

Post High School Options...Beyond the Traditional Four Year College/University Option

	WHAT IS IT?	COST	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES	EXAMPLES
TECHNICAL & CAREER SCHOOLS	Specialized education in a wide variety of careers. Programs vary from several months to two years. Some schools offer Associates and Bachelors degrees.	Ranges from inexpensive short term programs to very expensive	Obtain specialized training in a short amount of time, companies recruit directly from these schools.	Technology changes fast. You'll be challenged to stay on top of your specialty, credits do not always transfer to traditional colleges, some schools are not accredited, and some schools saddle you with a lot of student loans due immediately upon completion of the program even if you are not employed yet.	DeVry University ITT Technical Institute Cambridge College Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts Art Institute of Portland UTI Everest College Pioneer Pacific College Northwest College of Construction
APPRENTICESHIPS	Occupational training that combines supervised on-the-job training experience with classroom instruction.	They pay you to learn on the job (some programs require the apprentice to pay for their own classroom training)	Get paid while you learn a skilled trade, certain trades are in high demand.	The waiting period to be accepted into a program can be long - up to two years.	Construction Electrician Masons HVAC Sheet Metal Tile/Carpet Insulators Plumbers Dry Wall
COMMUNITY COLLEGES	There are a variety of community colleges offering Associates Degrees and certificates for many technical programs.	Varies, but tends to be an affordable option.	There are many great local colleges offering a wide variety of classes and programs. Many also have a seamless transfer option to state colleges and universities, flexible class times.	Community Colleges are not as well funded as four year colleges and universities which can affect extracurricular activities and other student centered programs.	Portland CC Clackamas CC Lane CC Mt. Hood CC Rogue CC Chemeketa CC Southwestern Oregon CC Central Oregon CC Linn-Benton CC Blue Mountain CC Umpqua CC Clark CC

Post High School Options...Beyond the Traditional Four Year College/University Option

	WHAT IS IT?	COST	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES	EXAMPLES
EMPLOYMENT	Get a full or part time job	No cost	Start earning money right out of high school, with potential benefits such as health insurance and retirement plans and time to explore other options.	Jobs right out of high school tend to be low wage.	Employment sites: Jobdango.com Portlandjobfinder.com Monster.com Worksourceoregon.org Careerbuilder.com Employmentguide.com Indeed.com
U.S. ARMED FORCES	Enlistment in one of the several branches, either as active military or reserves	No cost, some branches pay signing bonuses and money for college tuition	Get structured job training and discipline, get physically fit	It is a huge commitment that may require you to go to war.	Army Navy Air Force Marines Coast Guard Merchant Marines National Guard Reserves
TRAVEL	Travel is self-explanatory. Some students choose to defer college admission to have time to visit other countries.	Depends on the destination.	See the world and learn about different cultures.	You may be broke after your travels.	Anywhere
VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS AND INTERNSHIPS (GAP YEAR OPTIONS)	Learn a lot about a career field, while giving back to a community. Take a break from formal education.	Transportation and lodging costs may be required.	It is a chance to figure out what you want to do next and gain job related experience.	Some volunteership/internship programs do not pay a wage and some require a college degree.	AmeriCorps PeaceCorps Teach Abroad AuPair Care