Keeping Your Options Open

There are many different ways to continue education beyond high school. Most family-wage jobs require education or training after high school. Just one year of education or training after high school can increase lifetime earnings. On average, college graduates have more jobs to choose from and have lower rates of unemployment than high school graduates. The type of career your child is interested in pursuing will help determine what type of degree and school to explore.

Many colleges typically offer four kinds of degrees: two-year (or associate), undergraduate (or bachelor’s), graduate (or master’s), and doctoral or professional degrees. Here are some examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career</th>
<th>Type of Education</th>
<th># of Years</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warehouse Worker</td>
<td>Apprenticeship</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Journey-Level Certificate</td>
<td>Bucher Aerospace Corporation, Everett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Practical Nurse</td>
<td>Community College</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Associate</td>
<td>South Puget Sound Community College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphic Designer</td>
<td>Public University</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
<td>Central Washington University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Private College or University</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gonzaga University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more examples, go to: [Matching Careers to Degrees](#)

Source: [Career Guidance WA](#)

Did You Know?

Community colleges are the most common type of two-year college. They offer many types of educational programs, including those that lead to associate degrees and certificates. Certificates and some types of associate degrees focus on career readiness. Other types of associate degrees are good preparation for study at a four-year college, where graduates can earn a bachelor’s degree.

Source: [BigFuture](#)
### Myth Buster

**MYTH:** If I’m not a legal U.S. citizen or resident, I cannot get into or afford college.

**REALITY:** Washington State allows undocumented students or DREAMers, to pay in-state tuition if they go to a public college or university in Washington. You may hear this referred to by college staff or your high school counselor as HB 1079.

Additionally, there are many scholarships to support these students. DREAMers can also apply for state financial aid if they meet eligibility requirements.

For more info, go to: [www.readysetgrad.org/residency-citizenship](http://www.readysetgrad.org/residency-citizenship) & [www.readysetgrad.org/wasfa](http://www.readysetgrad.org/wasfa)

### November:

- **BigFuture: Matching Careers to Degrees**

- **Career Guidance WA**

- **BigFuture: Community College FAQs**
  - [https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/how-to-find-your-college-fit/community-college-faqs](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/how-to-find-your-college-fit/community-college-faqs)

- **http://www.readysetgrad.org-Residency Ready Set Grad: Residency and Citizenship**
  - [www.readysetgrad.org/residency-citizenship](http://www.readysetgrad.org/residency-citizenship)

- **BigFuture: Parent Action Plan: Middle School**

### Student Checklist

**Think** about what you’d like to do when you grow up.  
**Learn** about career possibilities.  
**Read** something every day: newspapers, blogs, books, or magazines.  
**Talk with your family** and your advisor about your goals and dreams.

### Family Checklist

**Talk about extracurricular activities.** Getting involved in clubs and other groups is a great way for your child to identify interests and feel more engaged in school.  
**Come up with fun reading ideas.** If your family makes reading enjoyable, it can become a daily habit.  
**Visit a nearby college together.** If you live near a college, look for upcoming events on campus that are open to the community. Or just tour the campus. Just being on a campus may get your child interested in college.

**Sources:** [Career Guidance WA](http://www.k12.wa.us/SecondaryEducation/CareerCollegeReadiness/CareerGuidanceWA/Grade7.aspx) and [BigFuture](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/how-to-find-your-college-fit/community-college-faqs)