

TECHNICAL & SPECIALTY COLLEGES

If you are the kind of student who already has a very specific, clear-cut career goal and would like to get into the job market quickly, you may want to consider a technical or other specialty program.

Technical colleges vary widely in majors, length of programs, cost, and other characteristics, but they have one thing in common: an emphasis on hands-on training for a specific career. Common fields of study include:

- Health care (practical nursing, home health aide).
- Computers, technology (electronics, auto mechanics, plumbing, heating and air conditioning).
- Culinary arts.
- Business.
- And more.

The specific degree or certificate may vary depending on your field, but two-year associate degrees are common. You should visit the campus and research it as you would any other option.

There are public/non-profit technical and specialty colleges as well as for profit schools. Both of these have aspects that you should factor into your decision-making.



KEY CONSIDERATIONS

PUBLIC/NON-PROFIT SCHOOLS

- Requires careful consideration.
- Financial aid is sometimes limited.
- Because of the specialized nature of technical programs, it may be difficult (or even impossible) to change majors without starting over.
- You should do as much research as possible.
 - For example, read about career fields, shadow someone in chosen field, speak with local employers, etc.

FOR PROFIT SCHOOLS

- Be a smart shopper.
- Some technical schools are for-profit colleges and have been the subject of federal investigations for improper recruiting and financial aid practices.
- You are encouraged to research the reputation and financial stability of any technical college you are considering.
- Check out this resource from the U.S. Department of Education for advice on how to find the perfect career college or technical school.
www2.ed.gov/students/prep/college/cons/umerinfo/index.html

