

GET THE JOB

Consider Learning a Trade

Not all quality employment opportunities require a degree from a four-year university.

Consider the range of highly diverse and sought-after positions in skilled trades that can be acquired through technical schools and apprenticeships.

The advantage of pursuing these careers is that you can establish a successful path without accumulating student debt. Moreover, your work will always be in demand.

Workforce studies have shown that there are tens of millions of good-paying jobs in the United States that do not require a bachelor's degree. At the same time, those with this higher level of education aren't necessarily guaranteed a higher salary. For instance, workers with associate degrees in highly specialized fields like chemical technology may surpass the median earnings of others with a bachelor's degree.

Training for these in-demand roles can begin during high school, where students may receive instruction in classes like auto-repair fundamentals or woodworking. Upon graduation, apprenticeships become available. Others may choose to attend a technical college or trade school for more advanced lessons.



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Some valuable skills are consistently needed, generation after generation, and they include plumbing, electrical and construction:

PLUMBING

Technology has revolutionized every element of our lives, including plumbing. To obtain a license, plumbing technicians must complete a year of training at a technical school and subsequently embark on an apprenticeship. During this process, they acquire knowl-

edge beyond just drains and pipes. Modern plumbing incorporates cutting-edge technology such as smart appliances and tankless water heaters.

ELECTRICIANS

Those with a passion for this field and a high school diploma or equivalent can enroll in technical school to kickstart their journey toward becoming an electrician. The training program covers a wide range of topics, including everything

from basic wiring techniques to the latest programmable systems used in a range of settings from homes and offices to factories. Typically, students complete two years of schooling before embarking on an apprenticeship program. After this crucial step, they move on to obtaining the necessary licensing to work as a professional electrician.

CONSTRUCTION

Similarly, construction jobs now rely heavily on computeri-

zation, leading to the emergence of the rapidly growing field of construction technology. Professionals in this area must have expertise in the latest smart-enabled systems, including troubleshooting, installation and repairs. Given all the modern-era tech involved, even the most qualified individuals in this field require additional training. It typically takes two to three years for technologists to earn certification, followed by a paid apprenticeship.

VETERANS BENEFITS

Your life history may work in your favor when it comes to a career in skilled trades. For instance, many veterans have transferable skills that enable them to seamlessly transition into the general workforce. They can leverage veteran benefits to acquire further training or learn adaptive skills that facilitate their entry into the civilian job market.

Veterans can quickly establish a stable career where their skills are consistently in demand if they are willing to work with their hands and take part in training, then go about serving apprenticeships and obtaining certification. These careers often offer lucrative pay rates, occasionally reaching six figures. Key areas of demand typically include electricians, construction and plumbers.