

POST HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS

GUIDANCE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

- **Four Year Colleges and Universities:** Majors offered by four-year colleges and universities offer a wide variety of job preparation possibilities. More than 100 areas of study may be offered. Some of these areas of study will prepare students for specific occupations, while others emphasize research and preparation for advanced study.
 - Public In-State Universities
 - Public Out-of-State Universities
 - Private/Independent In-State Colleges/Universities
 - Private/Independent Out-of-State Colleges/Universities
 - Foreign Universities
- **Community Colleges:** Two-year colleges offer a large number of programs including short-term vocational preparation (Certificate Programs), Associate of Art or Science degrees, and courses of study designed to facilitate transfer to a four-year college. Tuition is very reasonably priced.
- **Graduate/Professional School:** Some occupations require more than 4 years of full-time enrollment. Admission to graduate school requires completion of the Bachelor's degree; some professional schools, such as pharmacy and optometry, admit student who have completed 2 or 3 years of undergraduate study.
- **Vocational Schools:** These include privately-owned business, trade and technical schools which may be in business to make a profit. The programs offered generally last no more than two years, and allow an individual to obtain highly specialized training. Tuition is generally high, but most provide an externship and good job placement services. Check out the credentials of the school before applying, and read the fine print in the contract carefully!
- **Specialized Schools:** These institutions offer specialized training similar to Vocational Schools, but are usually non-profit. Many award two and/or four-year degrees and tuition is generally high. These schools are a good choice for students who have clear career goals. Find out which organization(s) provide accreditation, and seek financial aid.
- **Distance Learning:** Distance learning includes high school and college level courses taught by correspondence, via cable television, and on the Internet. These are options for those who cannot or do not wish to attend formal classes.

- **Apprenticeships:** An apprenticeship is a more formal way of learning a skill or trade. Although you work with someone at a particular job, you must also attend class. Most programs are 3-4 years in length; however, some may be as short as 2 years while others last as long as 6 years. The number of apprentice openings is usually limited. Tests, personal interviews, and high school mathematics through trigonometry may be required.
- **On-The Job Training:** This is an informal type of training. Someone who knows the job well will teach you while you observe and assist that person in performing it. High School graduation may or may not be required, but is always desirable. On-the-job training allows you to earn while you learn.
- **Military Training:** Branches of the military offer training in almost 1,500 civilian-related jobs. Classroom study is generally required along with on-the-job training. Taking the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery will help you to determine which training programs you may qualify for. Most branches of the military now provide opportunities for enlisted personnel to earn credit towards a college degree while they serve. The Air Force has its own community college.
- **Job Corps:** Job Corps is a career training and education program for students' age 16-24 who meet income or disability requirements. It is designed to help students find the path to personal and career success – **all at no cost to eligible students.**