



Adviser Networking

Questions about Career Clusters

Use the below questions to start conversation and gain valuable information about what your peers are doing in their chapters.

- 1) Does your state require integration of Career Clusters?
 - a. Which Career Clusters do you integrate?
 - b. Do you teach a class especially for career investigation within your FACS department?

- 2) How do Career Clusters enhance your curriculum and classroom activities?
 - a. Give an example of an activity or course you use that informs students about career options.
 - b. Do your students shadow or intern at community businesses?

- 3) What resources do you use to keep up-to-date with Career Cluster information?
 - a. Does this resource have lesson plans or activities?
 - b. Have you created a crosswalk showing ties between Career Clusters and your FACS curriculum?

- 4) How do you connect FCCLA to Career Clusters?
 - a. Do you use FCCLA to meet Career Cluster goal or requirements?
 - b. List a few FCCLA projects that have integrated career investigation?

- 5) Does your school use the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) test for evaluating students' career preparedness?
 - a. Does this test include competencies you include in FACS curriculum?
 - b. What types of courses do students take that help prepare for the test?



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Tips for Understanding Career Clusters

Use the below tips to enhance your chapter's activities and boost leadership development.

1) Focus on a Few.

FACS may not have its own Career Cluster, but the courses taught in FACS departments will fit into many of the 16 Career Clusters. As you integrate career investigation and preparation into your curriculum, be mindful of which Career Clusters your courses already feed into and focus on enhancing those.

2) Use the Resources.

There are several resources online that give insight into Career Clusters. Check out www.careerclusters.org for information on each Cluster as well as additional resources—even a few that are specific to different state departments of education.

3) Partner with Business and Industry.

One of the best ways for students to gain real world experience is to set up shadowing, mentoring, or internship opportunities within your community. These can be done with in a particular course (i.e. each International Foods student interviews a local chef) or as a general assignment (i.e. all FACS students will spend 5 hours shadowing a person working in a FACS related career).

4) Work with Your State Department of Education.

The FCCLA State Adviser is your guide to Career Cluster success. As you work to increase students' awareness of careers in the FACS industry, connect with other advisers or attend sessions within your state to stay up-to-date.

5) Integrate for Program Success.

Integration of Career Clusters can mean a boost in course enrollment and even additional support from administration. Work with other CTSOs in your school to host a career fair or use end-of-course projects to showcase your students' work for school board, parents and other decision makers.