

Explore Your Options: A World of Opportunity Awaits!

Graduation is a launching pad, not a one-way street to college. There are amazing career paths waiting to be explored, and college isn't the only route to success!

Ready to dive in? Here are some exciting options to consider:

- **Skilled Trades:** Become a builder, electrician, plumber, or welder! These in-demand fields offer competitive salaries, opportunities for advancement, and the satisfaction of working with your hands.
- **Vocational Careers:** Pursue a technical program in fields like healthcare, information technology, or cosmetology. Gain valuable skills and enter the workforce quickly.
- **Military Service:** Consider the structure, discipline, and unique experiences the military offers. You'll develop valuable skills and gain access to educational benefits.
- **Paraprofessional Opportunities:** Work in healthcare, education, or other fields as a paraprofessional, learning alongside experienced professionals and potentially pursuing further certifications later.

Do your research! Use the [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) to explore careers by salary, education requirements, and growth potential.

But don't stop there! Explore ALL your options, including college.

Finally, consider your passions! This [video](#) explores how your interests can connect to careers (ignore the sales pitch at the end). Completing an interest profiler can also be helpful. It's time well spent to understand your strengths and find a path that excites YOU.

■ Certificate Programs

[Mass Bay Community College](#): offers certificate programs as well as associate degree programs. Certificate programs include many in health sciences, automotive technology, paralegal options, computer technology and many more. Explore their options and attend an open house so you can really get to know all of the opportunities offered.

Minuteman [Technical Institute](#): This is the adult learning arm of Minuteman High School and offers many options for continuing ed/certificate programs that can prepare you for a career. Options include plumbing, machine tool technology, metal fabrication, cosmetology, and much more. This helpful website offers information on career paths for each and salary information.

[Bioversity](#) - runs out of Boston and Lowell. Biotech programs. **FREE** 8 week program that partners with MCPHS to prepare you for a career in the growing biotech field. "Built initially by the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and adapted by UMass Lowell for the Lowell site after more than 12 months of employer input, focuses on developing learner's technical skills as well as soft skills necessary to succeed and advance in a life sciences career. Graduates of this course will be ready immediately for employment in areas such as lab operations, facilities management, supply chain, environment, health, and safety (EHS) – jobs that have starting salaries wages averaging \$26 hour with benefits.

■ Mass Transfer

The [Mass Transfer program](#) allows students to earn a 2 year Associates Degree at a Community College and a guaranteed transfer to a Massachusetts State University or UMASS Campus if you earn a B average. This is a great way to keep college debt to a minimum and a good option for students who aren't ready to commit to a four year college degree.

■ Trade School/Vocational Program Resources

- [Boston Firefighting Cadet Program](#) (see below)
- [Boston Police Cadet Program](#): It's hard to start a career as a Boston firefighter or police officer without a military or other specific background. Entering the cadet program is a way around this hurdle and offers a lot of possibilities about starting your firefighting or policing career.
- The [Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges](#) link includes a directory on approved vocational programs within an accredited school.
- [OnlyTradeSchools](#) is a database that allows you to search trades by location (state) and specific career/trade opportunities.
- [ApplytoTradeSchool](#) is a searchable database that connects with you various trade schools by location. Another good resource to learn more about your options.
- [Forge](#): "The Forge apprentice program is building the future of the trades industry – one human at a time. Think you might like a job working with your hands? Ready to start your career in the trades? Our apprentice program is for you. It's a full-time, paid, 12-week program that lets you learn in the classroom, in our workshop, and in practice out in the field as you ride along with seasoned pros on real jobs. Open to those with entry-level experience, the program covers the basics of carpentry and painting to help you build a broad foundation of skill." Trades covered are electrical, carpentry & plumbing.
- Interested in a career in maritime trades? [IYRS School of Technology & Trades](#) is a non-profit, post-secondary experiential learning institution in Newport, Rhode Island and is the premier marine trades and modern manufacturing school in the United States. IYRS offers education & training programs for people with a passion for thinking and working through their hands."
- [Franklin Cummings Tech](#): "Technical fields offer impressive starting salaries and great long-term career potential. At Franklin Cummings Tech, we work closely with industry partners to ensure that we teach the skills our students need to thrive in a variety of high-growth technology fields—whether you're interested in a short-term certificate or an associate or bachelor's degree." Explore automotive, building energy management, biotechnology, cybersecurity, construction management and many more programs.

- [Bay State School of Technology](#): “Bay State School of Technology is one of Massachusetts’s leading technical schools that help its students gain the necessary knowledge and skills for appliance repair and electrical work.”
- [The Peterson School](#): “We teach the trades.” From Construction Supervisor to locksmith, HVAC, fire alarm systems management or plumbing, there are a wide variety of trades to consider. Locations in Westwood, Woburn & Worcester
- [Universal Technical Institute](#): “The training programs at UTI teach the fundamental, high-demand skills our students take with them into the workforce. Whether it’s automotive, diesel, motorcycle, motorsports,24 marine, welding, collision repair or CNC machining, our programs teach the foundational skills employers look for when hiring the next generation. Some programs even take less than a year.”

■ Building Trades

Learn how to secure a [union building trade apprenticeship](#). There are many trades to consider and this pdf includes the path towards an apprenticeship that will help you create a career in the following trades:

Boilermakers.....	9	Millwrights.....	17
Bricklayers.....	10	Operating Engineers.....	18
Carpenters.....	11	Painters and Allied Trades.....	19
Electrical Workers/Telecom....	12-14	Plasterers and Cement Masons...	20
Elevator Constructors.....	14	Plumbers, Pipefitters and	
Heat & Frost Insulators.....	15	Sprinklerfitters.....	21-23
Ironworkers.....	15	Roofers and Waterproofers.....	24
Laborers.....	16	Sheet Metal Workers.....	25-26

For women in the trades: As more women join building trades, specific support programs have been created to help support them as they build their careers. Check out [Build A Life](#) to learn more about this program.

[New England Laborer’s Training Center](#): Located in Hopkinton, the center provides opportunities for training and apprenticeships in many areas of building trades.

[Youth Build Boston](#) (for Boston residents) was founded in 1990 with the goal of providing underserved young people with the support and credentials needed to successfully enter the construction and design industry. This hands-on program offers paid educational and internship opportunities.

■ North Atlantic States Council of Carpenters:

Explore the opportunities that carpentry can offer and learn more about [apprenticeship programs](#) to set you on a career path in skilled carpentry.

■ **Apprenticeship Opportunities**

Explore this [Mass.gov database](#) to learn more about apprenticeship opportunities.

“Apprenticeships are work-based training programs that give you hands-on experience in a structured environment. Apprenticeships run the gamut from traditional building and construction trades jobs such as carpenters, electricians and bricklayers to new technology-focused occupations including those in cloud computing, advanced manufacturing, and healthcare.”

■ **WORK FULL-TIME WHILE EARNING A BACHELOR’S DEGREE** Southern New Hampshire University and [Duet](#), a Boston-based non-profit, have partnered to offer a unique opportunity to take classes online, as well as participate in flexible in-person learning, all with an incredibly low price of under \$3,000 per semester (before financial aid). Fast-track your bachelors while also earning valuable work experience.

■ **Dynamy Internship Program:** “[Dynamy Internship Year](#) is a domestic, long-standing gap year program created for students ages 17-22 who want to pursue a unique, hands-on learning experience. Taking a personalized approach to learning, we provide students with a year “on”, filled with meaningful opportunities to gain real-world work experience, explore career interests, and build critical life skills before taking life’s next steps.”

■ **Service & Volunteer programs**

[Peace Corp](#): “The Peace Corps is a service opportunity for motivated changemakers to immerse themselves in a community abroad, working side by side with local leaders to tackle the most pressing challenges of our generation.”

[City Year](#): “City Year AmeriCorps members serve in schools all day, every day, preparing students with the social, emotional and academic skills and mindsets to succeed in school and in life.”

[AmeriCorps](#): “We bridge divides by bringing people together: connecting individuals and organizations to help communities tackle their toughest challenges.”

[Habitat for Humanity](#): “Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that helps families build and improve places to call home. We believe affordable housing plays a critical role in strong and stable communities.”

[Volunteer Match](#): “VolunteerMatch matches inspired people with inspiring causes. It’s how volunteers and nonprofits connect to achieve remarkable outcomes.”

■ **Military Options**

- [Army](#)
- [Navy](#)
- [Air Force](#)

- [Marines](#)
- [Coast Guard](#)
- [ASVAB Information and test prep](#)