

# Post Secondary Options

(AKA what can I do after I graduate from high school???)



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# Military

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The military is a great option for those wanting to serve their country. In addition, those that enlist can learn marketable skills, receive tuition support, and earn a salary and other benefits. You don't just work in the military....it becomes a way of life. This is a great opportunity for people who like to travel, have a sense of adventure, have a willingness to try new things, and/or like helping people.

What's the difference between each branch? The Army represents the land, while the Navy and Coast Guard attend to the water. The Marines act as a bridge, protecting U.S. interests on land and water interchangeably. The Air Force and new Space Force consider America's needs and vulnerabilities from the air.

[www.militaryhomesearch.com](http://www.militaryhomesearch.com)

However, although offering amazing opportunities, there are things that one must keep in mind:

- You can't decide you want to get out of the military anytime you want to because you signed a contract.
- You have to listen to authority. Disobeying orders can have serious consequences.
- You have to be willing to travel. Expect to be away from home.
- You have to pass random drug tests.
- Do your research on each branch. Each of the services is different and some people may be more suited (based upon qualifications, temperament, and/or interests) for one branch more than another. There are also differences in education benefits, assignments, job guarantees, education programs, and enlistment/reenlistment bonuses.

<https://www.thebalancecareers.com/what-the-recruiter-never-told-you-3332707>, 12/10/18

Air Force: [www.af.mil/](http://www.af.mil/)

Army: [www.army.mil/](http://www.army.mil/)

Coast Guard: [www.uscg.mil](http://www.uscg.mil)

Marines: [www.usmc.mil/](http://www.usmc.mil/)

National Guard: [www.nationalguard.com/](http://www.nationalguard.com/)

Navy: [www.navy.mil/](http://www.navy.mil/)

SpaceX: [www.spacex.com/](http://www.spacex.com/)

# **Straight to Work/On the Job Training**

Going straight into the workforce is a choice some high school graduates make. It's a good option if you want to work to save to go on to school, are not sure what you want to do with your life yet, or if you already have a job with growth opportunities that could make it a lifelong career. One danger to consider, however, is that choosing to work after high school rather than seek specialized training is that you run the risk of no advancement if there are no growth opportunities. While it is a great short term thing to do while you make more specific plans for your future, if it is all you ever do you may quickly become dissatisfied.

Companies in the area that offer on the job training opportunities include:

Ace Saginaw Paving Co.

Bella Concrete Construction

Century Cement Co.

Dan's Excavating

Elmer's Crane & Dozer

Fahrner Asphalt Sealers, LLC

Gerken Paving, Inc.

J. Ranck Electric, Inc.

Kalin Construction Co., Inc.

M & M Excavating Co.

Natural Environmental Reclamation

Pullman SST, Inc.

Smith's Waterproofing LLC

And many more....

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/business/contractors/on-the-job-training-program>

# Apprenticeship Programs

“Apprenticeship is a proven approach for preparing workers for jobs while meeting the needs of business for a highly-skilled workforce. It’s a “learn-while-you-earn” model that combines on-the-job training, provided by the employer that hires the apprentice, with job related instruction in curricula tied to the attainment of national skills standards. The model also involves progressive increases in an apprentice’s skills and wages.”

[www.dol.gov/apprenticeship/](http://www.dol.gov/apprenticeship/)

An apprenticeship provides valuable skills and experience. Some of the benefits of completing an apprenticeship are:


- Earn money while you learn in the workplace.
- Gain valuable experience in real work and industry environments, giving you a head start in your chosen career.
- Allows the person to go straight to work, beginning a career that has advancement opportunities.
- The average hourly wage (including all levels of experience and all apprenticeship programs) is \$15.00/hour.

Apprenticeship Programs include but aren’t limited to:

Boilermakers Bricklayers &  
Allied Crafts Carpenters  
Electricians Elevators  
Constructors Heavy/Highway

Insulators Iron Workers  
Laborers Operating Engineers  
Operative Plasterers and  
Cement Masons Painters

Drywall Finishers, and Glaziers  
Plumbers Roofers Sheet Metal  
Workers Sprinkler Fitters  
Steamfitters Waterproofers

You can find local here:  Apprenticeships Trades Military Links.pdf

Explore Oakland County’s Apprenticeship website: [Apprenticeships](#)

# Trade/Technical/Vocational School

A trade school, also known as a technical or vocational school, is an educational institution that exists to teach skills related to a specific job. Trade schools are a more streamlined approach to education, focusing on a particular career specific skillset rather than receiving a general education. Trade schools typically take a lot less time to complete, have smaller class sizes, and the majority of the training is hands on. There are a variety of advantages to attending a trade school including:

- Salaries for trade school graduates aren't that much less compared to a four-year degree.
- Studies show that at the current rate of growth in trade jobs there will be more positions available than persons trained for the job providing high job availability. One reason is that according to Forbes, skilled trade workers are a disproportionately older population and will only continue to get older, creating increased opportunities for young workers to fill their shoes.
- Trade school graduates are able to enter the workforce at least two years earlier than those attending a four year institution.
- The average trade school degree costs \$33,000 compared to a \$127,000 bachelor's degree average.

[www.thesimpledollar.com](http://www.thesimpledollar.com), 1/24/19

## Local Trade Schools:

Michigan College of Beauty

Southeast Michigan Construction Academy

Paul Mitchell The School of Michigan

Dorsey College

Northwestern Technological Institute

Oakland Community College

Detroit Training Institute of Technology

Serenity Health Training Institute

<https://pathfinder.mitalent.org/schools/2624>

# Community College

The traditional four-year college experience or going directly into a four year college program isn't for everyone. Some students aren't sure what they want to study, while others are looking for a more affordable education. Below are some of the reasons why attending a community college might be the best choice for some high school graduates:

- **Shorter time frame:** Most programs at a community college are two years or less, allowing the student to enter the workforce sooner than a four year program student.
- **Money:** Although tuition costs are expensive across the board, the cost of community colleges are still significantly more affordable than most four year institutions.
- **Easier Admission Policies:** Community colleges often have an “open door” admission policy that means anyone can register for the school as long as he or she has a high school diploma or GED. Although community colleges may ask for SAT or ACT scores as a part of the admission process, these tests do not typically keep students out of the school like they might with many four-year institutions. For high school graduates with low GPA's, community colleges offer a chance to start on a postsecondary education. This gives students the opportunity to pull up their GPA having a better chance of entering into the four year program of their choice.
- **Flexibility:** Often community college schedules are much more flexible than those provided by four year institutions. This is good for those that find they need to work while in college or for adults juggling professional and family responsibilities along with their studies.
- **Smaller campus:** Some students may find a smaller campus and class sizes are more comfortable right after leaving high school.
- **Hands on Experience:** Because many community college programs tend to focus on preparing students for the professional world, they offer many hands-on experiences that might not be available at a four year school.
- **Post-Degree Options:** After community college, graduates have a number of post-degree options to pursue including moving directly into the workforce or transferring to a four year school.

[www.communitycollegereview.com](http://www.communitycollegereview.com), 7/26/2018

## **Four Year College or University**

Four year colleges and universities offer degrees that are normally a combination of general education coursework and a specific major. They provide a well rounded college experience. These degrees are bachelors level and beyond. They can be private or public colleges and universities. Admission requirements might include:

- GPA
- Application/Essay
- Extracurricular activities
- Letters of recommendation
- Transcripts
- SAT or ACT scores

After receiving a bachelor degree, a student can pursue post graduate education or enter the workforce.