

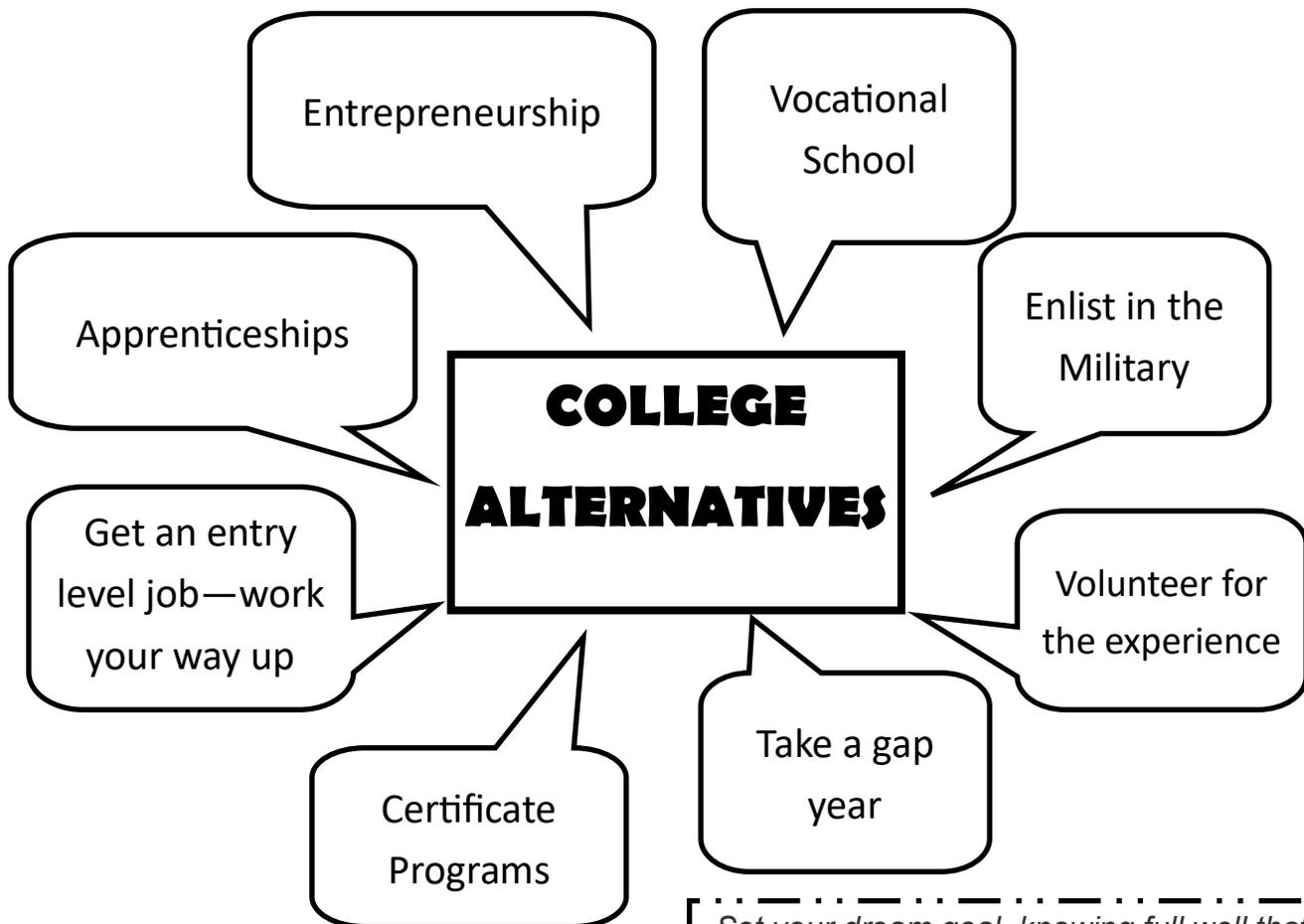


# When College is not for you

*College isn't for everyone but continued learning is. There are a myriad of reasons for not going to college but options are everywhere. Look into some of the alternatives listed and see additional information throughout this packet.*

While there is a stigma attached to not having a college degree, there are solid alternatives to not going to college as well. And even though statistics show huge earning gaps between high school and college graduates, these alternatives show that doesn't have to be the case.

It's important to remember that college isn't the time to find yourself - the financial burdens of going to college with no purpose can be huge. There are other ways that you can live a proud life without going to college, and still make good money as well.



College is a big decision that you may feel forced into making right away. The truth is, you never have to make the decision about college. **Colleges don't have an age limit.** There are advantages to going early and advantages to going later—you make the choice that's right for you!

*Set your dream goal, knowing full well that it may change! The 'big picture' of reaching your goal can be very daunting so break it down into smaller steps! For example, while in school, do well on that next test or start building your resume by getting a job. All the while, researching your goal and ways to get there. After you graduate, use your research and take those smaller steps to get to your goal! You are the only one that has the power to make your life what you want it to be!*



## **Overview on College Alternatives**

### **Vocational School/Apprenticeships**

Becoming a tradesman or entering a vocational school can be a great alternative to going to a traditional college, especially if you like working with your hands. There are a lot of options that lead to potentially well-paying careers: electrician, plumbing, welding and metal work, masonry, lock smithing, and more. **\*\*See sample trades overview**

Going to a vocational school or learning a trade as an apprentice, you can start earning money while you're in school. When you graduate, you have the potential to enjoy a career with good wages and job security. For example, if you become an electrician, you can apply at your local power company and start as a basic lineman. It's hard work, but over time, you can work your way up through the ranks and earn a very nice salary. Some electricians find themselves earning over \$70,000 by taking advantage of overtime and other opportunities.

### **Enlist in the Military**

Another great option is to enlist in the military. When it comes to job security, promotional opportunities, and even education, the military is second to none. And it's definitely a career choice that you can be proud of - there is no greater cause than serving your country.

While the starting wages for basic enlisted personnel are pretty low, most of your basic living needs are taken care of - housing, food, clothing, insurance - so it ends up being a wash. Plus, if you enjoy adventure, there are opportunities that you can pursue down that course as well.

### **Volunteer**

If you're in limbo about what direction you want to go in the future, you should consider volunteering before going to college or any other path. You can enter a structured volunteering program like Americorps or the Peace Corps, and you can give back to communities around the world.

If you volunteer overseas, typically your housing and basic living needs are covered by the organization. This can be a great way to take on an adventure you normally wouldn't have done, while still not taking on the burden of student loan debt while not knowing what you want to do with your life.

### **Certificate Programs**

Certificates recognize a completed course of study in a certain field. They're the fastest growing form of post-secondary credentials in the U.S., becoming the most common award after the high school degree, said Anthony Carnevale, a labor economist and director of the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.

He said certificates are an increasingly attractive option because they're affordable and don't take long to acquire. Many programs last a year or less compared with about four years for a bachelor's degree.

### **Get An Entry Level Job**

If you want to work, but going into the military isn't a good fit for you, consider getting an entry level job at a large company. Many companies hire high school graduates into basic positions. Look for jobs in retail or the service industry for the most opportunities.

When starting out, you likely won't make much more than minimum wage, but if you do well, you can typically rise through the ranks very quickly. In retail, you could move from hourly employee to shift supervisor, then even management. And being a retail manager can pay well - \$40,000 or more in many areas of the United States.

### **Entrepreneurship**

If you have an idea, consider giving that a shot before going to college. When you're young, it's a lot easier to take a risk and get started than when you're older and have a family and larger financial obligations. Plus, the education you'll get from starting your own business is priceless. In fact, many famous entrepreneurs don't have a college degree: Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, Richard Branson.

## **Sample Trades Overview—Ironworkers**

In general, **Apprentices** are at the initial learning stage of a trade or craft. ... The important distinction is that the **apprentice** does not have sufficient training in his chosen field to work independently. A **journeyman**, on the other hand, has already served his **apprenticeship**.

<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>06.01.17</b>	<b>06.01.14</b>	<b>06.01.12</b>
Base Rate	\$46.75	\$35.84	\$33.74
Foreman Rate	\$49.25	\$37.84	\$35.74
Working Assessment	3.75%	3.75%	4%
Other Deductions	\$0.39		\$0.06**
Health/Welfare	\$13.90	\$13.01	\$12.61
Mid-America Pension	\$7.24	\$6.44	\$6.44
SMA	\$2.00	\$1.32	\$1.32
Defined Contribution	\$10.55	\$3.75	\$2.42
Apprentice Fund	\$0.75	\$0.30	\$0.25
Industry	\$0.08		\$0.08
63 Contractor Impact Fund	\$0.29	\$0.27	\$0.15
Total Benefits	\$34.81	\$25.09	\$23.19
Total Package	\$81.56	\$60.93	\$56.93
<b>Expiration Date</b>	<b>05.31.18</b>	<b>05.31.15</b>	<b>05.31.13</b>

**Job Description:** Iron Workers must be able to perform in the following categories: structural; ornamental; reinforcing; and machinery moving and rigging. This work includes erecting structural steel bridges, buildings, viaducts, subways, tunnels, roof decking, pre-stressed and post-stressed concrete; applying sheeting to structural steel frames; and installing metal stairways, catwalks, floor gratings, iron ladders, ornamental grilles and screens, gates, chain link fences, and decorative iron-work fences and balconies.

**Length of Apprenticeship:** Four (4) years

Apprentices attend school once a week from September – May during year one, three, and four of the program. \*During year two, apprentices attend school two nights a week.

Apprentices also work five days a week receiving on-the-job training.

### **Basic Requirements:**

Must show a birth certificate.  
 Must be at least 18 years old.  
 Must have photo identification.  
 Must have a high school diploma or a G.E.D. certificate. (*Transcripts are required.*)  
 Must have a valid Illinois driver's license.

Must pass an aptitude test.  
 Must take an oral interview.

### **Recommended Preparatory Classes:**

Mathematics, drafting, and shop or construction classes.

### Length of Apprenticeship

0-900 hours	55% of Journeyman's Wage
901 - 1,800 hours	60% of Journeyman's Wage
1,801 - 2,700 hours	65% of Journeyman's Wage
2,701 - 3,600 hours	70% of Journeyman's Wage
3,601 - 4,500 hours	75% of Journeyman's Wage
4,501 - 5,400 hours	80% of Journeyman's Wage
5,401 - 6,300 hours	85% of Journeyman's Wage
6,301 - 7,200 hours	90% of Journeyman's Wage
Journeyman Level	100% of Journeyman's Wage

<http://www.cisco.org/> for many more trade/apprenticeship options

**'Students must realize that high school grades are important: Grades strongly predict future careers.**

**There are strong incentives for school effort and students can improve their adult attainments by improving their high school grades.'**—James E. Rosenbaum is professor of sociology, education, and social policy at Northwestern University and a faculty fellow with the university's Institute for Policy Research. He is author of *Beyond College for All: Career Paths for the Forgotten Half* and *Crossing the Class and Color Lines: From Public Housing to White Suburbia*.

## 2020 Hourly Minimum Wage in Illinois

**\$10.00 / hour**

Yearly Minimum Wage<sup>2</sup>

**\$20,800.00 / year**

Weekly Minimum Wage<sup>1</sup>

**\$400.00 / 40-hr week**

### Labor Law Footnotes, Sources & Citations:

1. The weekly earnings estimate of \$400.00 is based on a standard 40-hour workweek
2. The yearly earnings estimate of \$20,860.00 is based on 52 standard 40-hour work weeks. Since most hourly employees don't work full time and/or take time off, actual yearly earnings will likely be lower.

<https://www.laborlawcenter.com/state-minimum-wage-rates/>

## Fun Facts and other information

WORKING HARD  
FOR SOMETHING WE  
DONT CARE ABOUT  
IS CALLED STRESS.  
WORKING HARD FOR  
SOMETHING WE LOVE  
IS CALLED PASSION.

**Naviance** is a valuable tool for you, whether you are planning to go to college or not. The material in the 'Careers' tab and survey's in 'Assessments' can be extremely helpful as guidance to a career path.

Go to <https://student.naviance.com/grayslakenorth> to sign in. *Once on the SIGN IN page, click on 'continue with single sign on'.*

### A few types of certificates offered by industry.

Business Certificates  
Health Care Certificates  
Technology Certificates  
Criminal Justice Certificates  
Arts and Design Certificates  
Education Certificates  
Skilled Trade Certificates  
Legal Certificates  
Social Services Certificates  
Health and Fitness Certificates  
Culinary/Hospitality Certificates  
Pharmacy Technician Certificates

<https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/8D6AEE77/Types-of-Certificate-Programs/>

<https://www.ptcb.org/>

How can the GNHS College and Career Resource Center help you!?

- ◇ Career visits to our school
- ◇ Books with HUNDREDS of job/career ideas
- ◇ Chromebooks to research
- ◇ Answer questions
- ◇ Access to counselors

**One place to develop a skill is in college. It's not the only place. The opportunities are endless!**

A good job is one with a purpose behind it. The purpose can be your own future.

Here is a quick list to get you started:

- Trade schools
- Jobs with growth potential
- Jobs for cash to save for important stuff
- Jobs in a trade
- Starting a business
- Practicing a valuable skill
- Read with intent (maybe find your passions)
- Travel! Even if it takes a crappy job for a few months.

The possibilities are too many list. As long as you're making smart decisions you'll do fine!

Information obtained from:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/robertfarrington/2014/11/10/5-proud-alternatives-to-going-to-college/#129e92fb354e>

<https://www.smartstudentsecrets.com/college-isnt-for-me-what-now-qa/>

<http://www.cisco.org/>