

# THE PATHS TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

There are many paths to education and training that can help a student achieve their career goals after high school. This guide breaks down those pathways, provides financial aid options, and highlights in-demand careers in some of Indiana's fastest-growing industries.



## Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are 2- to 4-year occupational training programs where students learn skills for a specific field through hands-on instruction, typically while earning money.

### Potential Careers:

Electricians, commercial loan officers, pharmacy support staff, and data analysts

## Associate Degrees

Associate degrees usually take 2 years to complete during a full-time program and can open the door to a range of career options for students.

### Potential Careers:

Hotel managers, aviation mechanics, paralegals, and surgical assistants

## Trade Programs

Trade programs are 1- to 2-year professional training programs where students learn skills for high-priority industries and receive certificates or non-degree credentials.

### Potential Careers:

Medical/dental assistants, robotics technicians, business managers, automotive mechanics, and information technology (IT) specialists

## Bachelor's Degrees

Bachelor's degrees generally take 4 years to complete if attending full time. They provide a variety of career options after graduation.

### Potential Careers:

Social workers, teachers, engineers, and financial consultants

## The Military

Joining the military is another option for getting education and training after high school, and many programs pay for education during or after service. Depending on the branch, the length of service ranges from 4 to 8 years.

### Potential Careers:

Communications, health science, manufacturing, and information technology

## Advanced Degrees

Advanced degrees include master's, doctorate, and other professional degrees. Advanced degrees are often needed to move into high-level managerial, specialized, and executive positions. Depending on the field, advanced degrees can take 2 to 5 years (or more) to attain after completing a bachelor's degree.

### Potential Careers:

Corporate finance managers, aerospace engineers, physician assistants, and computer and information research scientists

# PAYING FOR EDUCATION AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Discussing finances when planning for education and training after high school can feel difficult. Many students and parents may believe it is impossible to pursue because of their financial situation. The truth is, there are MILLIONS of dollars in financial aid available each year. Financial aid is money to help pay for continued education.

## TOP 4 TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID:

### GRANTS



Grants offer free money for education after high school and are often awarded based on financial need. Grants can come from the federal government, state government, colleges, and private or nonprofit organizations.

### SCHOLARSHIPS



Many nonprofit and private organizations offer scholarships to help students pay for education after high school. Scholarships are money that does not have to be paid back and are often awarded based on a family's financial circumstances (**need-based**) or a student's achievements (**merit-based**).

### WORK-STUDY



Work-Study programs provide part-time jobs for students who demonstrate financial need, allowing them to earn money and help pay for expenses toward their education after high school.

### FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS



There are subsidized and unsubsidized federal student loans to help cover the cost of education after high school. These loans must be paid back and accumulate interest (additional money that grows over time that must also be paid back). While loans are helpful, students should try and limit how much debt they take on.



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