

# TECHNICAL & SPECIALTY COLLEGES

If you are a student with a clear career goal and want to get into the job market quickly, consider technical or other specialty programs.

Technical colleges vary widely in majors, length of programs, cost, and other characteristics, but they have one thing in common: an emphasis on hands-on training for a specific career.

Typical fields of study include:

- Health care (practical nursing, home health aide).
- Computers, technology (electronics, auto mechanics, plumbing, heating, and air conditioning).
- Culinary arts.
- Business.
- And more.

The specific degree or certificate may vary depending on your field, but two-year associate degrees are common. You should visit the campus and research it as any other option.

There are public/non-profit technical and specialty colleges and for-profit schools. Both of these have aspects that you should factor into your decision-making.



## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

### PUBLIC/NON-PROFIT SCHOOLS

- Requires careful consideration. Financial aid is sometimes limited. Because of the specialized nature of technical programs, it may be difficult (or even impossible) to change majors without starting over.
- You should do as much research as possible. For example, read about career fields, shadow someone in a chosen field, speak with local employers, etc.

### FOR PROFIT SCHOOLS

- Be a savvy shopper.
- Some technical schools are for-profit colleges and have been the subject of federal investigations for improper recruiting and financial aid practices.
- You are encouraged to research the reputation and financial stability of any technical college you consider.