NAME _____   DATE _____

CLUSTER EXPLORATION

RESEARCHING YOUR OPTIONS

You will have realized by now how many options there are in the world of work!

When you started **CAREER PLAN,** *you probably had some ideas about what jobs involve, what it takes to get them, and what you might like or dislike about them. You may have made some early plans based on information learned from family, friends, the media, and school. "Thinking about Me" and the* **INTEREST PROFILER** *may have given you some new ideas and options to consider.*

You are now ready for the next steps of the **Getting Started** *activities for* **CAREER PLAN** — *sharpening the focus of your exploration by gathering additional information about occupations that interest you.*

In this activity, you will learn more about occupations by researching clusters of occupations and the occupations themselves. To begin, let's define some terms that we use in career planning:

JOB	A unique work situation or position, paid or unpaid.
OCCUPATION	A group of related jobs that have similar duties, levels of responsibility, skills, knowledge, and physical demands. CIS uses about 600 occupational titles to describe the labor market.
CLUSTER	A way to group occupations by some common feature. Oregon uses 23 clusters to group occupations into five broad categories called Career Learning Areas. Career Learning Areas can help you focus on skills and knowledge related to your career goals and education plans.
CAREER	The combination of learning and work that a person pursues during his or her life.

In this activity, you are asked to select at least three CLUSTERS *of occupations that interest you. Clusters organize the occupations to help you work with all of the options – in the same way suits organize playing cards so you can work with 52 different cards.*

Even if you have a very specific career goal in mind, it is important to expand your horizons for a time to learn more about the world of work. Remember, career goals can be difficult to achieve, so it is important to have alternate career paths in mind and to plan for different possibilities.

After you complete this cluster exploration, you will be reviewing all of the occupations that interest you. Based upon your research, you will write personal and career goals to guide your education plan.

Below is a list of 23 Career Clusters grouped by six broader Career Learning Areas. General Studies is a seventh category you can select. Read each cluster title. Place a check by each cluster that interests you. Check at least three.

AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND NATURAL RESOURCE SYSTEMS

Includes programs related to the environment, natural resources, and food production. Prepares you for careers in agriculture, food processing, earth sciences, environmental sciences, fisheries management, forestry, horticulture, and wildlife management.

○ **AGRICULTURE**

○ **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

○ **FOOD SCIENCE AND PROCESSING**

○ **NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

ARTS, INFORMATION, AND COMMUNICATIONS

Includes programs related to the humanities and to the performing, visual, literary, and media arts. Also includes programs in computer information sciences and technology in which the computer is a communications and information tool. Prepares you for careers in instrumental and vocal music, architecture, creative writing, film and cinema studies, fine arts, graphic design and production, journalism, information and computer sciences, webpage and multimedia design, second languages, radio and television broadcasting, advertising, and public relations.

○ **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**

○ **PERFORMING ARTS**

○ **PUBLISHING AND BROADCASTING**

○ **VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTS**

BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT

Includes programs related to the business environment. Prepares you for business ownership and careers in sales, marketing, hospitality and tourism, business computer and information systems, finance, accounting, personnel, economics, and management.

○ **BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

○ **FINANCE**

○ **HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM**

○ **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**

○ **MARKETING**

HEALTH SCIENCES

Includes programs related to the promotion of health and the treatment of injuries, conditions, and diseases. Prepares you for careers in medicine, dentistry, nursing, therapy and rehabilitation, nutrition, fitness, and hygiene.

○ **HEALTH SCIENCES**

HUMAN RESOURCES

Includes programs related to economic, political, and social systems. Prepares you for careers in education, law and legal studies, law enforcement, public administration, child and family services, religion, and social services.

○ **EDUCATION AND RELATED FIELDS**

○ **HUMAN SERVICES**

○ **PUBLIC SERVICES**

INDUSTRIAL AND ENGINEERING SYSTEMS

Includes programs related to the technologies necessary to design, develop, install, operate, or maintain physical systems. Prepares you for careers in engineering and related technologies, mechanics and repair, manufacturing technology, precision production, and construction.

○ **AUTOMOTIVE AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT TECHNOLOGY**

○ **CONSTRUCTION**

○ **ENGINEERING**

○ **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**

○ **MANUFACTURING**

○ **TRANSPORTATION**

GENERAL STUDIES

Program that allows you to take courses related to many fields. You may select general studies if you do not feel ready to declare a more specific interest area.

○ **GENERAL STUDIES**

MY CLUSTER EXPLORATION

Research the career clusters you have checked on your worksheet. *To find out more about each career learning area and its clusters, go to* **CAREER LEARNING AREAS** *under the* **EDUCATION TAB** *in CIS. In the Career Learning Areas Index, click on the title of the career learning area that you want to know more about. The list of clusters in that Career Learning Area will display on the left. Research the occupations in each cluster by clicking the cluster title. Select occupations that interest you in each cluster from the list of occupations. (You can learn more about any of the occupations by clicking on the title.)*

Identify at least one occupation in each cluster you checked that might interest you. Look at the CIS information about that occupation, in particular the overview, knowledge, skills and abilities, and preparation topics. ***Save occupations that interest you in*** **FAVORITES.** *Summarize your research below.*

CAREER CLUSTER TITLE	OCCUPATION TITLES
♠_____	♠_____
	♠_____
	♠_____
♥_____	♥_____
	♥_____
	♥_____
♣_____	♣_____
	♣_____
	♣_____
♦_____	♦_____
	♦_____
	♦_____

YOUR SIGNATURE: _____

REVIEWED BY: _____