

Career Clusters: Preparing Georgia's Students for College and Career Readiness

Overview of Career Clusters/Pathways

- Georgia's 17 Career Cluster/Pathways provide a structure for organizing and delivering quality Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) programs.
- Modeled after the National Career Clusters configuration utilized by most of the United States, Georgia's 17 Career Cluster/Pathways Model represents approximately 96 career pathways to help students navigate their way to greater success in college and career.
- As an organizing tool for curriculum design and instruction, the 17 Career Clusters provide essential knowledge and skills for the students' career pathways.
- This model functions as a:
 - Useful guide in developing programs of study that bridge secondary and postsecondary curriculum.
 - Indicator of a range of career options for students' graduation plans of study.
 - Method of allowing students to discover their interests and passions, empowering them to choose the educational pathway that may lead to success in high school, college and career.
- The 17 Career Cluster/Pathways encompass both secondary and postsecondary education and will strengthen and improve student transition from secondary to postsecondary education.

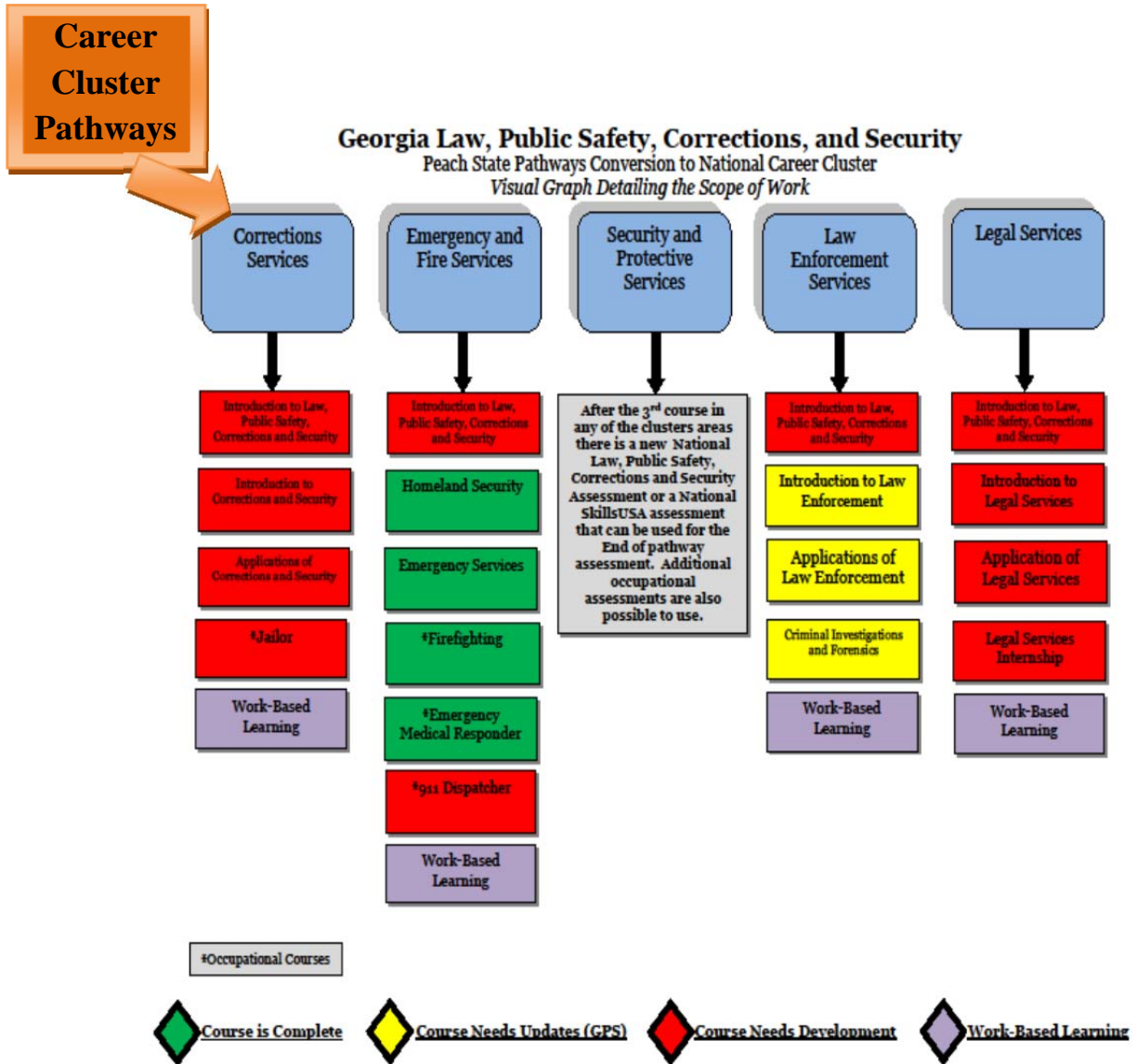
Georgia's Career Clusters

Architecture & Construction
Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
Arts, Audio/Video Technology & Communications
Business Management & Administration
Education and Training
Energy
Finance
Government & Public Administration
Health Science
Hospitality & Tourism
Human Services
Information Technology
Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
Manufacturing
Marketing
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

An Example of a Career Cluster Model

The Career Clusters organize both the career pathways and the related courses; therefore, the **Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security Cluster** illustrated below demonstrates the supported career pathways:

- (a) Correction Services
- (b) Emergency and Fire Services
- (c) Security and Protective Services
- (d) Law Enforcement Services
- (e) Legal Services



Soliciting Georgia Business and Industry Input

- Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) pathway courses will prepare a highly-skilled sustainable workforce that must be globally competitive.
- Georgia business and industry partners indicated that in order to prepare that workforce, the coursework in the 17 Career Clusters must incorporate these very critical areas:
 - ✓ Academic skills
 - ✓ Technical skills
 - ✓ Strong work ethics
 - ✓ Job ready soft skills
 - ✓ Real work experiences
 - ✓ Problem solving skills

Incorporating Career Cluster Advisory Committee Input

Georgia Department of Education partnered with the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Carl Vinson Institute of Government to receive important data.

- ✓ A statewide survey was developed and was sent out to Georgia business and industry leaders.
- ✓ Input from the survey items was obtained from all three of these agencies.
- ✓ The survey was sent out on **Monday, July 30, 2012**, and was available through **August 12, 2012**.
- ✓ Results of the survey provided additional input on skills to include in each of the 17 Career Clusters.

Each Career Cluster had an advisory committee consisting of:

- ✓ Business and industry leaders
- ✓ Administrators
- ✓ Counselors
- ✓ College and secondary teachers

The committee members reviewed Georgia's current Career, Technical and Agricultural Education standards for the Career Pathway courses and determined soft skills and academic skills for each course.

Each career pathway course will incorporate:

- ✓ Academic Common Core Curriculum to ensure consistency across states
- ✓ Alignment with National Assessments and Student Credentialing Programs
- ✓ Relevant Content
- ✓ Higher-Order Thinking Skills
- ✓ Rigorous Technical Knowledge and Skills
- ✓ Soft Skills

A phased-in plan for implementation of the new Career Cluster/Pathway courses will begin with the adoption of a foundational course and continue through all of the designated pathway courses.

The timeline for the adoption of all of the Career Cluster/Pathway foundational course standards is as follows:

- Nov. 1-Jan. 4, 2013:** Members of the Career Cluster advisory committees; including business and industry leaders, college and secondary teachers, counselors, and administrators, worked to revise the Career Cluster/Pathway foundational course standards.
- Jan. 8-10, 2013:** Business and industry advisory committee meetings were held to confirm final Career Cluster/Pathway foundational course standards revisions.
- January 25, 2013:** Career Cluster/Pathway foundational course standards will be presented to the GaDOE Policy Committee.
- January 31, 2013:** Career Cluster/Pathway foundational course standards will be presented to the GaDOE Superintendent’s Cabinet.
- February 21, 2013:** Career Cluster/Pathway foundational course standards will be presented to the State Board of Education for approval to post for public review for 30 days.
- March 26, 2013:** Input from the Career Cluster/Pathway foundational course standards public review process will be reviewed and finalized.
- April 5, 2013:** Career Cluster/Pathway foundational course standards will be presented for final adoption by the State Board of Education.

Students’ College and Career Readiness Individual Graduation Plans

The Career Clusters/Pathways will provide College and Career Readiness options for students.

- Georgia’s comprehensive grades K-12 career development includes three levels:
 - a. Career Awareness in Grades K–5, with grade-level specific career activities culminating in a 5th grade portfolio.
 - b. Career Exploration in Grades 6–8, with career-related assessments and inventories culminating in an individual graduation plan by the end of the 8th grade.
 - c. Career Management in Grades 9–12, with ongoing review and advisement of each student’s individual graduation plan to ensure successful implementation.

Currently being implemented in Georgia:

- A Comprehensive Grades K-12 Counseling and Advisement Program in which:
 - Georgia 8th grade students develop an Individual Graduation Plan that will be reviewed during high school on an ongoing basis with counselors, advisors, parents and the student.
 - Students may change their Individual Graduation Plans as they begin taking high school courses or making decisions throughout high school.
 - Students receive ongoing advisement from school counselors and teachers-as-advisors become better prepared to create successful college and career ready graduation plans.