

Frequently Asked Questions about the Architecture & Construction Cluster

1. We currently teach a course that is similar to one of the courses on the approved list of courses. Can we keep using our existing course?

A- In order to have an approved, fundable pathway, you must use the courses from the approved list, with their attached competencies. You may add a few competencies of your own to each course, but the Core competencies must remain. The reason is consistency. This makes it much easier for transfer students to be placed in the correct courses. It also assists business & industry to know the skill sets students have achieved when they have completed a sequence of courses.

2. Can I pull a course from one pathway and teach it in another pathway?

A- Only courses that are actually listed as being a part of the pathway will be accepted for approval and funding. There are several courses that crossover to other pathways. They are listed in each pathway where applicable.

3. Can the introductory course(s) be taught at the 8th grade level?

A- Yes, your introductory course can be taught at the 8th grade level, but you will still need to have 3 additional courses in your sequence that are taught at the high school level.

4. Can you explain what is meant by “all pathways must have a work-based element”?

A- All students must be exposed to “all aspects” of the industry. This includes hands-on application of the skills taught. Most of the Application level courses have this built in to them. This stops short of (but may include) requiring an In-House Training or Internship opportunity for your students. It would be great if all students could get the face-to-face communication skills of working directly with a client or customer, and we encourage this whenever possible, but realize that in small rural communities it is not always possible. This may be a requirement in some of the other Cluster Pathways, but it is not currently required for the Architecture & Construction Cluster.

5. If we currently offer a third-party assessment to our students, can we go ahead and start using those results for our State reporting?

A- We plan to transition all schools to third-party assessments for reporting purposes. It will be done by cluster/pathway. Architecture and Construction cluster pathways will begin reporting these results in 2011 as that will be when we begin to have Concentrators in these pathways. Until then, you will use the current reporting methods.

6. Once we switch over to third party assessments, will we do away with the Competency Profiles?

A- We will not do away with the competencies – as they list the content of the courses. You will, however, do away with the Profile rating scale that currently appears on the Competency Profiles.



7. Can you send me the application packet so I can start filling it out.

A- As of this year (2009-10) there are no application packets. No “paper” applications will be accepted. All applications will be completed using the online application system. Several Application Training sessions have been set up for September and October 2009. You can check the dates and complete the registration online at the KSDE website. <http://conferences.ksde.org/>

8. Do we still need to send in our Course Outlines?

A- No, you will no longer be required to submit your course outlines, your teacher license/certificate, or the minutes of your Advisory Committee meetings. You do, however, need to keep those documents on file locally in case of a Monitoring Visit.

9. What if the postsecondary institution in our area does not offer a program similar to ours and we can't get an Articulation Agreement?

A- You will be required to have an Articulation Agreement with a postsecondary Institution to get your pathway approved. If your local postsecondary institution does not have the program of study you need, you will need to contact another postsecondary institution. Your education consultant at KSDE can recommend additional postsecondary institutions that would fit your Pathways.

10. What is the last date we can apply to transition to an Architecture & Construction cluster pathway?

A- If you currently have an approved program in Carpentry (46.0201), Custom Cabinetmaking (48.0703), or Architectural Drafting (15.0302) you will need to complete the application process to transition into an approved Pathway between November 15, 2009 and March 15, 2010. If you currently have a Mass Production Cabinetmaking Program (48.0703) or a Mechanical Drafting Program (15.0302) you will have until March 15, 2011 to apply.

B- Those schools who currently have approved Programs in HVAC/Refrigeration (47.0201) and/or Electrical/Electronics (47.0101) will need to choose between the Arch. & Construction - Construction Pathway (due March 15, 2010) and the Manufacturing – Maintenance Pathway (due March 15, 2011).