



**Consumer Services** is a program of study within the **Human Services Career Cluster**. A Career Cluster is a grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities. There are 16 Career Clusters.

Career clusters link what students learn in school with the knowledge and skills they need for success in college and careers. The Human Services cluster prepares individuals for employment in career pathways related to families and human needs.

There are five programs of study in this cluster:

- Consumer Services
- Counseling and Mental Health Services
- Early Childhood Development and Services
- Family and Community Services
- Personal Care Services

### **Employment Outlook**

Employment of **Sales Representatives** is expected to grow as fast as average through the year 2014, primarily because of continued growth in the variety and number of goods to be sold. Job prospects for sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing, will be best for persons with the appropriate knowledge or technical expertise as well as the personal traits necessary for successful selling. The average starting salary in Texas for sales representatives is \$25,290 (Texas Workforce Commission, 2007). Nationally, salaries range from \$30,270 to \$114,540 (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2006-2007).

### **Using this brochure**

Inside you will find a suggested **program of study** that has lots of helpful information. The model is an example of the types of courses and extended learning experiences that are important for the **Consumer Services Program of Study**. Use this model to plan your course schedule, educational experiences, and career choices.

At the top of the model, you will find **career goals** with the corresponding **O\*NET code**. The O\*NET code is an official classification of jobs and can be used to locate career-related information. Your teacher, counselor, or media center should be able to help you locate further information.

The upper left side of the model highlights the **core courses and career-related electives** in high school that will help prepare you for your career goal. This model is based upon the Recommended High School Graduation Plan and can easily be adapted for the Distinguished Achievement High School Graduation Plan.

The upper right side of the model highlights examples of **extended learning experiences** that can enhance your knowledge and skills for your career goal. You will find examples of curricular activities, such as participation in Career and Technical Student Organizations like FCCLA, career learning experiences, service learning activities, and extracurricular activities.

The lower left side of the model indicates **industry licensures/certifications** and **on-the-job training experiences** that may be available while still in high school. This section also highlights the various levels of **postsecondary education** and examples of **career options** available to you once you have completed that level of education and training.

The lower right side of the model contains examples of **professional associations** available for sales professionals. Many of these organizations allow preprofessional membership while enrolled in a postsecondary program. Most organizations have websites which can be easily located by entering the organization name in available search engines.



## Thinking about a career in Housing and Home Furnishings Sales?

This program of study may be for you! Sales representatives spend much of their time traveling to and visiting with prospective buyers and current clients. They discuss the client's needs and suggest how their merchandise or services can meet those needs. Look inside to see suggested coursework and learning opportunities that will prepare you for an exciting and rewarding career.