

education by degrees

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/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: 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 (CCV)	Computing (NVU-Lyndon)	Liberal Studies (CCV)
Accounting (Champlain online)	Construction Management (VTC)	Mathematics (NVU-Johnson)
Agribusiness Management (VTC)	Criminal Justice (Castleton)	Mechanical Engineering Technology (VTC)
Architectural Building & Engineering Technology (VTC)	Criminal Justice (NVU-Lyndon)	Media and Communication (Castleton)
Associate of Applied Science (NVU-Lyndon)	Dairy Farm Management (VTC)	Mountain Resort Management (NVU-Lyndon)
Automotive Technology (VTC)	Design & Media Studies (CCV)	Music Business and Industry (NVU-Lyndon)
Behavioral Science (CCV)	Diesel Power Technology (VTC)	Nursing (VTC)
Broadcast & Digital Journalism (NVU-Lyndon)	Digital Communications, PR & Marketing (NVU-Lyndon)	Photography (NVU-Lyndon)
Business (CCV)	Early Childhood Education (CCV)	Pre-Nursing: General Studies (NVU-Lyndon)
Business Administration (NVU-Lyndon)	Electrical Engineering Technology (VTC)	Pre-Nursing: VTC Pathway (NVU-Lyndon)
Business by Contract (Castleton)	Entrepreneurship (VTC)	Professional Studies (CCV)
Business Management (Champlain online)	Environmental Science (CCV)	Radiologic Science (VTC)
Business Technology & Management (VTC)	Forestry (VTC)	Respiratory Therapy (VTC)
Cinema Production (NVU-Lyndon)	General Engineering (VTC)	Software Development (Champlain online)
Civil & Environmental Engineering Technology (VTC)	General Studies (Castleton & NVU-Lyndon)	Special Education (NVU-Lyndon)
Computer Engineering Technology (VTC)	Graphic Design (NVU-Lyndon)	STEM Studies (CCV)
Computer Information Technology (VTC)	Health Science (CCV)	Technical Theater (NVU-Johnson)
Computer Software Engineering (VTC)	Human Services (NVU-Lyndon)	Visual Arts (NVU-Lyndon)
	Information Technology (CCV)	Web Design & Development (Champlain online)
	Landscape Contracting (VTC)	

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 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.comparetopschools.com.

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-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. 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 <https://education.vermont.gov>.

earn a four-year degree

GO where you want!
more job opportunities
higher earnings

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!

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).

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?