

## CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Type of School or Training	Example	Types of Degrees Offered	Average Time to complete	Tuition and Fees 2009-2010
Industry Certification	Cosmetology at Edison Academy	State Board Licensure	Two years	(Contact school)
Registered Apprenticeships	Fairfax County Public Schools <a href="http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/OACE">www.fcps.edu/DIS/OACE</a> 703.658.1201	Virginia License or Virginia Tradesman License (Journeyman): Beauty Services, Carpentry, Electricity, HVACR, Opticianry, Plumbing, Surveying (Require On-The-Job Training with Registered Employer)	Formal classes (hours/courses depend on trade)	\$689-\$1049 per course for formal instruction
Community Colleges	NVCC - (Northern VA Community College) <a href="http://www.nvcc.edu">www.nvcc.edu</a> Manassas Campus 703.257.6620	Associate in Applied Arts (AAA) Associate in Applied Science (AAS) Associate in Arts (AA) Associate in Science (AS) Certificate (C) Career Studies Certificate (CSC)	2 years 2 years 2 years 2 years 1 year 1 year or less	\$2,781 per year
Two-Year Public Colleges	Richard Bland College <a href="http://www.rbc.edu">www.rbc.edu</a> 804.862.6249	AA AS	2 years	\$6,158 per year (includes room and board)
Four-Year Public Colleges and Universities	George Mason University <a href="http://www.gmu.edu">www.gmu.edu</a> 703.993.2400	Certificate to PhD	4 - 6 years - more for advanced degrees	\$17,664 per year (includes room and board)
Private and Out-of-State Colleges	ECPI College of Technology <a href="http://www.ecpi.edu">www.ecpi.edu</a> 703.421.9191	Bachelor of Science Degree Diplomas	Varies with program	Contact college for more information
Private Vocational Institutions -- Also known as Career Colleges	Canine Clippers School of Pet Grooming <a href="http://www.canine-clippers.com">www.canine-clippers.com</a> 703.221.DOGS (3647)	Diploma	15 weeks	\$7,800 (full program)
Military Training	All Branches <a href="http://www.myfuture.com/militaryopps/militarycollege/programs_all.html">http://www.myfuture.com/militaryopps/militarycollege/programs_all.html</a>	* Check with each branch's recruiter	*	*

The State Council on Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) has a good general website for college information for students, parents, and educators. [www.schev.edu](http://www.schev.edu) or link to SCHEV through [www.knowhowvirginia.org](http://www.knowhowvirginia.org)

## QUESTIONS TO ASK:

1. What career clusters interest you?
2. Does the college/university/school you're considering after high school offer courses/programs/degrees in that career cluster?
3. Is it accredited? Who is the accrediting body?
4. What do you know about the current freshman class at the school(s) you're considering after high school? (such as what is their average grade point average? What is their average entrance test score (SAT or ACT)?
5. Tour the campus -- on-line and then in person for more information. Determine:
  - Faculty to student ratio (class size)
  - Graduation rates - how long does it take most students at that college to graduate?
  - Demographics of the campus - how many and what percentage are males? Females? Different races? Different religions?
  - Campus resources - computer labs, library, tutorial labs, transition services
6. Then ask yourself: "Does this college/school have the right academic and social environment to fit my needs?"
  - Look at your interests, SAT scores and high school grades
  - Apply to more than one school - from least selective to most competitive
7. What is your economic situation? Out-of-state tuition and private college tuition can be costly.
  - Talk with your parents and guidance counselor about financial aid
  - Explore ways to pay for your education (use skills earned in high school to work and help pay your way through the next phase)

## REMEMBER:

- You have more CHOICES and access to more INFORMATION than ANY generation before you.
- Make sure you LIKE the career cluster you choose. Even though you may change jobs several times in your career, you will probably work for 35-40 years.
- Make INFORMED DECISIONS! Don't begin post-high school study until you have a pretty clear idea of what you want to do and what is the best route to get there.
- It's all about CHOICES - your choice. Don't be pressured by your peers or adults just because "everyone else" is going to college, for example.
- There are many PATHS TO SUCCESS - choose the best one to get you where you want to be in five years or ten years or 15 years.
- Accept LIFE-LONG LEARNING as a given. A high school diploma plus any other training will mean better pay and more security if there is a need for the job. Most people learn that advancement usually comes with experience and more training to improve your skills.

For on-line information about careers, be sure to visit [www.knowhowvirginia.org](http://www.knowhowvirginia.org)  
sponsored by the Virginia Career Education Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization

**BEST WISHES in your FUTURE QUEST!**

