

How does my education affect my income?



Median Earnings by Educational Attainment, persons Aged 25 and Older

Doctorate	\$79,403.00
Professional Degree	\$95,699.00
Master's Degree	\$59,509.00
Bachelor's Degree	\$49,889.00
Associate Degree	\$37,604.00
Some College, no degree	\$35,713.00
High School Graduate	\$30,765.00
Not a High School Graduate	\$21,651.00

Information provided by: U.S. Census (2008)

How do I know what type of school is best for me?

	Technical/Vocational School	Community College	University
Average time to complete program (full time)	1-2 years	2 years	4 years
Degree earned	Certificate/ Training	Certificate or Associates degree	Bachelors degree or higher
Will credits transfer to a University?	Very unlikely	Most likely	N/A
Average costs to attend*	Varies by school and program EXAMPLE Universal Technical Institute: \$17,000-\$40,000	Varies by school and program EXAMPLE Glendale Community College: \$3500-\$4000 for in county tuition (2 year degree)	Varies by School and program EXAMPLE Arizona State University: \$30,000-\$50,000 for in state tuition (most 4 year degrees)
Is financial aid available?	Varies by school	YES	YES
Are scholarships available?	Varies by school	YES	YES

*Tuition prices are based on information obtained from specific school websites and are estimates based on the 2010/2011 enrollment year.

What are my options?

TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL SCHOOL



Technical or vocational school education is focused on learning specific skills needed to enter into the work force in a very specific field or trade. You can expect:

- *Certificate or degree programs centered on job skills rather than theory*
- *Hands on experience*
- *Typically flexible schedules for working adults*
- *Smaller class sizes*



PROS:

Technical skills can be an appealing option for many students who already know what kind of job they want and typically take less time to complete than university requirements.



CONS:

Credits earned at a technical/vocational school do not typically transfer into community college or university degree programs. This is not always the case, so it is best to check with an advisor prior to enrolling if you plan on transferring credits or are unsure of your future plans.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Community colleges offer many educational options. You can attend a community college for a class or two of interest, for a certificate program, A.A. degree, or as a stepping stone in ultimately transferring to a university. You can expect:

- *Certificate or degree programs centered on job skills rather than theory*
- *Associate degree programs that transfer to universities*
- *Tuition costs much lower compared to a technical/vocational school or university*
- *More hands on experience*
- *Broader range of program and course options*
- *Typically flexible schedules for working adults*
- *Smaller class sizes*



PROS:

Students will be required to take general education courses as part of their degree program, which will allow them to exit with a better-rounded education. Typically, all or most credits will transfer into a university bachelor's program.



CONS:

Community colleges have fewer options for further education than a university. Some technical schools will also offer more specific job skill training than a community college offers.

UNIVERSITY



Universities, although costly do offer students the most extensive option for further education after high school.

- *Courses focus on social and political theory and higher level thinking rather than job skills*
- *Students can earn a Bachelors, Masters or Doctorate degree*
- *Tuition costs are much higher than community college, but comparable with some technical schools*
- *Online classes can offer flexible class schedules, but most courses are geared towards full time students, not working adults*
- *Students are expected to be motivated, self-driven learners*



PROS:

Students with good grades can apply for full ride scholarships and transfer into a university with little to no cost for tuition and books. Students can further their education with a Masters or Doctorate degree in the future.



CONS:

Individualized attention is not the focus of courses. With traditionally large class sizes, this could be a challenging transition for some high school graduates. Tuition costs are also much higher than other educational options and may require significant financial aid or family contributions to attend.

