

## Types of Degrees & Certificates Beyond High School

### Options After High School [Your College Degree Options](#)

You have lots of choices when it comes to higher education. What's next after high school? Even if you're unsure [What Path to Take After Graduation](#), the time to plan for your future is now. The same skills and knowledge, [Foundation Skills](#), needed to get into college are the same needed to get a good job. So planning for college -- even if you don't go right away -- gives you an advantage. [Skills for Today's Workforce](#)

1. **Associate of Arts (A.A.) or Associate of Science (A.S.) degree:** A degree awarded after completing a two-year college program. [St. Louis Community College – Degrees & Certificates](#)



St. Louis Community  
College

St. Charles  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



These schools are open to everyone, though a high school diploma or GED is sometimes required. These schools are relatively inexpensive and offer flexible class schedules including nighttime courses. It's often possible to transfer to a four-year school and get a B.A. or B.S. after earning your A.A. degree.

2. **Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree:** A degree awarded after completing a four- or five-year college program. [St. Louis University – Majors & Degrees](#)

**Four-year universities and colleges offer B.A. and B.S. degrees.**

[4-Yr College/University](#)   [College Majors](#)   [College Admissions Selectivity Categories](#)

[Web U.S. Higher Education](#) Graduates from four-year colleges and universities are in greater demand by employers and generally earn more money than non-graduates. [Education Pays](#) --Tuition costs can be high and may include fees for living on-campus, but financial aid is available for all students – [Students.gov](#). A common misconception is that you need to know what you want to do before going to college. On the contrary, college is a place to explore your interests – [Career Interests Game](#) - and abilities in a multitude of new areas. Liberal arts colleges, for example, encourage you to experiment in different fields before declaring a major. Imagine the possibilities. [Undergraduate Majors at University of Missouri, Columbia](#) – by Your Interests, Alphabetically, by Degree-granting School, by GPA Admissions Requirements & by Keywords.

3. **Professional schools offer two or more years of training within a particular field or**

**career.**



[MO Dept of Higher Education – All Schools in Missouri](#)

[Professional & Technical Schools in Missouri](#)

[Career Colleges & Schools](#)

[Health Careers – STL MO](#)



4. **Apprenticeship programs** combine practical coursework and on-the-job training.

[Registered Apprenticeship](#)

[Career Voyages](#)

– **Explore Apprenticeship Programs in 15 Industries** Apprenticeship programs train people interested in specialized trades such as plumbing, carpentry and electrical work, among others. [U.S. Registered Apprenticeships](#)  
[Apprenticeship Training Resources](#) [Careers in Construction Manual](#) [Search Program Sponsors by State](#)  
[Construction Training School](#) **St. Louis MO Apprenticeship Office – 314-539-2522:** Apprenticeships in a variety of occupations

5. **General Educational Development (GED) Test:** An equivalency examination that leads to a certificate. Some employers and colleges accept the GED in place of a high school diploma.



[GED Testing News & Updates](#)  
[GED Testing Centers Map](#)

[Adult Education & Literacy – StL Public Schools](#) - 367-5000

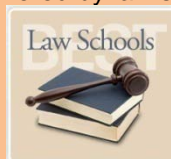
6. **Internship:** Paid or unpaid supervised work experience, often within a student's field of interest and sometimes

**Internships.**

offered with degree credits. [Missouri Next Generations Job Team – Summer Jobs & Internships](#) 800-592-6020 [JobSearchUSA](#) [Student Jobs, Apprenticeships, Internships & more](#)

7. **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.):** The degree awarded to students after completing extensive post-graduate studies in a particular subject. [Graduate Schools & Graduate Degrees](#)

8. **Juris Doctor Degree (J.D.):** The degree offered by law schools to students after completing about three years of



coursework. [U.S. Law Schools by State](#)

9. **U.S. military** provides training and money for education. [FinAid](#) Options include enlistment, [Military Service Academies](#) and [Reserve Officer Training Corps](#) (ROTC) programs. Many colleges and universities offer ROTC programs for one or more branches of the military. In addition to regular coursework, ROTC cadets take classes on military science and participate in physical and leadership training outside the classroom. ROTC graduates can earn a B.A. or B.S., but must enter the military as an officer with a four-year active duty or eight-year inactive duty commitment after college.

10. **Entering the workforce** immediately after high school—especially with internship and previous work experience—can mean getting a jump start on a career. [Missouri Division of Workforce Development – Job Seekers](#) [WIA Youth Programs](#) [WIA Adult Programs](#) [MERIC Products Internships for High School Students](#) [Missouri Student Internship Program – Stimulus \\$](#)



### [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

[CareerJet](#) – Employment Search Engine

[Education & Training Needs for Missouri's Workforce-2016](#)

[Job & Labor Market Information](#)

[Missouri Next Generations Job Team](#)

Summer Jobs & Internships

800-592-6020

[Missouri Occupation Profiles](#)

[Occupational-Industry-State Info](#)

[Skills for Today's Workforce](#)

[The Riley Guide](#)

[Top Occupations in Demand](#)

[WorkKeys-Gade A Careers](#)

[WorkKeys -Job Skills Assessment System](#)

[Job Skills Checklist](#)

Getting important life skills, internship experience and doing well in high school classes all can make a big difference when landing that first job after high school.

Most jobs available to high school graduates without prior work experience are in the [Food Prep & Serving](#) [Food -Manufacturing](#), [Retail Trade](#) & [Service](#) industries.

**Education Pays:** Students choosing to start a career begin earning money immediately, but generally earn less over time than employees with higher education. [O\\*Net OnLine](#).

See the list of common careers after high school for possible job ideas and starting salaries.

[Search Wages & Salaries by Location](#)

[Entry Level Jobs by Category](#) [Career Information](#).

College is still an option if you choose to enter the workforce right away. So don't let grades slip. Visit

[40 Reasons to Go to College](#)

[Colleges--Universities, Community Colleges,](#)

[Career-Technical Schools – StL Metro Area](#)

[Education Planner](#)

[GoCollege](#)

[St. Louis Community College](#)

[Why Get a College Degree](#)

[Why Go to College](#)

Visit Career Transition Resources [www.cyberguidance.net/ctr](http://www.cyberguidance.net/ctr) for additional college and career planning resources.