

# 2024 Career Clusters Validation Survey Questions

All questions are in bold, blue font throughout.

## Introduction and Additional Context

This national validation survey is a public, national survey administered by Advance CTE and open to all invested in the success of the National Career Clusters Framework. *We invite organizations to submit a single survey response representative of your organization's feedback and needs. Please indicate at the end of this survey if you have decided to do this.*

The deadline to complete the survey is July 7, 2024.

**Please review all information on this page carefully.**

Before answering this survey, we ask that you understand the purpose of the National Career Clusters Framework (the Framework) and have reviewed Version 3.2. Please feel free to take time to fully understand the Framework, review survey questions ahead of time, and return to this survey at a later date.

You may also want to review the national webinar (conducted June 6, 2024) and our website to gain more context about the Framework.

## Methodology Statement

This version of the modernized National Career Clusters Framework (V3.2) was constructed through over a year's worth of research and input gathering, using an industry-oriented framing. Industry sector profiles were built using North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) codes and national labor market data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and other national sources. The 20 primary industry sectors identified in the NAICS framework were analyzed using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Industry-Occupation Matrix projections to provide clarity on the expected concentration of occupations within each sector. Furthermore, transferable skills across sectors were assessed, allowing the modernized framework to condense some primary sectors into singular clusters (i.e. finance, insurance and real estate) which informed the creation of 13 Industry Advisory Groups.

Using employer feedback from sector-specific Industry Advisory Groups and additional input information that informed the development and language of the Framework, an initial version of the Framework was developed. Validation of the Framework was conducted with the Industry Advisory Groups, National Advisory Committee, Advance CTE staff and Boards of Directors. Feedback informed V2.0, which was then validated by a majority of State Directors of Career Technical Education and over 50 CTE connected groups and educators who provided additional insights about the connection between industry and education.

This version (V3.1) is the culmination of these feedback loops and input gathering. Upon conclusion of this survey, results and additionally submitted information will be compared to existing methodology and other feedback for validity and incorporated into the Framework as appropriate.

## Evidence Gathering

Because this process is grounded in labor market data and industry validation, we will need to review all feedback provided through this survey. Responses suggesting changes to specific Career Clusters or sub-Clusters will need to be accompanied by evidence to help the national project team validate the feedback. For this reason, quality of response is more important to us than the number of responses sharing similar feedback. If you anticipate having specific changes to report, please be prepared to research and submit evidence as part of this survey

Appropriate evidence could include, but is not limited to:

- National, state, or local labor market data, including job projections, wage data, or similar information
- Existing statewide programs of study or career pathways
- Industry-specific information about careers in a given sector, such as emerging occupations or industry language, from a reputable industry source, including professional associations, labor unions, corporations, or small businesses with ties to a given industry area.

### Have you adequately prepared to complete this survey?

- I have reviewed the above information and Version 3.2 of the proposed Framework. I am ready to proceed.

## General Feedback

**To what degree do you agree that this Framework meets the designed purpose statement: "The National Career Clusters Framework provides structural alignment and a common language to bridge education and work, empowering each learner to explore, decide on and prepare for dynamic and evolving careers."**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**To what degree do you agree that this version of the Framework is more modern than the existing National Career Clusters Framework?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't have enough information to answer this question

**To what degree do you agree that the proposed 14 Career Clusters comprehensively represent the world of work (i.e. is every sector area represented somewhere in this Framework)? Options to provide additional feedback can be found in the Cluster-specific pages.**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**Does the concept and description of the Cross-Cutting Clusters (Digital Technology; Management and Entrepreneurship; Marketing and Sales) make sense to you as described?**

- Yes, I fully understand the concept
- Yes, I understand the concept, but I am not sure about implementation
- The concept is still somewhat unclear to me
- No, I need additional explanation

**What Career Cluster would you like to *first* provide feedback on? You do not need to provide feedback on any or all of the Clusters, only the Clusters that you would like to provide feedback on. Options to provide feedback on additional Clusters will be available after each Cluster page. For the most seamless experience, it is recommended you proceed in alphabetical order through the Clusters you'd like to provide feedback on.**

- I do not have Cluster-specific feedback to provide.
- Dropdown list of all Clusters

**For each Cluster page:**

**To what degree do you agree that this Career Cluster accurately reflects the breadth of this industry sector?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**To what degree do you agree that this Framework accurately reflects the emerging areas of this industry sector?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**To what degree do you agree that the language used to describe this Career Cluster and underlying sub-Clusters accurately reflects the sector and corresponding sub-sectors?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**To what degree do you agree that the language used to describe this Career Cluster and underlying sub-Clusters will support learner exposure and attraction to careers in this sector?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**Do you have recommended changes to this Career Cluster?**

- Yes, I have substantive feedback on this Cluster
- No, this Cluster makes sense as is.

## If you have recommended changes to provide...

You selected that you have recommended changes to share about the [Cluster title] Career Cluster. To help with the validation of this information, we are asking for additional evidence that can support your feedback.

Appropriate evidence could include, but is not limited to:

- National, state, or local labor market data, including job projections, wage data, or similar information
- Existing statewide programs of study or career pathways
- Industry-specific information about careers in a given sector, such as emerging occupations or industry language, from a reputable industry source, including professional associations, labor unions, corporations, or small businesses with ties to a give industry area.

**Please share more information about the changes you recommend for this Career Cluster. Responses without appropriate evidence may not be considered.**

- Open paragraph box

**Please share links or citations where we may validate your feedback. If you would prefer to upload a document, please type "N/A" and proceed to the next question.**

- Open paragraph box

**Please submit any additional supporting documentation you may have.**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**What Career Cluster would you provide feedback on next? Options to provide feedback on additional Clusters will be available after each Cluster page.**

- Dropdown of all Career Clusters

## If you do not have recommended changes to provide...

**Where would you like to go next? To avoid moving in a circle, please do not select the page you just came from or that you already provided feedback on.**

**What Career Cluster would you provide feedback on next? Options to provide feedback on additional Clusters will be available after each Cluster page.**

- Dropdown of all Career Clusters

## Career Ready Practices (Optional)

Since the inception of the National Career Clusters Framework in 2002, the Framework has included a set of complementary Career Ready Practices that support learners in developing the habits, dispositions, and developmental experiences necessary to becoming "career ready". The Career Ready Practices should be achieved through completion of a CTE program of study, regardless of industry sector, and can be "practiced" using many different approaches in a variety of settings.

The Career Ready Practices are built on a meta-analysis of over 30 different listings of general professional skills needed to succeed in the modern workplace, including from industry and both secondary and postsecondary education agencies and institutions. These are often called professionalism skills, 21st Century skills, employability skills, etc.

### To what degree do these Career Ready Practices represent the skills needed to succeed in a modern workplace?

- A great deal
- A lot
- A moderate amount
- A little
- Not at all

### Do you have recommended changes to the Career Ready Practices? If so, please share:

- Open paragraph box

### Please share any additional links or resources that you believe would help support the updating of the Career Ready Practices.

- Open paragraph box

## Final Thoughts and Demographic Information

**These final questions are to share any remaining feedback you have about the Career Clusters or this process. Any information shared in these next few questions may be quoted anonymously as part of our feedback sharing.**

**Overall, what excites you about the design and content of the proposed modernized Framework beyond what you've already shared?**

- Open paragraph

**Overall, what concerns do you still have about the design and content of the proposed modernized Framework beyond what you already shared?**

- Open paragraph

**Do you have any remaining questions about the design and content of the proposed modernized Framework beyond what you've already shared?**

- Open paragraph

**Do you have any final thoughts about the modernization of the National Career Clusters Framework?**

- Open paragraph

**The following questions are collected for our commitment to diversity and inclusion in our response gathering. Most questions are optional.**

**Are you submitting this response as an individual or on behalf of an employer, national organization, or similar?**

- I am submitting my response as an individual
- I represent the views of an organization.

**Organization or institution that you represent.**

- Open box

**Please share your role.**

- Local secondary educator
- Local postsecondary educator
- Local secondary administrator
- Local postsecondary administrator
- Counselor or career advising professional
- Local or regional workforce or economic development professional
- State agency employee
- Representative of a national organization (CTSO, national educators association, content delivery, etc.) that represents or supports CTE
- Industry representative of an employer, association, or union
- Other

**Please select the state or territory you best represent.**

- Dropdown of states and territories

**Gender identity**

- Woman
- Man
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to say
- I prefer to self-describe:

**Race/ethnicity (Select all that apply)**

- White
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Asian or Asian American
- Indigenous American or Alaska Native
- Native Hawai'ian or other Pacific Islander
- Another race/ethnicity
- Prefer not to say
- I prefer to self-describe:

**How did you find out about this survey?**

- From an Advance CTE communication
- From my employer
- From a state CTE or other agency
- From leadership of a national organization, including CTSO or educator association
- From a colleague or peer
- Other



## Thank You and Next Steps

Thank you for completing this survey. Please click "Done" to finish your survey and submit your results. Please feel free to share this survey link to others in your network.

Once this survey closes on July 7th, the national project team will work to compile all results and apply the feedback to the draft Framework. The final, modernized National Career Clusters Framework will be released during Advance CTE's Fall Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, October 21-23. A larger, national release will shortly follow.

If you are not already signed up, please [subscribe to our newsletter](#) for updates about this process and to find out about more opportunities to participate.