

1 ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER

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Need help with our terms? See the **glossary** on our websites:

ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER: BENEFITS OF COLLEGE AND CAREER EDUCATION

The **knowledge, fulfillment, self-awareness, and broadening of horizons** that come from a college experience can transform your life — and the lives of those around you — in valuable ways. **More security, better health, closer family, and stronger community**, in addition to **greater wealth**, are the real value of a college education. (College Bound Advocacy & Policy Center)

Less than High school: **\$30,780**

High school graduate: **\$38,792**

Some college or associate's degree: **\$44,720**

Bachelor's degree: **\$64,896**

Advanced degree (master's professional and doctoral degrees): **\$90,844**

AVERAGE INCOME BY EDUCATION LEVEL

(Bureau of Labor Statistics)

THERE'S MORE THAN JUST ONE CHOICE WASHINGTON COLLEGE GRANT

Life after high school has more college and career education options than you might think! The new Washington College Grant isn't just for college students—it also supports income-eligible apprentices enrolled in approved programs. **Apprenticeships** can get you **on-the-job**, hands-on training for a **trade**, and Washington College Grant can help pay for **tuition**, instructional fees, and materials. Students have more access to **financial aid** than ever before. This means more students are eligible to receive **state financial aid**, and they have more options to choose from. Check **wsac.wa.gov/WCG** for more information.

WHY SHOULD I GO TO COLLEGE?

There is a growing, **massive wage gap** between college-educated and less-educated young professionals. Young adults with an **associate's degree** earn an average of **\$5,000 more per year** than those with a high school diploma (Kena et al., 2016).

Young professionals with a high school diploma are **3 times more likely** to be unemployed than young professionals with a **Bachelor's degree**.

Individuals with a college degree are **much more likely to receive employer-provided health insurance** than those with only a high school diploma. The likelihood of reporting **health to be very good or excellent is 44% greater**.

A college degree can lead to a stronger community. Individuals with a college degree are **more than twice as likely to volunteer** as those with only a high school diploma. College graduates' **neighborhood interactions and trust are significantly higher**. (Lumina Foundation, College Bound Advocacy & Policy Center).

GOOD TO KNOW:

What you study in college matters. Some degrees are in higher demand and lead to careers with higher pay. Currently, degrees in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), health and business lead to the highest entry level pay.

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Individuals with a college **degree** earn **\$1 million more over their lifetime** compared to those with only a high school diploma. (Khan Academy, 2014).

WHAT EDUCATION DOES MY DREAM JOB REQUIRE?

You can choose from hundreds of **majors** and **certificates**. Typically, most fall into two categories: **liberal arts** or **career-oriented**.

CAREER-ORIENTED MAJORS OR CERTIFICATES

focus on developing particular skills and knowledge for **specific careers**

Marine biology

Culinary arts

Paralegal studies

Engineering

Dental hygiene

* DO RESEARCH:

Research different colleges to figure out which ones offer the certification program, major and/or degree that you need for your career. What you choose will impact how much money you earn.

LIBERAL ARTS MAJORS

include literature, philosophy, history and languages. These majors are broader and can lead to various jobs that don't require specific or technical knowledge.

English – editor, marketing executive, writer

Foreign language – foreign service officer, translator, teacher

Political science – community organizer or activist, lawyer, policy analyst

Psychology – market researcher, social worker, mental health counselor

DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO DO YET?

1 Think about your interests.

List **job ideas** and interests and then research how they can connect to a job.

Visit careerbridge.wa.gov to explore careers.

2 Determine how to qualify for different jobs.

Learn **job requirements** (skills, classes, specific degrees or training, etc.)

Talk to a **career counselor**, mentor or family member.

3 Get experience.

Volunteer, get an **internship** or **job shadow**.

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ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER: TYPES OF COLLEGES

The term college includes technical colleges, 2-year community colleges, **vocational** or trade schools and 4-year colleges or universities. There is not one type of college that is perfect for everyone, so it is important to explore your options.

WHERE SHOULD I GO FOR COLLEGE?

Private 2-year College/ Vocational/ Trade Schools

Private 2-year, vocational or trade schools provide education for a specific career. Students that graduate from these schools can become a chef, massage therapist, or paralegal.

Public and Private 4-year College/University

These schools offer bachelor's degrees, usually completed in 4 years of full-time study. Private schools typically charge a higher **tuition** but can offer a significant amount of **scholarships** to make attendance affordable. Students that graduate from these schools can become a robotics engineer, business analyst, or nutritionist.

Make sure to review ANY school's **accreditation** and job placement rates.

Community and Technical Colleges (CTCs)

These schools offer **associate's degrees** and **certificates**, including for specific **trades**. Washington state has 34 public CTCs. Students that graduate from CTCs can enter many careers, such as nursing, automotive repair and cybersecurity.

Learn more about the programs they offer at **sbctc.edu**

 Some CTCs now offer **bachelor's degrees.**

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40% of 4-year graduates in Washington started at a community college.

This chart shows common characteristics for each type of college in Washington state.

	Community and Technical Colleges	Public 4-year Colleges	Private 4-year Colleges
Selectivity All require an application . Moderate and highly selective colleges typically require applicants to submit essays, grades, test scores and other components.	Least selective	Moderate to highly selective	Moderate to highly selective
Campus Size number of undergraduate students	5,000-30,000	Over 10,000	Less than 5,000
Tuition Tuition per year for full-time enrollment (for local residents)	Low (around \$4,000)	Medium (\$7,000-\$11,000)	High (over \$30,000)
Undergraduate Degrees Offered	Certificates and associate's degrees (AA, AAS)	Bachelor's degrees (BA or BS)	Bachelor's degrees (BA or BS)



ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER: ALL ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS

In an apprenticeship, you can **earn money while learning** through a combination of hands-on, **on-the-job training (OJT)** and related academic classes.

Apprenticeships are competitive and rigorous, and are typically more demanding than **internships**.

APPRENTICESHIP



Apprenticeships are offered by employers (such as Boeing), **trade unions** (such as electricians or roofers) and independent programs. **Programs typically last 2-5 years** and are a good way to start a career in a well-paying field. Apprenticeship programs offer certifications, licenses and/or college **degrees**.

WHAT JOB CAN I GET AS AN APPRENTICE?

Apprenticeships are available in a variety of industries, such as **aerospace, advanced manufacturing, construction, energy and marine technology**.

Examples of careers include:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Aircraft mechanic | Electrician |
| Automotive mechanic | Fire fighter |
| Bricklayer | Plumber |
| Carpenter | Truck driver |
| Cement mason | Welder |

HOW MUCH WOULD I GET PAID?

Apprentices earn money while in the program; the pay increases as they progress. Upon graduation, they become "journey-level" workers.

Starting apprentice – minimum \$18/hr + **benefits** (e.g. medical, dental and vision)

- For example, Seattle City Light apprentices earn at least \$30/hr to start.

Journey-level worker (apprenticeship graduate) – minimum \$30/hr + benefits (e.g. medical, dental, vision and retirement)

- For example, King County plumbers and pipe fitters earn around \$89/hr while cement masons in Yakima earn \$45/hr.

* HOW DO I BECOME AN APPRENTICE?

1 Make sure you meet the requirements.

Generally, these include:

- High school **diploma**
- Specified abilities (may require math)
- Valid driver's license and reliable transportation

2 Find a program and apply.

- Each program has unique procedures for applying.
- To learn more about the process, talk to your high school counselor or visit lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/apprenticeship/become-an-apprentice

Information adapted from: Washington State Department of Labor and Industries. (2012). *A Parents' Guide to Apprenticeships*.

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