



## Definitions

- [Definitions](#)
- District 214 uses the following **nationally recognized terms** to help guide students through the selection of coursework and to support their decision making in preparation for their post-secondary goals.

### **College and Career Pathway Endorsements**

Endorsements are awarded on the high school diploma to validate the work of students in preparing for particular industry sectors. Endorsement requirements include: completion of a learning plan, career-focused coursework, workbased learning, and postsecondary readiness in reading and math.

### **Career Cluster**

Refers to the groups of the 16 nationally recognized occupations and industries that have a set of foundational knowledge and skills in common.

### **Career Pathway**

Multi-year program of academic and technical study that prepares students for a full range of post-secondary options within each career cluster. Career pathways provide a context for exploring career options at all levels of education. Career pathways link student learning to the knowledge and skills needed for future education and employment.

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Within each District 214 **Program of Study** the following terms are used to describe coursework and opportunities that align with that career area.

### **Pathway Courses**

Recommended sequence of courses that provide students opportunities to explore and develop skills within a specified career area.

**Related Electives**

Courses that provide students additional opportunities within the specified career area or opportunities to develop skills and knowledge in a closely related career area.

**Work-based Learning Experiences**

Extended educational opportunities in which students engage in authentic and relevant work aligned with a career pathway. These experiences allow students to participate in a professional work environment and assist with career skill development and decision-making. These opportunities may provide varied levels of support, depending upon students' individual needs.

**Career Related Activities**

Opportunities for student career exploration and/or career skill development that may include the involvement of industry partners. These opportunities are generally less formal and/or intensive than Work-based Learning Experiences in the areas of career exploration and/or career skill development.

**Certifications**

Credentials awarded to students by an independent third party verifying qualifications or competencies in a career skill area. Industry-recognized certifications are sought or accepted by employers as a recognized, preferred or required credentials for recruitment, screening, hiring, retention or advancement purposes of their employees.

**College Majors**

College majors are concentrations of educational study focused on a career area. College majors can lead to an associate, bachelor, master, or doctorate degree. In this document, a sample of majors related to each program of study is listed.

**Careers**

Careers are occupations that usually require special training or formal education. In this document, a sample of careers related to each program of study is listed