

Want to rock a turntable for a living, or work in a food lab inventing new chocolate cereals? With literally hundreds 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:

https://education.vermont.gov/student-learning/flexiblepathways/dual-enrollment.

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

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





# earn a two-year

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

gribusiness Management (VTC) Architectural Building & Engineering

ssociate of Applied Science (NVU-Lyndon)

Automotive Technology (VTC) Broadcast & Digital Journalism (NVU-

Business Administration (NVU–Lyndon)

Business by Contract (Castleton) Business Technology & Management (VTC) nema Production (NVU-Lyndon)

Computer Engineering Technology (VTC)
Computer Information Technology (VTC) omputer Software Engineering (VTC)

Computing (NVU-Lyndon) Dairy Farm Management (VTC) Diesel Power Technology (VTC)
Digital Communications, PR & Marketing

Early Childhood Education (CCV) Electrical Engineering Technology (VTC) Entrepreneurship (VTC)

Environmental Science (CCV)

General Engineering (VTC) General Studies (Castleton & NVU-

Graphic Design (NVU-Lyndon) Human Services (NVU-Lyndon) Information Technology (CCV)

Mechanical Engineering Technology (VTC) Mountain Resort Management (NVU-

Music Business and Industry (NVU-

Photography (NVU-Lyndon)

Pre-Nursing: General Studies (NVU-

Pre-Nursing: VTC Pathway (NVU-Lyndon) Professional Studies (CCV)

Respiratory Therapy (VTC)

Special Education (NVU–Lyndon)

Technical Theater (NVU-Johnson) Web Design & Development (Champlain

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 2 or three years because they usually don't require the general education classes (in subjects like history or philosophy) that 4-year

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

**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.comparetop schools.com.

https://education.vermont.gov.

 $oldsymbol{\mathsf{GO}}$  straight to a 4-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-

**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. So, 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 get the most from this path, communicate with your target 4-year school from day one at your 2-year college. Make certain all 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 transfer. Otherwise, college may end up taking 5 years instead of 4 (which will cost you more, thus defeating the purpose of the plan).

**START** an career or technical education. Find out about ways to research, plan, and pay for your training program by visiting www.vsac.org/job-training; and learn about Vermont's flexible pathways programs at

> **GO** where you want! more job opportunities higher earnings

earn a four-year

#### **GO TO WORK**

with your 2-year degree while you attend night school to complete a 4-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 2 years of your education!

education options map

### Get your bearings: How much will you need?

The average cost of a modest, two-bedroom apartment in Vermont is \$1,184 a month, which is affordable on an hourly wage of almost \$23/hour or an annual household income of \$47,375, according to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition.

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 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 \$14.25 an hour (about **\$29,640** a year).

or continue education



With 2 years of study (an associate's degree), you can become a licensed practical nurse and earn about **\$22.80** an hour (about **\$47,480** a year).

or continue education

With 4 years of study (a bachelor's degree and a license), you can become a registered nurse and earn around **\$35.24** an hour (about **\$73,300** a year).

or continue education



With 6 years of study (a master's degree and a license), you can become a nurse practitioner (who can prescribe medications) and earn more than **\$55** an hour (about **\$1115,800** a year).

## take a legal path

With 2 years of study (an associate's degree), you can become a paralegal or legal assistant and earn more than **\$24** an hour (about \$51,740 a year).

or continue education

With 2–3 years of study (an associate's degree and a license), you can become a court reporter and earn almost **\$29** an hour (about **\$60,130** a year).

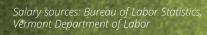
or continue education

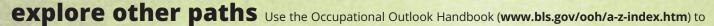


With 6 years of study (a master's degree), you can become a mediator and earn more than **\$30** an hour (almost **\$69,930** a year).

or continue education

With 7 years of study (a 4-year bachelor's degree and a 3-year law degree), you can become an attorney and earn about **\$59** an hour (almost \$122,960 a year).





compare the following pairs of jobs.

dental assistant dental hygienist

master plumber

journeyman plumber

electro-mechanical technician electronic engineering technician

dietician food service bookkeeper auditor

hairdresser 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



veterinary technician

librarian veterinary technologist library technician

would you prefer to have?

education options map