ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER

IN THIS CHAPTER:

- Benefits of Going to College
- College and Career Connection
- Types of Colleges
- All About Apprenticeships

Need help with our terms? See the glossary on our websites:
ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER: BENEFITS OF GOING TO COLLEGE

A college degree will help you get higher-paying jobs and get hired faster. Getting a college degree or certificate may be the best thing you can do for your future.

WHY SHOULD I GO TO COLLEGE?

GET A BETTER JOB FASTER

Washington state has the 7th fastest growing economy in the U.S. There will be 740,000 job openings in this state in the next 5 years (Boston Consulting Group & Washington Roundtable, 2016).

By 2020, 70% of ALL jobs in Washington will require at least some college education (Carnevale, Smith & Strohl, 2015).

99% of new jobs between 2010 and 2016 went to people with more than a high school education (Carnevale, Jayasundera, & Gulish, 2016).

Young professionals with a high school diploma are 3 times more likely to be unemployed than young professionals with a Bachelor’s degree (Taylor, Fry & Oates, 2014).

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.

MAKE MORE MONEY

There is a growing, massive wage gap between college-educated and less-educated young professionals (Taylor, Fry & Oates, 2014).

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).

91% of “career jobs” in Washington State (jobs that require higher skills and pay $60,000 to $100,000 per year) will be filled by workers with a college degree or some college (Boston Consulting Group & Washington Roundtable, 2016).

AVERAGE INCOME BY EDUCATION LEVEL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Average Income Per Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than High school</td>
<td>$26,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate</td>
<td>$37,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college or associate’s degree</td>
<td>$41,548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>$61,828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced degree (master’s professional</td>
<td>$75,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and doctoral degrees)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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

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.

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](http://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).

MAR: GRADE 9 AND 10
Where should I go for college?

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.

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.

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 checkoutacollege.com

Some CTCs now offer bachelor’s degrees.

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></th>
<th>Community and Technical Colleges</th>
<th>Public 4-year Colleges</th>
<th>Private 4-year Colleges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selectivity</strong></td>
<td>Least selective</td>
<td>Moderate to highly selective</td>
<td>Moderate to highly selective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Campus Size</strong></td>
<td>5,000-30,000</td>
<td>Over 10,000</td>
<td>Less than 5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuition</strong></td>
<td>Low (around $4,000)</td>
<td>Medium ($7,000-$11,000)</td>
<td>High (over $30,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Undergraduate Degrees Offered</strong></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>

40% of 4-year graduates in Washington started at a community college.
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 $77/hr while cement masons in Yakima earn $40/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 apprenticeship.lni.wa.gov