

1 ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER

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For more information and to view the **glossary**, check out our websites:

WCAN.ORG | PSCCN.ORG | READYSETGRAD.ORG | ROADMAPPROJECT.ORG

1 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

Less than High school:
\$26,780

High school graduate:
\$37,336

Some college or associate's degree:
\$41,548

Bachelor's degree:
\$61,828

Advanced degree (master's professional and doctoral degrees):
\$75,452

(Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2017)

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1 ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER: COLLEGE AND CAREER CONNECTION

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

Cosmetology

* 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 checkoutacollege.com



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 degrees (BA or BS)	Bachelor 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**.

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 DO I BECOME AN APPRENTICE?

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**.

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

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

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