

# COLLEGE & CAREER PATHWAYS

## YOU HAVE OPTIONS!

After high school, different paths lead to different types of credentials. You may need one (or several) of these credentials depending on your career interests and goals.

### WORKPLACE

People who go straight into the workplace usually do not have any formal credentials beyond a high school diploma. However, some people on this path might complete an apprenticeship or other form of on-the-job training.

- Certificate for completion of training
- Apprenticeship

### CTE (TECHNICAL) COLLEGE

Most technical colleges award a certificate to show completion of a program of study. Some also award associate degrees.

- Certificate or certification for completion of a program (one year or less)
- Associate degree (two years)

### TRADITIONAL TWO-YEAR COLLEGE

Most community colleges award certificates or associate degrees, depending on the program. On average, an associate degree takes two years to complete for students who are able to go full-time. At some colleges, students can continue on for four years to earn a bachelor's degree. In two years, students typically earn an associate degree.

- Associate degree

### TRADITIONAL FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE

Most four-year colleges award Bachelor's degrees. On average, a bachelor's degree takes four years to complete for students who are able to go full-time. The two most common types of bachelor's degrees are a B.S. (Bachelor of Science) or a B.A. (Bachelor of Arts)

- Bachelor's degree

### GRADUATE SCHOOL

Many careers require specialized training and education beyond a bachelor's degree. Students attend graduate or professional school to receive this training and earn a graduate or advanced degree. Some advanced degrees include:

- Master's degree: most common are M.S. (Science) or M.A. (Arts)
- Business degree (M.B.A. for Master of Business Arts)
- Medical degree (M.D. for Medical Doctor)
- Law degree (J.D. for Juris Doctor)
- Doctorate degree (Ph.D. for Doctor of Philosophy)

### NATIONAL SERVICE

- Military Options
  - ROTC
  - Military Academies
  - Enlistment
- AmeriCorps

You have many options after high school. The 12th Year Campaign Student Workbook will guide you through the process of applying to a two- or four-year school. You can find tips for other pathways at <https://wsac.wa.gov/12th-year-campaign>

