



### Life after High School – University & College Options

Even though you have spent the last 11+ years in school and feel like you've earned a well-deserved break from education, the world sees learning as a lifelong pursuit. As a result, think of graduation from high school as a learning transition. Most careers require at least some education or training beyond high school. One career may require four years of college while another may require a six-month program at a technical school. In most cases, your career goal will determine which of the following options is the most appropriate:

- ❖ 4-Year Colleges/Universities
- ❖ 2-Year Universities
- ❖ Career & Technical Colleges

#### Four-Year Colleges/Universities

- ❖ Bachelors, Masters, & Doctoral Degrees
- ❖ Liberal Arts & Major specific education
- ❖ Entrance requirements vary, generally most rigorous of post-secondary options
- ❖ College Entrance Exam usually required – ACT or SAT
- ❖ Typically more costly, yet can also garner greater earnings potential and promotion potential

UW-System Information – <http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu>

UW-System Application – [apply.wisconsin.edu](http://apply.wisconsin.edu)

UW-System Fee Waiver Form -

<https://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/counselors/admission-process/application-fee-waiver/>

UW-System Transfer Information System - <https://www.wisconsin.edu/transfer/>

Wisconsin Private Colleges Information – <http://www.wisconsinprivatecolleges.org/>

Minnesota State Colleges & Universities - <https://www.minnstate.edu/>

Midwest Student Exchange System - <http://msep.mhec.org/>

Common Application - <https://www.commonapp.org/>

#### Two-Year Colleges

- ❖ Obtain first 2-years of Bachelors degree with direct cost savings from lower tuition and living at home
  - UW-System (2-year) Information – <http://www.uwc.edu>

## Career and Technical Colleges & Apprenticeships

- ❖ **Applied associate degree** - This is a two-year program, which combines technical skills (except liberal arts) with general education, such as math, communications, and social sciences. Credits are more readily transferable in this program than in the diploma programs.
- ❖ **One- and two-year technical diploma** - These programs focus on hands-on learning of occupational skills and can take as little as one or two years to complete, depending on the particular program.
- ❖ **Short-term (less than one year) diploma** - These short-term programs focus on one particular occupation and can take less than a year to complete.
- ❖ **Certificates** - Certificates are designed to provide busy students with streamlined education to enhance their jobs skills, whether they are changing their career focus or staying in their current field. Each technical college offers a variety of certificate options. Contact your local technical college for a complete list of certificate offerings.
- ❖ **Liberal Arts (Collegiate Transfer)** - The Liberal Arts (Collegiate Transfer) program provides the first two years of a four-year baccalaureate college education. Credits typically transfer to four-year institutions. Credits may cost more than regular technical college credits.
- ❖ **Advanced Technical Certificate** - Advanced Technical Certificates are used in response to employers' needs for highly-skilled employees. Offered as a small block of credits (9-12), with at least six of these credits having advanced content beyond the associate degree.
- ❖ Career-oriented, hands-on educational focus
- ❖ Typically less expensive option

Wisconsin Technical College System Information – <http://www.witechcolleges.org>

## College Search Tools

- ❖ **College Navigator** - <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
- ❖ **Cappex** - <http://www.cappex.com>
- ❖ **Zinch** - <https://www.chegg.com/schools>
- ❖ **Collegeboard Big Future** - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
- ❖ **Niche** - <https://colleges.niche.com/?degree=4-year&sort=best>
- ❖ **Peterson's** - <https://www.petersons.com/>