

## Post-Secondary Options: A Brief Overview

	What It Is	Cost	What You Get
<b>Four-Year (or more) College</b>	A college or university with a variety of programs in which you can earn a bachelor's degree.	Tuition ranges based on your school of choice with many types of financial aid available.	A bachelor's degree with the option of continuing on for your master's degree.
<b>Two-Year College</b>	Community and junior colleges that offer two-year degrees or prepare you to transfer to a four-year college.	Far less than a four-year college. Many two-year colleges charge \$700 or less a year for a full-time program.	An associate's degree or a special career certificate in an area such as graphics production or child care.
<b>Technical &amp; Vocational School</b>	Specialized education leading directly to employment. Programs vary from several months to two or more years.	Ranges from the very inexpensive for short-term programs to very costly for multi-year residential schools. Don't forget to factor in the cost of equipment.	Career-related education, technical skills, and hand-on training – employability skills.
<b>Apprenticeships</b>	You are hired as a trainee to learn a craft or trade from a craftsman or experienced supervisor.	There may be union dues to pay and your own equipment to buy. Some apprenticeships might require you to take classes.	Real-world training and experience, as well as entry into difficult-to-break-into trades, such as plumbing or electrical work.
<b>Volunteering / Internships / Interim Activities</b> (all generally intended to last a year or less)	A wide variety of activities are possible including volunteering for a positive cause or group (domestically or internationally), checking out a career field, learning a new skill/receiving unconventional training, and/or exploring another culture.	Little or no money comes in: you may actually have to spend money for transportation, lodging, and other living expenses.	The feeling that comes from knowing that what you're doing is meaningful, the opportunity to check out a career field before officially entering into it, and/or the chance to do something or learn something that you may not have another chance to do.
<b>An Entry-Level Job</b>	Every company has entry-level positions, so the type of work will vary based on the place of employment. Entry-level jobs often require minimal amounts of experience and/or education.	Pay may be limited depending on the position and type of work, although pay really varies with individual situations. The time it takes to advance within a company also varies.	Time to decide what you really want to do with your life. Some entry-level jobs can be a stepping stone within a company.
<b>The U.S. Armed Forces</b>	Enlistment in the U.S. Armed forces: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard.	At least a two-year commitment.	Money, career training and experience, an opportunity to travel, money toward your education.