

TECHNICAL & SPECIALTY COLLEGES

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

Technical colleges vary widely in terms of majors, program length, cost, and other characteristics; however, they share a common 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. Due to the specialized nature of technical programs, it may be difficult (or even impossible) to change majors without starting over from the beginning.
- Conduct 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 smart shopper.
- Some technical schools are for-profit colleges that have faced federal investigations for improper recruiting and financial aid practices.
- It's essential to research the reputation and financial stability of any technical college you are considering.

