

Career and Technical Education

Career and Technical Education Schools (also known as vocational schools) offer training and education that directly prepares individuals for their career-field of choice. These schools offer certificates, diplomas, associate's degrees, bachelor's degrees, and occasionally master's degrees.

Vocational training can begin as early as high school. Some high schools offer vocational training programs as part of their high school curriculum.

Vocational training also is offered at the post secondary level.

Vocational training is offered in several different career-fields including:

- healthcare (career choices include becoming a medical assistant, or a certified nursing assistant),
- engineering and architectural science, communications, fine and performing arts (such as animation or graphic design),
- computer sciences, business and marketing (such as accounting and financial planning),
- personal and consumer services,
- public and legal services (training available to become a legal assistant),
- protective services (such as homeland security), and
- trade and industry (career examples include plumbers, welders, and electricians).

When choosing a vocational school consumers need to be aware of disreputable schools and misleading statistics about the average salary and job placement potential of a school or career.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has prepared a document that gives tips on how to select an appropriate vocational school (see link below).

For More Information:

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Choosing a Career or Vocational School:

- <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/products/pro13.shtm>

National Center for Education Statistics Career and Technical Education in the United States:

- <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2008/2008035.pdf>

U.S. Department of Education Office of Vocational and Adult Education:

- <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/index.html>

Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE):

- <http://www.acteonline.org/>