Finding My Career Path
From the CT Career Resource Network: 2012

Connecticut Career Pathways Initiative

“Connecticut’s Career Pathways Initiative builds upon the foundation established through Connecticut’s School-to-Career Initiative and Legislation to connect secondary education to postsecondary education and careers within the context of career clusters. The Career Pathways Initiative offers all students opportunities to connect their classroom learning to possible careers, preparing them to make more informed decisions regarding secondary academic and elective course enrollment, postsecondary plans and eventually, careers.”

“The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), has identified 16 career clusters that encompass ALL occupational titles nationwide. Connecticut has adopted these 16 career clusters, replacing the previous nine school-to-career classifications. In addition, Connecticut has selected 34 of the 81 career pathways established within the 16 clusters to implement initially, based on Connecticut’s current labor and economic needs, and growing careers across a wide business and industry spectrum (see the Career Pathways Wheel below).”

(You can access the full Connecticut Career Pathways Packet at http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/pubs/CareerPaths2010-2012.pdf)


**Occupation Outlook Handbook**

The Occupation Outlook Handbook (OOH) is a tool for students created by the United States Bureau of Labor. It is a comprehensive guide to possible careers as well as hundreds of occupations. You can browse resources, average pay, growth rate as well as multiple other characteristics for occupations listed. Access the OOH online at: http://www.bls.gov/ooh/home.htm.

**Department of Labor**

You may also want to explore your options by visiting either the National or local Department of Labor websites. You can visit the U.S. Department of Labor at: http://www.dol.gov/#. You can also access your local Connecticut Department of Labor at http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/.
BRS Services

Disability Determination Services
The Connecticut Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

(From CT.gov)

“The Bureau’s Disability Determination Services (DDS) unit is responsible for deciding eligibility for the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI) programs. These programs provide cash benefits to individuals who are unable to maintain employment due to the severity of their disabilities.

To reach Disability Determination Services, call 1-800-842-8320. To apply for benefits or inquire about the status of your application, go to http://www.ssa.gov/.

Individuals who receive Social Security disability benefits have increased incentives to work while maintaining some or all of their benefits. Benefits Counseling is available to assist individuals to assess the impact returning to work will have on their disability benefits. More information on work incentives programs is available by contacting the Connect to Work Center.

The Medicaid for Employed Disabled program allows persons with disabilities to be employed without risking eligibility for needed medical services through the Medicaid program. The program also allows certain individuals to keep other services they must have in order to remain employed.”
Pursuing a Vocation or Trade

Apprenticeship Training Programs

These programs tend to be run by trade unions or private companies/industries. On-the-job training is combined with instruction in order to give a student the qualifications and experience to pursue a specific career. You can apply through the CT Department of Labor, there are over a hundred recognized apprenticeship trades including Machinist, Carpenter, Electrician, etc.

Technical Education

Technical Programs

Technical Programs typically prepare students for employment, or improve the knowledge of current employees. These programs can range from accounting to hospitality management to welding and everything in between.

Vocational/Technical Schools

These schools offer programs for specific certificates or trades/vocations. A Vocational/Technical school may offer programs such as Automotive Technology, Culinary Arts, HVAC or Electrical. These programs would prepare a student to enter into a trade or earn a license through an apprenticeship program.

(Consult your College and Career Counselor for information specific to the trade you are interested in pursuing)