

# 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 formal credentials beyond a high school diploma. However, some people on this path might complete an apprenticeship or other 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 can 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. Typically, a bachelor's degree takes four years to complete for students who can 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 [bit.ly/12thYrStudent](https://bit.ly/12thYrStudent)



WASHINGTON STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL

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