

Common Definitions

Washington state agencies developed common definitions for key concepts related to sector strategies in 2007. A shared set of definitions sets the foundation for coordinating workforce and economic development with a particular focus on sector strategies.

Common Definitions

Prepared by the Common Definitions Work Group, 2007

High Employer Demand Program of Study: Undergraduate or graduate certificate or degree program in which the number of students prepared for employment per year (from in-state institutions) is less than the number of projected job openings per year in that field—statewide, or in a sub-state region. Targeted funding for high-demand programs of study should be designed to address high-demand occupations or other critical shortage areas.

High-Demand Occupation: An occupation with a substantial number of current or projected employment opportunities.

High Student Demand Program of Study: Undergraduate or graduate certificate or degree program in which student demand exceeds program capacity.

Sector: a group of industries with similar business processes, products or services like construction or health services; formerly categorized by the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system, now categorized by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

Industry Cluster: A geographic concentration of interdependent competitive firms that do business with each other, including firms that sell inside and outside of the geographic region as well as support firms that supply new materials, components, and business services. (RCW 43.330.090)

Targeted Industries or Clusters: Industries and industry clusters that are identified based on a strategic economic development consideration or other public concerns.

The Common Definitions Work Group represented the following agencies:

- Department of Commerce
- Council of Presidents
- Employment Security
- Governor's Policy Office
- Student Achievement Council
- Labor and Industries
- Office of Financial Management
- State Board for Community and Technical Colleges
- Washington State University
- Workforce Board