



Understanding the Nebraska Career Education Model

NEBRASKA CAREER EDUCATION is depicted by the NCE model, a visual map of career fields, career clusters, and career pathways. The NCE model organizes the sixteen National Career Clusters into six broad sectors of entrepreneurship and employment:

- Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
- Business, Marketing and Management
- Communication and Information Systems
- Health Sciences
- Human Sciences and Education
- Skilled and Technical Sciences

These fields break down into more specific Career Clusters, Pathways and Occupational Specialties.

The NCE model provides a way for:

- Students to explore the diversity of career options available to them
- Students to begin to prepare for their career with plans for secondary and postsecondary education
- Schools to organize curriculum into Programs of Study that prepare students for opportunities in Nebraska's economy

1 Academic Core | College and Career Readiness

At the center of the NCE Model is the expectation for all students to develop a solid academic core. The subsequent ring identifies specific college and career readiness standards and practices that prepare students for success in postsecondary education as well as entrepreneurship and employment.

2 Career Fields

The six career fields represent broad sectors of the job market on which students may choose to focus.

3 Career Clusters

Each career field is composed of career clusters. The clusters are more specific segments of the labor market. Each cluster is a grouping of careers that focus on similar subjects or similar skills. A basic understanding and exploration of each of the clusters will provide students with a solid foundation for career decision-making to conceptualize the entire world of work.

4 Career Pathways

Listed below each cluster, career pathways (indicated with red bullets) further define the specific types of career opportunities within the cluster. Each career pathway within a cluster requires mastery of a more specific set of knowledge and skills related to that pathway.

5 Career Specialties (not shown)

Career Specialties (not shown on the model) are the specific occupations or job titles within a cluster and pathway. With changes in technology, the labor market, and international economy, new job titles will be created while others decline or disappear.

6 Employability and Entrepreneurship

Career education provides the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills for both employment AND entrepreneurship. The reality for Nebraska and the United States is that entrepreneurship will help ensure our economic growth and vitality. By infusing entrepreneurship competencies, career education is helping to create the next generation of America's innovators and entrepreneurs.

