Helping others get it: Understanding and Communicating the Many Contributions of Family and Consumer Sciences in Programs of Study

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WANDA S. FOX, PhD, Associate Professor and Program Convener, Family & Consumer Sciences Education
Department of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education, Purdue University, wfox@purdue.edu

KAREN L. ALEXANDER, PhD, Associate Professor and Program Director, Family and Consumer Sciences Education
Applied and Professional Studies, College of Human Sciences, Texas Tech University, Karen.Alexander@ttu.edu

PEGGY WILD, PhD, CFCS, State Program Leader, Family & Consumer Sciences, Career Pathways,
Division of College & Career Preparation, Indiana Department of Education, pwild@doe.in.gov

This session provides tools for marketing the unique contributions of Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) in today’s educational settings, across all career clusters and programs of study. We discuss how trends in career and technical education, college and career readiness, and the overall FACS profession come together in the FACS classroom. We look at the essential contributions Family and Consumer Sciences makes to programs of study at three different levels: preparation for FACS careers, FACS supporting content in other programs of study, and FACS life and career foundations essential for all students.
Sixteen Career Clusters and Their Pathways

A Career Cluster is a grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities. The sixteen Career Clusters provide an organizing tool for schools, small learning communities, academies, and magnet schools. The 16 national Career Clusters are sub-grouped into 79 Career Pathways. The Pathways per Cluster varies from two to seven. Source: National Career Clusters™ Framework, http://www.careertech.org/career-clusters/

** Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) Career  ** FCS Supporting Content  * FCS Life and Career Foundations

** Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources **
- Agribusiness Systems *
- Animal Systems *
- Environmental Service Systems *
- Food Products and Processing Systems **
- Natural Resources Systems *
- Plant Systems *
- Power, Structural & Technical Systems *

** Architecture & Construction **
- Construction *
- Design/Pre-Construction **
- Maintenance/Operations *

** Arts, Audio/Video Technology & Communications **
- Audio and Video Technology and Film *
- Journalism and Broadcasting *
- Performing Arts *
- Printing Technology *
- Telecommunications *
- Visual Arts *

** Business Management & Administration **
- Administrative Support **
- Business Information Management *
- General Management *
- Human Resources Management **
- Operations Management *

** Education & Training **
- Administration and Administrative Support ***
- Professional Support Services ***
- Teaching/Training ***

** Finance **
- Accounting*
- Banking Services**
- Business Finance *
- Insurance **
- Securities & Investments *

** Government & Public Administration **
- Foreign Service **
- Governance *
- National Security *
- Planning *
- Public Management and Administration **
- Regulation *
- Revenue and Taxation **

** Health Science **
- Biotechnology Research and Development *
- Diagnostic Services **
- Health Informatics *
- Support Services **
- Therapeutic Services **

** Hospitality & Tourism **
- Lodging ***
- Recreation, Amusements & Attractions***
- Restaurants and Food/Beverage Services***
- Travel & Tourism ***

** Human Services **
- Consumer Services ***
- Counseling & Mental Health Services ***
- Early Childhood Development & Services ***
- Family & Community Services ***
- Personal Care Services ***

** Information Technology **
- Information Support and Services *
- Network Systems *
- Programming and Software Development *
- Web and Digital Communications *

** Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security **
- Correction Services **
- Emergency and Fire Management Services **
- Law Enforcement Services **
- Legal Services *
- Security & Protective Services **

** Manufacturing **
- Health, Safety & Environmental Assurance *
- Logistics & Inventory Control *
- Manufacturing Production Process Dev't *
- Maintenance, Installation & Repair *
- Production *
- Quality Assurance *

** Marketing **
- Marketing Communications **
- Marketing Management *
- Marketing Research **
- Merchandising **
- Professional Sales **

** Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics **
- Engineering and Technology *
- Science and Math *

** Transportation, Distribution & Logistics **
- Facility and Mobile Equipment Maintenance *
- Health, Safety & Environmental Mgmt *
- Logistics Planning and Management Services *
- Sales and Service *
- Transportation Operations *
- Transportation Systems/Infrastructure Plan *
- Warehousing & Distribution Ctr Operations *

Compiled by Peggy Wild & Wanda S. Fox, April 2009, revised June 2011

Note: These categorizations illustrate potential contributions of family and consumer sciences to specific career pathways. They are based on national trends and interpretations. Specific applications will vary from state to state.
Career Pathways and Programs of Study: Contributions of Family and Consumer Sciences

*** Family and Consumer Sciences Careers

- Students whose career goals are in a family and consumer sciences content/career area take a “coherent sequence” of family and consumer sciences courses. These include foundational content courses and career preparation courses with industry-based experiences are accomplished through cooperative education, and/or laboratory programs.
- A school-based Program of Study includes the elements listed on page 1 of this handout.
- If a school does not have a formal Program of Study in a particular family and consumer sciences content/career area, a student still may select this as his/her personal career pathway. In this case, the student’s personal plan of study would include academic courses and a coherent sequence of family and consumer sciences courses geared to address that career area. It also would include individually determined leadership and extended learning experiences, industry-based experiences, and post-secondary linkages.
- In either case, the end-of-program assessments for family and consumer sciences content/career areas available through the AAFCS Pre-Professional Assessment and Certification Program (Pre-PAC), http://www.aafcs.org/prepac/ would be applicable.

** Family and Consumer Sciences Supporting Content

- Family and consumer sciences provides content that directly supports Programs of Study in many other content/career areas.
- The family and consumer sciences “Supporting Content” role is established by cross-walking family and consumer sciences standards with those in other content/career areas and identifying the commonalities. This process and documentation provides a basis for communication and collaboration with teachers, administrators, and advisory boards who have responsibilities for other Programs of Study. This leads to family and consumer sciences courses being required or strongly recommended in other Programs of Study.
- Among these, Interpersonal Relationships is the most prevalent, applicable for all career areas that involve direct interaction with clients/patients/customers. Another example, is Health Science/Therapeutic Services, which include Nutrition and Wellness and Human Development, in addition to Interpersonal Relationships.
- Learning experiences in the identified family and consumer sciences Supporting Content courses are tailored so that students to apply the family and consumer sciences course content in ways that are related to their particular Program of Study.
- Standards-based assessments are used to document student learning of the identified linkages.

* Family and Consumer Sciences Life and Career Foundations

Life Foundations
- Family and consumer sciences “Life Foundations” feature knowledge and skills essential for all students’ life and career success. This instruction is provided in middle and high school settings.
- Child Development and Parenting, Nutrition and Wellness, Interpersonal Relationships, and Financial Literacy are particularly important. A range of other family and consumer sciences courses are valuable for many students.
- These “Life Foundations” courses should be required or strongly recommended for every student’s plan of study.

Career Foundations
- “Career Foundations” supports middle and high school students in career exploration and planning. This is an essential part of college and career readiness.
- In Indiana, the middle school unit of study is “Exploring College and Careers.” The high school course is “Preparing for College and Careers.” When this instruction is based in family and consumer sciences, students look holistically at their multiple roles and responsibilities in family, work, and community settings as they develop their personal life and career goals.
### Career Pathways and Programs of Study: Contributions of Family and Consumer Sciences

Wanda S. Fox, Peggy Wild, and Karen L. Alexander

**FCS Careers**

Students whose career path is in family and consumer sciences take a series of FCS courses, including industry-based experiences.

**FCS Supporting Content**

Students take selected FCS courses to address standards in other Pathways/Programs of Study

- Specified in Indiana pathways
- Recommendations supported by national Knowledge & Skills

**FCS Life and Career Foundations**

- Essential for all students
- Beneficial for all students

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**Notes:**

1. These categorizations illustrate contributions of family and consumer sciences to specific career pathways. They are based on analysis of the National Standards for FCS Education and national Knowledge and Skills Statements.
2. Indiana course titles and 2011 draft pathway plans are used as examples. Specific applications will vary from state to state.
3. Recommended for any career area with a potential focus on children.

Revised 11-2011
### Career Pathways and Programs of Study: Contributions of Family and Consumer Sciences

Wanda S. Fox, Peggy Wild, and Karen L. Alexander, 2010

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Career Clusters</th>
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<td><strong>High School Course Titles</strong></td>
<td>Students whose career path is in family and consumer sciences take a series of FCS courses, including industry-based experiences.</td>
<td>Students take selected FCS courses to meet requirements in other Pathways/Programs of Study</td>
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Revised 11-2011
**Glossary of Terms**

**Career Clusters.** Broad groupings of occupations and industries based on commonalities. The National Career Clusters™ Framework (http://www.careertech.org/career-clusters/) includes 16 Career Clusters. They incorporate entry-level through advanced-level positions. They are an organizing tool for educators, industry, and students.

**Career Pathways.** Sub-groupings of Career Clusters based on more specific occupational specialties. At the national level, the 16 Career Clusters are sub-grouped in 79 Career Pathways. See page 2 of this handout.

**Knowledge and Skills Statements.** Industry-validated descriptions of what a person needs to know and be able to do for success in particular Career Clusters or Career Pathways. These detailed statements encompass academic, employability, and technical areas. (http://www.careertech.org/resources/clusters/knowledge-skills.html).

**Programs of Study.** Planned sequence of high school and postsecondary course work, plus other elements, designed to prepare students in a career area. Programs of Study are implemented within Career Clusters and Career Pathways. They are required in the current 2006 Perkins legislation. “Program of Study” is the term used in the Perkins legislation. Some states use other terms. For example, Indiana is using the term “Career Pathway Plans.”

**Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006**

The state plan shall include information about … career and technical programs of study, which may be adopted by local educational agencies and postsecondary institutions to be offered as an option to students (and their parents as appropriate) when planning for and completing future coursework, for career and technical content areas that:

- Incorporate secondary and postsecondary education elements;
- Include coherent and rigorous content aligned with challenging academic standards and relevant career and technical content in a coordinated, nonduplicative progression of courses that align secondary and post-secondary education to adequately prepare students to succeed in postsecondary education;
- May include the opportunity for secondary students to participate in dual or concurrent enrollment programs or acquire postsecondary credit in other ways;

*Lead to an industry-recognized credential or certificate at the postsecondary level, or an associate or baccalaureate degree*  
[Section 122(c)(1)(A)], cited in ACTE 2006