```
[mysqld]
ndbcluster
ndb-connectstring=ndb_mgmd.mysql.com


# provide connection string for management server host (default port: 1186)
[ndbd]
connect-string=ndb_mgmd.mysql.com

# provide connection string for management server host (default port: 1186)
[ndb_mgm]
connect-string=ndb_mgmd.mysql.com

# provide location of cluster configuration file
# IMPORTANT: When starting the management server with this option in the
# configuration file, the use of --initial or --reload on the command line when
# invoking ndb_mgmd is also required.
[ndb_mgmd]
config-file=/etc/config.ini
```

(For more information on connection strings, see Section 23.3.3.3, "NDB Cluster Connection Strings".)

```
# my.cnf
# example additions to my.cnf for NDB Cluster
# (works on all versions)

# enable ndbcluster storage engine, and provide connection string for management
# server host to the default port 1186
[mysqld]
ndbcluster
ndb-connectstring=ndb_mgmd.mysql.com:1186
```

> ⚠️ **Important**
>
> Once you have started a `mysqld` process with the `NDBCLUSTER` and `ndb-connectstring` parameters in the `[mysqld]` in the `my.cnf` file as shown previously, you cannot execute any `CREATE TABLE` or `ALTER TABLE` statements without having actually started the cluster. Otherwise, these statements fail with an error. *This is by design*.

You may also use a separate `[mysql_cluster]` section in the cluster `my.cnf` file for settings to be read and used by all executables:

```
# cluster-specific settings
[mysql_cluster]
ndb-connectstring=ndb_mgmd.mysql.com:1186
```

For additional `NDB` variables that can be set in the `my.cnf` file, see NDB Cluster System Variables.

The NDB Cluster global configuration file is by convention named `config.ini` (but this is not required). If needed, it is read by `ndb_mgmd` at startup and can be placed in any location that can be read by it. The location and name of the configuration are specified using `--config-file=path_name` with `ndb_mgmd` on the command line. This option has no default value, and is ignored if `ndb_mgmd` uses the configuration cache.

The global configuration file for NDB Cluster uses INI format, which consists of sections preceded by section headings (surrounded by square brackets), followed by the appropriate parameter names and values. One deviation from the standard INI format is that the parameter name and value can be separated by a colon (`:`) as well as the equal sign (`=`); however, the equal sign is preferred. Another deviation is that sections are not uniquely identified by section name. Instead, unique sections (such as two different nodes of the same type) are identified by a unique ID specified as a parameter within the section.