

Education Options



Most careers require education or training beyond high school. Some careers require two or four years of college; others require only one year of training or education. In many cases, your career choice will determine which education option is most appropriate for you.

The following are post-high school education options for you to consider. Read about each of these options and think about which one might be best for you.

- ▶ Two-Year College
- ▶ Four-Year College
- ▶ Career/Trade School
- ▶ Apprenticeship
- ▶ The Military

Two-Year College

Two-year colleges provide affordable, career-oriented programs that enable students to begin their careers after two years of college or less. Students completing short-term programs receive certificates or diplomas. Students who complete a two-year program earn an associate degree.

Students who aren't ready to attend a four-year college can start at a two-year college, and then transfer after a year or two. Because they are less expensive, many students start at a two-year college in order to save money.

Two year colleges are an increasingly popular education option. For more information, watch this short video.



Four-Year College

A four-year college education, or bachelor's degree, can prepare students for a wide variety of financially rewarding careers.

All four-year colleges recommend that students take college-prep courses in high school. Students who haven't taken several of the recommended college-prep courses may want to consider starting at a two-year college or at a four-year college's branch campus.

Career/Trade School

Career and trade schools offer short-term training in a variety of career fields. Some programs last only a few weeks; others take up to two years. Career and trade schools are generally private, for-profit schools and they can be expensive.

When considering a career/trade school, check to see if, and by whom, a school is accredited. Be very wary of any school that is not accredited or claims to be seeking accreditation.

Apprenticeships

Students who prefer a hands-on approach to learning may want to consider an apprenticeship, where they can learn a trade through a combination of classroom instruction and on-the-job training. Apprenticeships are considered the gold standard for training in the skilled trades.

The Military

As the nation's largest employer, the military offers enlistees a salary, benefits, and free job training. The military also provides discipline, structure, and opportunities for career advancement and travel.