

## How does Family and Consumer Sciences Education support the national Career Clusters?

Family and Consumer Sciences courses prepare students for a variety of careers that fulfill human needs and foster quality of living. Career pathways include careers in:

- Education --- of children and adults of all ages
- Care and services--- of children, the elderly, individuals with special needs
- Management --- of time, money, and other resources
- Planning --- of nutritious meals, finances, lessons, and tourism
- Design --- of apparel, housing and interiors, and
- Production --- of food, clothing, personal and home products.

### To what extent are students in each of the fifty states prepared by Family and Consumer Sciences courses for careers in the National Career Clusters?

A 2008 survey of Family and Consumer Sciences curriculum in the fifty states revealed that 49 states teach Family and Consumer Sciences content related to the National Career Clusters. The number of states with Family and Consumer Sciences courses that support each National Career Cluster are shown below in descending order.

▪ Human Services	46 states
▪ Hospitality & Tourism	45 states
▪ Education & Training	43 states
▪ Arts, A/V Technology, & Communications	35 states
▪ Health Sciences	25 states
▪ Architecture & Construction	22 states
▪ Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources	18 states
▪ Finance	12 states
▪ Marketing, Sales & Service	9 states
▪ Business, Management & Administration	5 states
▪ Government & Public Administration	4 states
▪ Information Technology	2 states
▪ Law, Public Safety & Security	2 states
▪ Science, Technology, Engineering & Math	2 states
▪ Information Technology	1 state
▪ Transportation, Distribution & Logistics	0 states

## What is National Standards for Family & Consumer Sciences?

*National Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences Education: Content for Empowering Individuals* was published by the National Association of State Administrators of Family and Consumer Sciences (NASAFACS) in May, 2009. Standards define knowledge and skills students must have to realize their human potential and prepare for career success. Standards reflect the diversity and scope of Family and Consumer Sciences curricula and the potential of these courses to prepare learners of all ages for optimum quality of living and working.

### Why are National Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences important?

Family and Consumer Sciences Education is more essential today than ever before. The ongoing Technology Age continues to impact every aspect of life and has resulted in an unprecedented Information Explosion. With the stroke of a finger, students can access today in record-breaking time previously unimaginable volumes of information on almost every conceivable topic.

This ready access to information has brought many benefits and conveniences, but there has been “fallout” as well. From the classroom to the workplace to the family, attention has been diverted away from human concerns resulting in a growing deficit in the area of human needs. Human beings are facing a complex set of challenges and crises in all aspects of daily life---identity theft, malnutrition, obesity, divorce, homelessness, adult and child abuse, and unemployment---to name a few. Our youth and future leaders are skilled at reacting to information, but not so adept at reflecting and recognizing deeper meanings. There is a pressing need to refocus on the human condition---basic human needs, relationships, adaptation, and self-actualization---while continuing to embrace the rapid changes triggered by modern technology.

These are the challenges that Family and Consumer Sciences Education continues to address with standards-based curricula and trained professionals. With increased support at all levels, professionals in this field of study can help our schools, our nation, and our world actualize potential for individual achievement, national stability, and worldwide progress.