

education by degrees

Want to rock a turntable for a living, or work in a food lab inventing new chocolate cereals? With literally thousands of schools and programs out there, there's sure to be one that interests you. And there's always a way to get there!

START where you are in high school or at a tech center

Dual enrollment programs allow you to start college for FREE while you're in high school! Talk to your school counselor and check out: programs at Vermont's public and private colleges: <http://education.vermont.gov/student-learning/flexible-pathways/dual-enrollment>.

the **Fast Forward program** at Community College of Vermont: <http://gotocollegevt.org/start-college-in-high-school/fast-forward>

the **Vermont Academy of Science and Technology (VAST)** at Vermont Technical College: <https://www.vtc.edu/academics/vermont-academy-science-technology-vast>

earn a two-year degree

Check out the two-year programs offered at Vermont colleges:

Accounting	Computer Science/Gaming	Liberal Arts
Administrative Management	Computer Software Engineering	Liberal Studies
Agribusiness Management Technology	Computer Systems Management	Life Sciences
Applied Science	Computing	Management
Architectural and Building Engineering Technology	Construction Management	Mechanical Engineering Technology
Audio Production	Criminal Justice	Medical Assisting
Automotive Technology	Dairy Farm Management Technology	Music and Self Promotion
Business	Design & Media Studies	Music Industry Management
Business Administration	Diesel Power Technology	Nursing
Business by Contract	Early Childhood Education	Professional Multimedia Communications
Business Management	Electrical Engineering Technology	Respiratory Therapy
Business Studies	Electronic Journalism Arts	Special Education
Business Technology and Management	Environmental Science	STEM Studies
Civil and Environmental Engineering Technology	Equine Studies	Technical Theater
Communication	Fire Science	Veterinary Technology
Computer Engineering Technology	General Studies	Visual Arts
Computer Information Technology	Health Science - Medical Coding and Billing	Visual Communications
	Human Services	Web Design and Development
	Landscape Design and Sustainable Horticulture	

ATTEND trade school for specialized programs in specific industries, if you've already identified your ideal career in a certain trade. These programs often take only two or three years because they usually don't require the general education classes (in subjects like history or philosophy) that four-year colleges do.

BTW, plumbers, mechanics, and chefs top the list of careers for which employees have been in short supply virtually every year of the past decade.

KEEP IN MIND: Look closely at tuition and other costs because sometimes these schools are expensive. Also, make sure the school is accredited and know which class credits will be accepted by colleges in case you decide to transfer later. To learn more, go to www.niche.com/colleges/search/best-trade-schools.

GO straight to a four-year school. Not sure this is the right path for you? Check out Introduction to College & Careers, a free course that high school students can take at Community College of Vermont (CCV) sites around the state. Learn more at <http://gotocollegevt.org/start-college-in-high-school/ics/>.

KEEP IN MIND: Some students may find that they don't have the basic skills in either math or English (or both!) to handle college-level work. If you don't, you'll pay more in the long run by having to take skills classes in college to build the foundation that you didn't bring with you from high school. To avoid this, build a strong foundation in these subjects while you're in high school.

TRANSFER to a four-year college to earn a four-year degree. CCV has transfer agreements with almost 20 four-year colleges in VT and neighboring states, and Vermont Technical College has transfer agreements for nine of its two-year programs. Learn more at www.ccv.edu and www.vtc.edu.

KEEP IN MIND: To maximize the benefit of this path, communicate with your target four-year school from day one at your two-year college. Make certain all of the courses you plan to take are transferrable (and keep all e-mail correspondence that says so). Your goal should be to avoid losing credits in the process of transferring. Otherwise, college may end up taking five years instead of four (which will cost you more, thus defeating the purpose of the plan).

START a career or technical education. For programs in Vermont, visit www.vsac.org/plan/searching-for-a-college/career-training-certificates or <http://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-cte-directory-2017-2018.pdf>

earn a four-year degree

GO where you want!
more job opportunities
higher earnings

GO TO WORK

with your two-year degree while you attend night school to complete a four-year bachelor's degree. This is a great choice if you join a company that offers tuition reimbursement for employees to upgrade their skills. Let the company help foot the bill for the next two years of your education!

Get your bearings: How much will you need?

The average cost of a modest, two-bedroom apartment in Vermont is \$990 a month, which is affordable on an hourly wage of \$19 or an annual household income of \$39,595, according to the Vermont Housing Finance Agency.

What's "affordable" according to the agency? The renter uses only 30% of his income toward his housing (including utilities).

What do utilities include? Heat, water, and electricity, for starters.

Name two other utilities you might want: _____

How about cable TV (or a satellite dish), high-speed Internet access, or a cell phone?



take a nursing path

With a high school diploma, you can become a nurse's aid or an orderly and earn about **\$12.75** an hour (about **\$26,590** a year).

or

→ continue education

With two years of study (an associate's degree), you can become a licensed practical nurse and earn about **\$21** an hour (about **\$44,090** a year).

or

→ continue education

With four years of study (a bachelor's degree and a license), you can become a registered nurse and earn around **\$33** an hour (about **\$68,450** a year).

or

→ continue education

With six years of study (a master's degree and a license), you can become a nurse practitioner (who's licensed to prescribe medications) and earn more than **\$51** an hour (about **\$107,460** a year).

take a legal path

With two years of study (an associate's degree), you can become a paralegal or legal assistant and earn about **\$24** an hour (about **\$49,500** a year).

or

→ continue education

With two years of study (an associate's degree and a license), you can become a court reporter and earn around **\$25** an hour (about **\$51,320** a year).

or

→ continue education

With six years of study (a master's degree), you can become a mediator and earn about **\$28** an hour (almost **\$60,000** a year).

or

→ continue education

With seven years of study (a four-year bachelor's degree and a three-year law degree), you can become an attorney and earn about **\$57** an hour (almost **\$118,160** a year).

Salary sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Vermont Department of Labor

explore other paths

Use the Occupational Outlook Handbook (www.bls.gov/ooh/a-z-index.htm) to compare the following pairs of jobs.

dental assistant
or
dental hygienist

electro-mechanical technician
or
electronic engineering technician

dietician
or
food service manager

bookkeeper
or
auditor

master plumber
or
journeyman plumber

veterinary technician
or
veterinary technologist

librarian
or
library technician

hairdresser
or
theatrical makeup artist

1. Which one do you think makes more money?
2. What do you think may account for the difference in pay?
3. Out of each pair, which job would you prefer to have?