

# OTHER *Education* OPTIONS



## Trade and Vocational Schools

Students who want to work in a specific trade—like a dental hygienist, plumber, electrician, or auto mechanic—can attend a vocational or trade school to learn those skills. These schools take less than two years and their costs are a lot lower. Also, trade schools are generally tied into the employment needs of a region or state, so employers look to hire trade school graduates.



## Start a Business

What if you want to start your own business? That's fantastic! While there's always risk involved, if you have passion and an entrepreneurial spirit, this path might be right for you. You'll need a solid business plan and a stockpile of cash for a start-up fund first. Whatever you do, stick with a debt-free plan. Remember, debt will only add more risk to your venture.



## Enlist in the Military

The military isn't for everyone, but it has helped a lot of people get through college debt-free while giving them the honor of serving their country. You can commit to full-time or part-time service to fit your career needs. And even if school isn't in your plan, military service offers plenty of training to help you build technical and leadership skills that will carry through to future roles.



## Licenses and Certifications

Students who are looking to get licensed in a particular trade—like an insurance or real estate agent—need to study for and take their state's certification test. You can prepare on your own or through an online course. Once you've earned the basic certification and get some experience, you'll want to keep up with professional development opportunities to advance your career.



## On-the-Job Training

On-the-job training happens while you're doing the actual job. A professional trainer serves as the course instructor and uses a combination of hands-on activities and formal classroom training. For instance, to be a police officer, you need a high school diploma and then you must pass background, polygraph, and drug tests. Then you'll attend a police academy for your training.