: The career cluster approach provides a learning experience for parents. Parents can learn what academic and technical courses their children need for college and a variety of career fields in the architecture and construction industries. Clusters and the high standards that go with them reassure parents that their children will be fully prepared for college and the workplace.

## **Career Cluster Framework – A Tool for Educators:**

Learners: Secondary, post-secondary and adult.

Foundations: **Cluster Knowledge and Skill Statements** are specific knowledge and skills that remain consistent throughout the industries. These knowledge and skills are what every learner/worker (regardless of the occupation he/she is pursuing) needs to know to engage in entry level career opportunities in the architecture and construction industries. These knowledge and skills are based on 10 foundations:

- Academics
- Communications
- Problem Solving and Critical Thinking
- Information Technology Applications
- Systems
- Safety, Health and Environmental
- Leadership and Teamwork
- Ethics and Legal Responsibilities
- Employability and Career Development
- Technical Skills

The statements written for each of the 10 foundations describes the knowledge/skills required of learners/workers to demonstrate competence in the academic and technical areas of the Architecture & Construction Career Cluster process.

There are two additional components that complement the Knowledge and Skills Statements – **Performance Elements** and **Measurement Criteria**. Performance Elements indicate what a learner/worker must know or be able to do as related to the Knowledge and Skills Statement. Measurement Criteria clarifies what is to be evaluated and defines the level of achievement as related to the Performance Elements.

Finally, **Pathway Knowledge and Skills** are those areas that are specific to one or more (not all) of the Pathways (Design/Pre-Construction, Construction and Maintenance/Operations) identified for the Architecture & Construction Career Cluster.

### **Criteria for Implementation:**

The National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc) has identified specific criteria for system development (state level) and local development of the Career Cluster initiative. For implementation of the Career Cluster framework in the classroom, NASDCTEc states classroom practices (what does it look like?). Implementation criteria follow:

#### System or State Level

State Plan  
Statewide Administrative Support  
Statewide Professional Development  
Statewide Career Development  
Standards-Based Curriculum  
State Education Partnerships  
Industry Partners  
Multi-Measure Assessments/Industry-Based  
Credentials or Certifications  
Assessments/Industry-Based  
Parent and Community Involvement  
Certifications  
Economic Development Involvement/  
Workforce Preparation

#### Local Level

Administrative Support  
Shared Planning Time  
Career Development  
Professional Development  
Standards-Based Curriculum  
Learner-Centered Learning  
Education Partnerships  
Industry Partners  
Multi-Measure  
  
Credentials or  
  
Inter-disciplinary Teams  
Flexible Schedules  
Integrated Curriculum

Strategies

Creative and Innovative Teaching

Workplace Learning

Parent and Community

Involvement

**Essential Classroom Practices:**

1. The curricula include the Cluster foundation knowledge and skills as well as the knowledge and skills for each pathway within a cluster.
2. The curricula are developed cooperatively with partnership teams that include secondary and postsecondary instructors/faculty, academic and technical instructors/faculty, and business and industry representatives.
3. State academic standards are clearly identified and reinforced in the curricula.
4. Communication (reading, writing, listening and presenting) activities are pervasive in the curricula.
5. The curricula provide broad information and preparation for multiple careers.
6. Assessments and industry-based credentials related to each cluster and its pathways are incorporated.
7. Learners develop a career educational plan with instructor/faculty support.
8. The curricula supports state and local economic development plans.
9. Results are assessed; data are collected and used for accountability and continuous improvement.
10. A professional development plan is followed to assure instructional improvement.

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**Resources:** States' Career Clusters Initiative [www.careercluster.org](http://www.careercluster.org)  
National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education  
Consortium (NASDCTEc) [www.careertech.org](http://www.careertech.org)

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