**Trade School / Career School / Technical School**

**What is it?** A trade school (sometimes referred to as a vocational school, technical school, or career school) is a school that’s **designed to give students the technical skills to prepare them for a specific occupation**. (Unlike a University)

**Time / Years**

A bachelor’s degree typically takes a student 4 or more years to complete verses a trade school, where earning your degree could take 2 years or less! Depending on what program you choose to go into, you could be done with trade school in 8 months and get a head start in the work force, in turn, making money earlier.

**Degrees / Certificates**

Unlike a four-year college, you don’t graduate from a trade school with a bachelor’s degree. Usually, upon completion of the program, you'll receive a diploma or trade certificate acknowledging you successfully finished. For some programs you can earn an associate degree, which is the degree you get from a two-year college.

At a trade school, you can get a degree in fields like information technology, nursing and health sciences, automotive technician training, and medical assisting. Program lengths vary, but typically, **they can range from anywhere from eight months to two years**.

**Money / Cost**

It costs the average American $127,000 to earn their bachelor degree. At a trade school, it cost the student an average of $33,000 to earn their degree. Depending on what program a student goes into at a trade school, the student will have less debt than will a traditional college student\*.

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**Size**

Career colleges usually have smaller classes for students. Unlike a university, you will not be sitting in large lecture halls with 300+ strangers! You will be able to get to know each and every one of your peers. With smaller classes, professors are able to give one-on-one attention that each student deserves.

**Job Experience**

You are already one-step ahead of the game! Not only are you getting an education but you are also getting a lot of hands-on training in your area of study, like an internship. Students who complete their program leave the classroom with the confidence and readiness to jump straight into the work force.

**No Waiting**

With career colleges, there are always multiple start dates for the programs. You do not have to worry about missing the application deadline.

**Types of Careers:**

* Electrician
* Dental hygienist
* Plumber
* Paralegal
* Nurse
* Graphic Designer
* Welder
* Computer technician
* Aircraft mechanic
* Cosmetologist
* Chef
* Marine mechanic
* Construction manager
* Massage therapist
* Pharmacy technician