What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are broad groupings of careers that share common characteristics, education, training and abilities. Michigan has identified six Career Pathways that fit all jobs. A person's career interests usually falls within one or two Pathways.

The six Pathways are:

Arts & Communications

Business, Management, Marketing & Technology

Engineering/Manufacturing & Industrial Technology

Health Sciences

Human Services

Natural Resources & Agriscience

Why Career Pathways?

All students need to know what it takes to succeed in the world of work. College and advanced training can be very expensive when there's no chosen career path.

The high-paying jobs of the future will require education beyond high school. This training may occur in college or through employer training programs.

The skills, attitudes and behaviors needed for success are:

Academic Development in communications, mathematics, science and technology, problem solving, reading and understanding written material.

Personal/Social Development Management skills such as decision making, doing one's best, acting honestly, setting and accomplishing goals, self-control, responsibility, organization, flexibility, teamwork and initiative.

Career Development, including career awareness, exploration, matching interest and abilities to career pathways and using an Educational Development Plan (EDP) to set education and career goals while in high school.

Student Benefits

A planned Pathway using an EDP prepares students for what is needed to succeed in the world of work. It also …

- helps students learn about emerging career opportunities
- helps students see how school subjects relate to the world of work
- challenges students to develop high academic skills
- helps students examine interests, goals and talents
- opens students' minds to the vast range of careers within their chosen Pathway
- shows students the education and skills needed to get high-paying, challenging jobs
- builds self-esteem
- helps students value education as a life-long process

Career Pathways Begin as Early as ...

Elementary School

Career Awareness

- Academic Focus
- Tours, Field Trips, Business Visitations
- Discussion of Jobs and Careers
- Work Ethics Development

Middle School

Career Exploration

- Academic Focus
- Introduction to Career Pathways
- Begin Educational Development Plan (EDP)
- Career Counseling
- Job Shadowing
- Community Service

High School

Continued Career Exploration and Goal Setting

- Academics Aligned with Pathways
- In-depth Exploration of Career Pathways
- Educational Development Plan
- Real-world Applications of Academics
- Technical Training
- Job Shadowing/Internship
- Career Day

... and Continue Throughout Post-secondary Education and Life-long Learning

Need more information?

Contact your Student Services office or visit www.kentisd.org, Career Readiness

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Kent ISD *We Lead Learning*

Grand Rapids Community College

Arts & Communications

Business, Management, Marketing & Technology

Engineering/Manufacturing & Industrial Technology

Health Sciences

Human Services

Natural Resources & Agriscience

Career Pathways

Arts & Communications

Careers related to the humanities, the performing, visual, literary and media arts.

This may be for you if you like:

- creative thinking
- using your imagination
- being innovative and original
- making crafts
- drawing, writing stories or photography
- playing a musical instrument

Some post-secondary courses include:

- Architectural Drafting and Design
- Fine Arts (Arts, Drama, Music)
- Graphics Arts
- Journalism
- Language Arts
- Photography
- Sculpture

Business, Management, Marketing & Technology

Careers related to all aspects of business and marketing.

This may be for you if you like:

- leading and organizing people
- working with numbers or ideas
- carrying through with ideas and seeing the end product
- being neat and orderly
- balancing checkbooks
- watching the stock market
- holding an office in a club
- surfing the Internet

Some post-secondary courses include:

- Accounting
- Business Management
- Computer Science
- Computer Support
- Entrepreneurship
- Language Arts
- Marketing
- Math

Engineering/Manufacturing & Industrial Technology

Careers related to technologies necessary to design, develop, install or maintain physical systems.

This may be for you if you like:

- reading diagrams and blueprints
- drawing building structures
- figuring out how things work
- house painting
- repairing cars
- wiring electrical circuits
- woodworking

Some post-secondary courses include:

- Drafting
- Electronics
- Industrial/Mechanical Drafting
- Machine Tools
- Math
- Physical Sciences/Physics
- Robotics
- Science

Health Sciences

Careers related to the promotion of health as well as the treatment of injuries and disease.

This may be for you if you like:

- caring for people and animals who are sick
- studying diseases and how the body works
- reading about science and medicine
- learning first aid
- volunteering at a hospital or veterinary clinic

Some post-secondary courses include:

- Animal Care
- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Health Education
- Language Arts
- Math
- Nutrition
- Physics

Human Services

Careers related to helping people improve their life physically, socially or emotionally.

This may be for you if you like:

- being friendly, open, understanding and cooperative
- working with people to solve problems
- making things better for other people
- helping friends with family problems
- reading, storytelling, traveling or tutoring young children

Some post-secondary courses include:

- Child Care
- Cosmetology
- Culinary Arts
- History
- Language Arts
- Psychology
- Political Science
- Social Studies

Natural Resources & Agriscience

Careers related to natural resources, agriculture and the environment.

This may be for you if you like:

- nature
- learning about the physical world
- hunting or fishing
- learning about plants and animals
- gardening or mowing the lawn
- protecting the environment

Some post-secondary courses include:

- Agricultural Science
- Animal Science
- Astronomy
- Biological Sciences
- Botany
- Chemistry
- Environmental Science
- Geography
- Math