Part 3: Louisiana Career Clusters

A step-by-step guide for students and families

Start with what interests you

Do you enjoy helping people, building things, working with computers, or creating art? This tool helps you discover types of work you may want to explore. You do not need to choose your future career today.

Word you will see	What it means
Career cluster	A large group of careers that use related skills.
Pathway	A smaller group of related careers within a cluster.
Occupation	A type of job, such as nurse or electrician.
Dashboard	A screen with information, charts, and choices you can click.

1. Open the tool

Go to www.laworks.net. Under **Explore Careers**, click **La. Career Clusters**. Then click the large **Louisiana Career Clusters Dashboard** banner shown below. It opens a new tab.



Direct link: Open Louisiana Career Clusters. A computer or tablet may make the wide tables easier to read.

Choose a field to explore

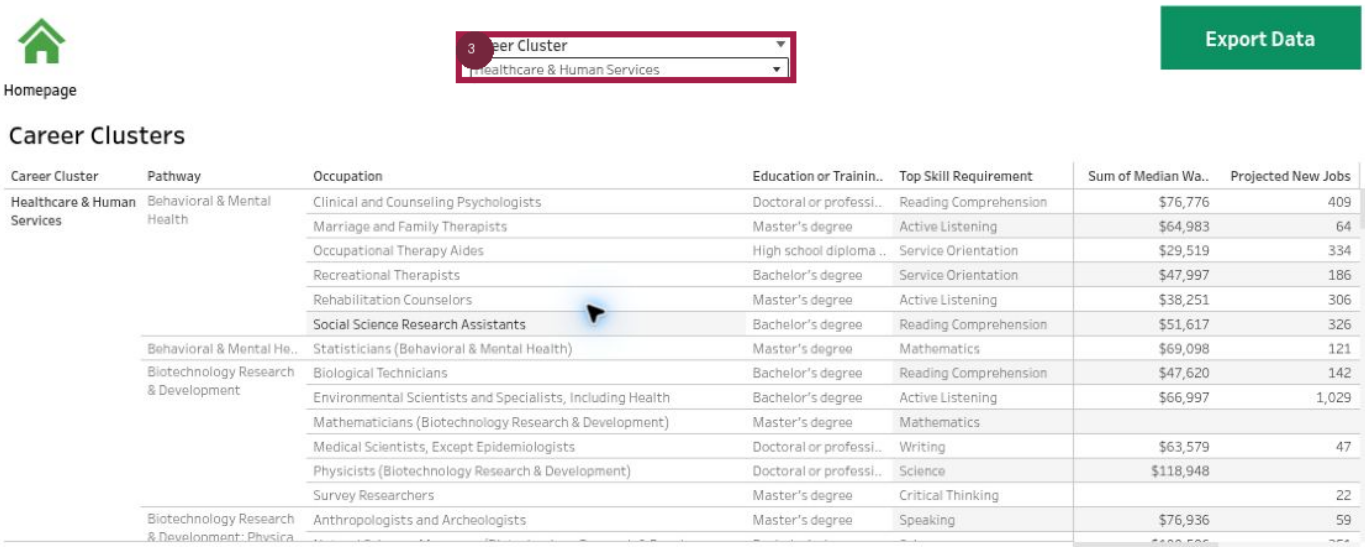
2. Click Career Clusters

On the dashboard home screen, choose **Career Clusters** to explore careers and their pay, skills, and education. **Job Postings** is the other section; we will use it later.



3. Use the Career Cluster menu

Click the small arrow beside **Career Cluster**. Choose a field that interests you. For this example, select **Healthcare & Human Services**. Give the table and charts a moment to update.



Career Cluster	Pathway	Occupation	Education or Trainin..	Top Skill Requirement	Sum of Median Wa..	Projected New Jobs
Healthcare & Human Services	Behavioral & Mental Health	Clinical and Counseling Psychologists	Doctoral or professi..	Reading Comprehension	$76,776	409
		Marriage and Family Therapists	Master's degree	Active Listening	$64,983	64
		Occupational Therapy Aides	High school diploma ..	Service Orientation	$29,519	334
		Recreational Therapists	Bachelor's degree	Service Orientation	$47,997	186
		Rehabilitation Counselors	Master's degree	Active Listening	$38,251	306
		Social Science Research Assistants	Bachelor's degree	Reading Comprehension	$51,617	326
	Behavioral & Mental He..	Statisticians (Behavioral & Mental Health)	Master's degree	Mathematics	$69,098	121
	Biotechnology Research & Development	Biological Technicians	Bachelor's degree	Reading Comprehension	$47,620	142
		Environmental Scientists and Specialists, Including Health	Bachelor's degree	Active Listening	$66,997	1,029
		Mathematicians (Biotechnology Research & Development)	Master's degree	Mathematics		
		Medical Scientists, Except Epidemiologists	Doctoral or professi..	Writing	$63,579	47
		Physicists (Biotechnology Research & Development)	Doctoral or professi..	Science	$118,948	
		Survey Researchers	Master's degree	Critical Thinking		22
	Biotechnology Research & Development: Physica	Anthropologists and Archeologists	Master's degree	Speaking	$76,936	59

The menu also includes fields such as Construction, Digital Technology, Education, and Arts, Entertainment, & Design. Try two or three fields. You may discover careers you did not know existed.

4. Read across one row

Pick one occupation. Follow its row from left to right to see its pathway, education or training, top skill, pay, and projected new jobs. Use the table's scroll bars to see more rows or hidden columns. Some labels are shortened to fit.

Example: In this screenshot, **Occupational Therapy Aides** appears in the healthcare cluster. Its row lists a high school diploma, Service Orientation, $29,519, and 334 projected new jobs. These are dashboard figures captured on October 1, 2026; they may change.

Understand the career table

Column or term	How to use it
Education or Training	The usual preparation listed for the occupation. Use it as a starting point, then check the requirements for a specific program or job.
Top Skill Requirement	A skill that matters in this work. Ask: Would I enjoy using this skill? How could I practice it?
Median Wage (may appear as Sum of Median Wa...)	The middle pay amount: half of workers earn more and half earn less. It is not a promise of starting pay. Compare one occupation at a time; do not add wages together.
Projected New Jobs	An estimate of added jobs over a forecast period. It is not a count of jobs open today or a yearly total unless the source says so. The visible table does not state the forecast years.
Blank cell	Information is not shown there. A blank does not mean zero pay or zero jobs.

Education words made simple

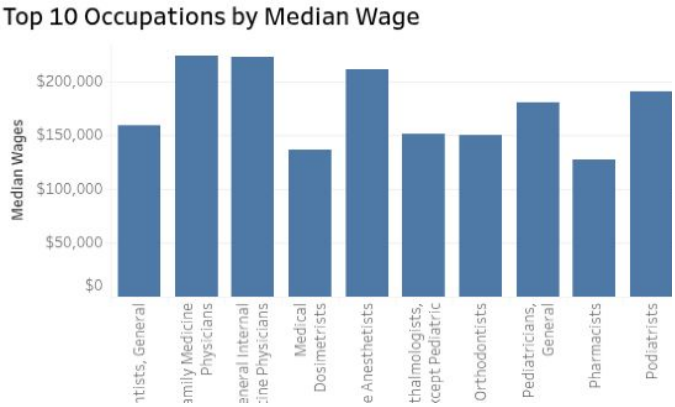
Label	Simple meaning
High school diploma	Finish high school. A job may also require training or a license.
Certificate / non-degree training	Learn specific job skills after high school without earning a college degree.
Associate's degree	A college degree that usually takes about two years of full-time study.
Bachelor's degree	A college degree that usually takes about four years of full-time study.
Master's degree	More college study after a bachelor's degree.
Doctoral / professional degree	Advanced study for careers such as doctor, lawyer, or psychologist.

Skills you can practice now

Active Listening: Pay attention and understand what someone is saying.
Critical Thinking: Use facts to solve a problem.
Service Orientation: Look for ways to help people.
Reading Comprehension: Understand what you read.

Use the charts to ask questions





5. Explore skills and pay

Top Skill Requirement: The word cloud shows skills connected to this cluster. Use the words to start a conversation about strengths and interests. The screen does not explain the exact size scale, so avoid treating word size as a precise score.

Top 10 Occupations by Median Wage: Taller bars show higher median pay. This chart focuses on ten high-paying occupations in the selected cluster. It does not show every career in the field.

Move your pointer over a bar to see a small information box with the occupation, median wage, and projected new jobs. This is helpful when a job name is cut off. On a touch screen, try tapping a bar.

A useful family conversation

A student sees a high-paying healthcare career. The family asks: **What education does it need? Would you enjoy the work? What other healthcare careers could we compare?** Then they return to the table and look for options with different education requirements.

6. Return to the dashboard home

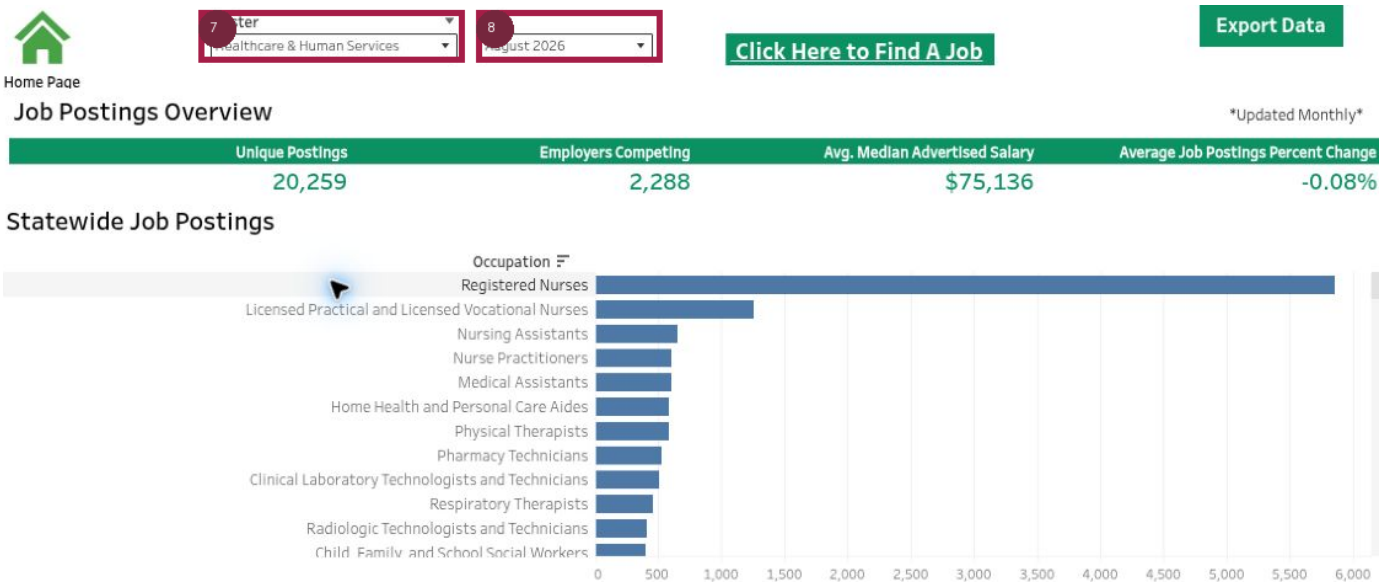
Click the green house labeled **Homepage** or **Home Page** inside the dashboard. Then click **Job Postings** to explore job advertisements. Use the house inside the report, rather than the Louisiana Works logo above it.

Export Data is an optional control for getting data out of the dashboard. You do not need it to complete this activity. Writing down your career choices is enough.

Explore job advertisements

7. Choose a cluster and a date

In **Job Postings**, use the **Cluster** menu to choose your field. Use the **Date** menu to choose the month. This is a monthly snapshot, so always check the date before discussing the numbers.



Label	What it tells you
Unique Postings	Job advertisements counted after duplicates are removed. An advertisement may cover more than one position.
Employers Competing	The count of employers shown as seeking workers in the selected field. It does not tell you how many people applied.
Avg. Median Advertised Salary	A pay summary from job advertisements. It is not a starting-pay offer for every career. Some advertisements may leave out pay.
Average Job Postings Percent Change	A measure of change in posting activity. The visible label does not name the comparison period; check the source before explaining what it is compared with.
Statewide Job Postings	A chart of advertisements across Louisiana. Longer bars mean more postings for that occupation.

Example: With Healthcare & Human Services and August 2026 selected, Registered Nurses has the longest visible bar. This suggests a career worth investigating. It does not guarantee a job near your home.

Turn your results into a plan

8. Look at the other job-posting charts

Advertised Salary: Compare pay ranges in advertisements.
Job Postings by Region: Find your area on the map. Move your pointer over it to explore its details. Families in St. Bernard Parish can look for the New Orleans region.
Job Posting Trends: See how advertisement counts change over time. Use the legend to tell the two lines apart.
Minimum Education Requirements: Compare the education listed in advertisements. Actual employer requirements can vary.

The **Click Here to Find A Job** link is the next step for exploring job listings. For a middle school student, the goal is to learn what employers ask for and what preparation may be needed.

Try this together: find three careers

Choose a cluster. Find three occupations that interest you. Record what you learn, then talk about a next step.

Career / occupation	Education or training	Skill to practice
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Which career would you like to learn more about? Why?

_____

What class, club, visit, or hands-on activity could help you explore it?

_____

Bring your questions to school

Ask your school counselor or career coordinator which classes and opportunities connect with your interests. A dashboard pathway is a group of careers. Ask the school which graduation pathway or program connects to it; the names may differ.

Remember: Explore interests, required preparation, pay, and opportunities together. You can change your mind as you learn more.

Source: Louisiana Works, Louisiana Career Clusters webpage and live dashboard. Screens checked October 1, 2026. Job-posting example: August 2026. Screens and data may change. This family guide explains the tool; it is not an official Louisiana Works publication.