ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER

IN THIS CHAPTER:

BENEFITS OF COLLEGE AND CAREER EDUCATION

COLLEGE AND CAREER CONNECTION

TYPES OF COLLEGES

ALL ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS
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)

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.

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).

Why should I go to college?

There are 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.

Good to know:

OCT: Grade 9 and 10
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.

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

Careers that 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.

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.

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

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

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

**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
- Automotive mechanic
- Bricklayer
- Carpenter
- Cement mason
- Electrician
- Fire fighter
- Plumber
- Truck driver
- 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.

**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


OCT: GRADE 11
NOV: GRADE 9 and 10