

# Technical and Vocational Education

---

## A Technical Education

A technical or vocational education combines learning with hands-on work. Technical training can provide solid jobs without the constraints of an undergraduate degree and can be a source to update your skills once you have begun your career.

Technical education is available in an associate or a bachelor's degree throughout the United States at community colleges, applied technology centers, four-year colleges and universities or even in many high schools. In most programs student can be part of an apprenticeship where they work full-time in their chosen field during the day and attend classes in the evening.

## Tips for Getting Started

- Before age 21, take the ACT test. After age 21, other competency tests are available.
- Know basic high school algebra and how to write and how to read at a college level before you apply. If you are not currently at that level, enroll in a community literacy program.
- The application process is usually very straight-forward and once you have been accepted into the program, an advisor will be assigned to guide you through.
- Some employers will pay for your training. Also, it is possible to use veteran's benefits for schooling.

## Salary Benefits

The average incomes from common technical and vocational professions are as follows: (from Readers Digest, Nov. 2003)

Profession	Median Annual Earnings
Air Traffic Controller	\$87,000
Dental Hygienist*	\$54,000
Commercial Pilot	\$47,410
Electrical Power line Installer/Repairer	\$47,210
Telecom Equipment Installer/Repairer	\$46,390
Police Officer	\$40,970
Electrician	\$40,770
Brick Mason	\$41,590

\*requires associate's degree of vocational diploma

## Further Reading

[The Tyranny of the Diploma](#)

by *Brigid McMnamin*

Forbes, December 1998

[The Perpetual Education Fund](#)

by *President Gordon B. Hinckley*

Ensign, May 2001

[The Perpetual Education Fund: A Bright Ray of Hope](#)

by *Elder John K. Carmack*

Is College Really Worth the Money?

*Readers Digest*, November 2003

[A World-Class Fixture in Woodworking](#)

by *Heather Gollaher*

Mountainland Advanced Technology Center

## Web Resources

Utah Valley State College School of Technology & Computing

<http://www.uvsc.edu/techcom/departments/index.html>

Votechschoools.org

<http://www.votechschoools.org>

World Wide Learn

<http://www.worldwidelearn.com/vocational-training.htm>

Vocational Evaluation & Career Assessment Professionals

<http://www.vecap.org>

International Center for Technical & Vocational Education & Training

<http://www.unevoc.unesco.org>

Digital Think

<http://www.digitalthink.com/dtfs/index.html>