

CAREER CLUSTERS

Unit 2

Career clusters are also known as ‘job categories’. Each cluster represents a group of jobs that are related by skills or tasks, and share common features. Career clusters also provide information on the type of training and education needed for each job. Below is a list of the 16 career clusters found in My Blueprint.

Start today by scanning this list and thinking about which ones jump out at you. (Don’t worry if you don’t know what a cluster actually means. It’s okay just to think, “Hmmm. Human services. I don’t know what that means, but I like working with people, so this might be interesting to investigate...”)

Write down the three that seem most interesting to you.

Agriculture, food and natural resources	Architecture and construction	Arts, audio/video technology and communications	Business, management and administration
Education and training	Finance	Government and public administration	Health science
Hospitality and tourism	Human services	Information technology	Law, public safety, corrections and security
Manufacturing	Marketing, sales and service	Science, technology, engineering and mathematics	Transportation, distribution and logistics

Next, go to My Blueprint and click on the **Work Tab** and then the **Occupations Tab**. You'll see a list of the Career Clusters at the top of the page. Click on one you'd like to explore and a list of possible jobs will come up below it. Take some time to explore the different jobs, clicking on those that pique your interest.

Remember that you're simply exploring right now. This exercise might help you narrow your career search - or it might just inform you about your interests. You might notice that everything you choose is in a creative field or is outdoors work or has something to do with computers. It's all good information at this point!

Interested in a trade? You might also check out this amazing site:

<http://www.itabc.ca/> (adapted from SIDES)

NOC

NOC stands for: *National Occupational Classification* system and is used to categorize and describe jobs in Canada. While NOC numbers can have up to five digits, it's the first two digits that are important for describing the type of job and level of skill needed.

The first digit gives the category of job:	
1	Business, Finance and Administrative
2	Natural and Applied Sciences
3	Health
4	Social Science, Education, Government Service and Religion
5	Art, Culture, Recreation and Sport
6	Sales and Service
7	Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators
8	Primary Industry
9	Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities

The second digit indicates the level of education and training required:

1	Professional Occupations - university degree
2 or 3	Technical, Paraprofessional and Skilled Occupations - two to three years of postsecondary education or two to four years of apprenticeship training or two or more years of on the job training along with 3 or 4 years of secondary school
4 or 5	Intermediate Occupations - one to four years of secondary school or up to two years of on the job training
6	Labouring and Elemental Occupations - up to two years of secondary school training and short work experiences.

* The one exception to this code is if there is a 0 in front of the NOC number. Then the first number indicates this is a management job. The second number then refers to the job category and the third digit the level of education and training needed.