

## U.S. Work World



### Choosing a Private (or Technical) College

Education after high school costs you time, money, and effort. It's a big investment, and you should carefully evaluate the college you're considering. Before signing a contract to attend a college or trade school, you should ask for the following information:

- **Ask** the school for a copy of the documents describing the school's accreditation and licensing.
- **Look up** the school's financial aid default rate by visiting [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov) (search for "official cohort default rates by school"). Schools with high default rates are in danger of losing students' federal financial aid opportunities, and may indicate problems with the quality of the school's programs. If graduates are defaulting (not paying back) loans, it may be because they cannot find a job with the training they received at the college.
- **Ask** the school for a copy of its campus security report which provides crime statistics or visit the Internet site [www.ope.ed.gov/security](http://www.ope.ed.gov/security). Have the statistics gone up or down? Is there an escort service to the parking lot and dorm for night classes? Are there emergency phones around campus? Schools must give a security report to students yearly. If you cannot get it, call 1-800-4FED-AID.
- **Ask** the school for its job placement report and the names of employers who hire graduates. If the school advertises its job placement, it must also publish the most recent employment information and graduation statistics.
- **Visit the employers** listed in the placement report to ask if the graduates have the skills necessary to succeed on the job. This is one of the most important steps you can take to evaluate the quality of the college's majors and teachers.
- **Ask** the financial aid office about the school's refund policy. If you enroll, but never begin classes, you should get most of your money back. **DANGER:** Even if you don't finish your coursework or the school closes, you'll still have to repay the loan funds you received. Ask what financial assistance is available (federal, state, and private funds); how the type and amount of financial aid in your financial aid package is selected; how the school determines if you are making satisfactory academic progress and what happens if you're not; and if you're offered a Federal Work-Study job, what the job is, what hours you will work, what you'll be paid, and when you'll be paid.
- **Ask** your high school and community/technical college counselors, local employers, and Chamber of Commerce if there have been any complaints about the school. If you have a complaint about the school, contact these same people.

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## Science Skills Needed for Careers

### Practical/Useful Applications of Science

The following jobs require knowledge of the basic principles of biology, chemistry, or physics. High school and Work Study courses in these areas should be sufficient (good enough) but many employers prefer to hire workers that have community or technical college training also.

- Aerobics instructor
- Animal shelter manager
- Automotive body repairers
- Automotive mechanics
- Barbers and cosmetologists
- Beekeeper
- Boilermakers
- Cable/satellite installers and repairers
- Chefs, cooks, and other kitchen workers
- Crafts instructor
- Dental assistants
- Diesel mechanics
- Dog and cat groomer
- Electricians
- Electronic equipment repairers
- Elevator/escalator installers and repairers
- Farm equipment mechanics
- Farmers and farm managers
- Firefighting jobs
- Fishers, hunters, and trappers
- Funeral directors
- General maintenance (fix-it) mechanics
- Heating, air-conditioning, refrigeration technicians
- Home appliance and power tool repairers
- Home entertainment equipment installers/repairers
- Industrial machinery repairers
- Jewelers
- Lake patrol officer



- Landscaping, nursery, greenhouse jobs
- Machinists and tool-machine programmers
- Manicurist
- Medical assistant
- Medical secretary
- Millwrights
- Mobile heavy equipment mechanics
- Motorcycle, boat, and small-engine mechanics
- Nursing aides and psychiatric aides
- Ophthalmic laboratory technicians
- Pest controllers
- Pharmacy technicians
- Photographic process workers
- Physical and corrective therapy assistants
- Plumbers and pipefitters
- Prepress workers
- Printing press operators
- Stationary (heavy construction equipment) operators
- Structural and reinforcing iron workers
- Tool-and-die makers
- Urban and regional planners
- Vending machine servicers and repairers
- Water and wastewater treatment plant operators
- Water transportation jobs
- Welders and cutters

### Applied Science

The following jobs require workers to understand scientific principles and apply them to their work. Some college or trade school training in the use of science is needed.

- Aircraft mechanics, including engine specialists
- Aircraft pilots
- Animal health technician
- Broadcast technicians
- Cardiovascular technologists and technicians
- Cartographer

Clinical laboratory technologists/ technicians  
 Construction and building inspectors  
 Construction contractors and managers  
 Dental hygienists  
 Dental laboratory technicians  
 Dietitians and nutritionists  
 Dispensing opticians  
 Drafters  
 Electroneurodiagnostic technologists  
 Emergency medical technicians  
 Engineering technicians (all types)  
 FBI agent  
 Fingerprint technician  
 Fish and game warden  
 Food and drug inspector  
 Hazardous waste technician  
 Health technicians  
 Health service managers  
 Helicopter pilot  
 Licensed practical nurses  
 Lifeguard  
 Medical assistant  
 Movie stunt person  
 Nuclear medicine technologists  
 Occupational therapists  
 Paramedic  
 Photographers and camera operators  
 Physical therapists  
 Pilot  
 Police investigator  
 Psychologists  
 Psychiatric aide  
 Quality control technician  
 Radiologic technologists  
 Recreational therapists  
 Registered nurses  
 Respiratory therapists  
 Science technicians  
 Electronic semiconductor processors  
 Scientific photographer  
 Ski patrol  
 Speech-language pathologists and audiologists  
 Surgical technologists  
 Surveyors and mapping scientists  
 Teachers  
 Technical illustrator

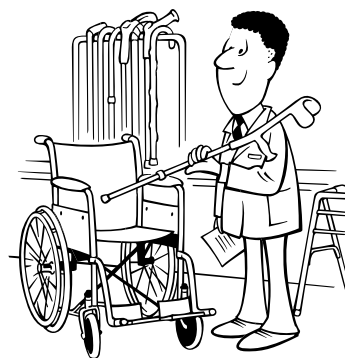


Technical writer  
 Transplant coordinator  
 Water and wastewater treatment technician  
 Weight reduction counselor  
 Wilderness tour guide  
 Zookeeper/animal trainer

**Advanced Science**

The following jobs require a thorough knowledge of scientific principles. A bachelor's (4-year) college degree with several college science courses is usually the minimum requirement.

Agricultural scientists  
 Anesthesiologist  
 Architects  
 Archivists and curators  
 Astronaut  
 Artificial limb/prosthesis maker  
 Biological and medical scientists  
 Chemists  
 Chiropractors  
 Computer engineers  
 Computer scientists  
 Crime lab technologist  
 Computer systems analysts  
 Dentists  
 Engineering/science managers  
 Engineers (all types)  
 Forensic scientists  
 Foresters and environmental scientists  
 Geologists and geophysicists  
 Horticulturist  
 Landscape architects  
 Marine biologist  
 Meteorologists  
 Optometrists  
 Pharmacists  
 Physical therapists  
 Physician assistants  
 Physicians  
 Physicists  
 Astronomers  
 Podiatrists  
 Respiratory therapists  
 Science teachers  
 Veterinarians



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Quarterly