

FIND THE RIGHT COLLEGE PATH

A parent's guide to selecting a college



WISCONSIN
TECHNICAL
COLLEGES

wistechcolleges.org



2-year college

Join the military

Full-time job

Attend a 4-year college

Learn a trade



Launch a business



Join Peace Corps

Take a gap year

MANY OPTIONS WORTH EXPLORING

Options abound for
your high school student

There is no shortage of options available to your child upon graduating high school. As you see in the image to the left, your high school student has probably never had so many paths to consider. The stakes have never been higher because of the high cost of education and the debt that can smother students. **An evolving economy** opens new pathways and opportunities to students who want hands-on, relevant and individual learning opportunities.

This guide will help you discuss the options and provide important **discussion tips**. Once you know all the options you and your child can customize a path that fits your child's interests and strengths, helping ensure success and happiness. You can **go confidently**, knowing there are always on-roads and off-roads to on the path to success.



**FOSTER A SHARED VISION OF
OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR CHILD**

WISCONSIN'S 16 TECHNICAL COLLEGES

BLACKHAWK

608.757.7710
blackhawk.edu

CHIPPEWA VALLEY

715.833.6300
cvtc.edu

FOX VALLEY

800.735.FVTC (3882)
fvtc.edu

GATEWAY

800.247.7122
gtc.edu

LAKESHORE

888.GO TO LTC (468.6582)
gotoltc.edu

MADISON COLLEGE

800.322.6282
madisoncollege.edu

MID-STATE

888.575.6782
mstc.edu

MILWAUKEE AREA

800.720.MATC (6282)
matc.edu

MORAINES PARK

800.472.4554
morainepark.edu

NICOLET COLLEGE

715.365.4493
nicoletcollege.edu

NORTHCENTRAL

888.682.7144
ntc.edu

NORTHEAST WISCONSIN

888.385.6982
nwtc.edu

SOUTHWEST TECH

800.362.3322
swtc.edu

WAUKESHA COUNTY

262.691.5566
wctc.edu

WESTERN

800.322.9982
westerntc.edu

WISCONSIN INDIANHEAD

800.243.WITC (9482)
witic.edu

For the hard of hearing
711 (relay)



VIEW COLLEGE LOCATIONS
WISTECHCOLLEGES.ORG/MAP

WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGES

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CHANGING ECONOMY CREATES NEW CAREERS

Employers are less concerned about degrees and more concerned about skills

High-skill jobs, changing demand and worker shortages mean employers are looking to fill jobs quickly and with the right skills. For many employers, this new urgency requires them to use unique hiring techniques and revise their expectations.



“

“Our employees have all been hired from technical colleges. We find that they are a perfect fit for our business, ready to hit the ground running,”

— KATIE SEDLACEKI,
HARRIS REBAR AMBASSADOR STEEL

IT'S ABOUT SKILLS

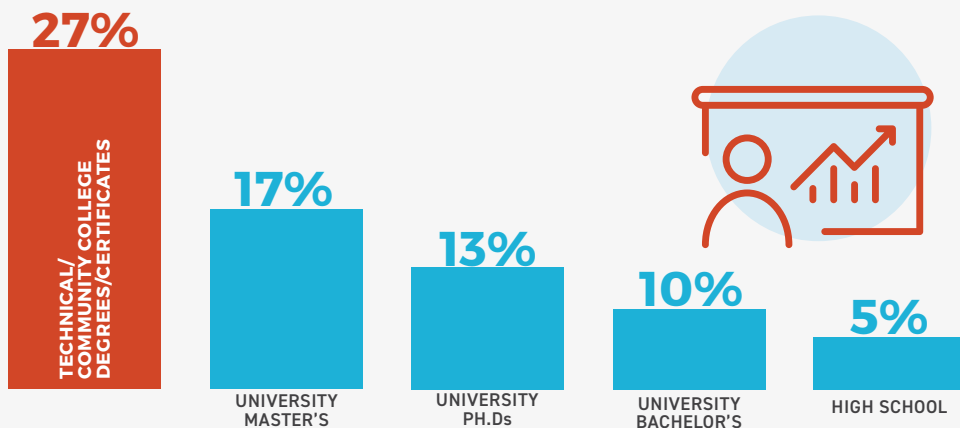
The workplace and education demands continue to evolve

Most companies today seek employees with specific skills and technical abilities. In fact, by about 2020, **about two-thirds of new jobs will require some college, a technical diploma, associate degree or higher.*** Because of the high cost of many educational options, students take on a lot of debt and struggle to get ahead, while employers struggle to find employees with the specific skills they need. There are fewer workers in the pipeline while there is a glut of workers expecting to retire, leaving a vacuum of eligible job candidates.

Employers struggling to find workers with skills in high-demand fields like information technology, construction, health care, manufacturing and many more, have tremendous opportunities for high-paying, fulfilling careers. Many opportunities exist for students preparing for careers through a technical college, where their education is likely to be practical and hands-on. An efficient and affordable education fills jobs and saves tuition costs all at the same time. As technology changes with increasing speed, there will always be opportunities to change paths or continue education as needed.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH PROJECTIONS (BY DEGREE)

Growth in employment by typical entry-level education, 2016-26



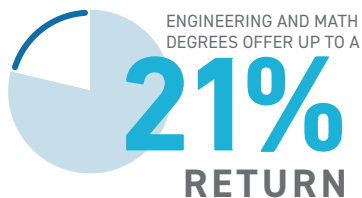
Source: The Occupational Employment Statistics program, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, updated April 2018.

ALL DEGREES HAVE VALUE

Education is the best investment in future success

Return on investment (ROI) is an important consideration in selecting a college. ROI varies most between fields, NOT by levels of degree. For example, jobs in high demand where specific skills are both highly valued and scarce by nature will pay more. Engineering and math degrees offer up to a 21 percent return while liberal arts offers up to 12 percent. Consider what careers and skills (versus what degree) might interest your child.

WAGES SOMETIMES DEPEND ON THE AVAILABILITY OF WORKERS (AND SKILLS), NOT ON THE TYPE OF DEGREE.



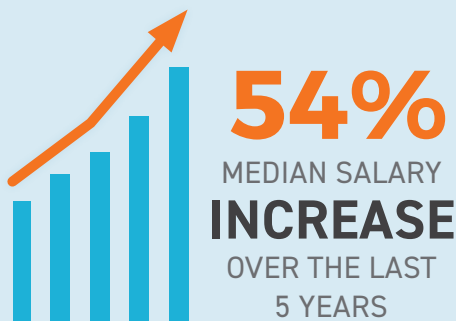
Source:

Georgetown University, Center for Education and Workforce



SALARY GROWTH FOR TECHNICAL COLLEGE GRADUATES IS HIGHER THAN AVERAGE

Wherever your child's interests or passions lie, chances are there are employers who need skilled workers. Generally, employers value technical college graduates and pay good salaries to attract and retain them.



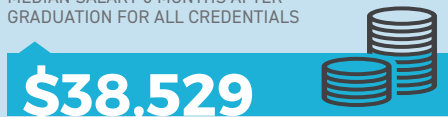
Source:

WTCS Five-Year Graduate Follow-up Report for Class of 2010, published December 2016.

MEDIAN SALARY 6 MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREES



MEDIAN SALARY 6 MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION FOR ALL CREDENTIALS



Source:

WTCS Graduate Outcomes Report for 2017 Graduates, published May 2018.

LAND A JOB AND HIT THE GROUND RUNNING

With a hands-on, practical approach to learning, a technical college education sets students up for success, not just in terms of starting salary and availability of jobs but also in continued wage growth over time.

GRADUATES ROUTINELY REPORT GOOD RESULTS FROM THEIR EXPERIENCE AND OVERALL RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Wisconsin's technical colleges partner with employers to ensure the education students receive will match the needs of the employer. Student satisfaction with their education and working within their field demonstrates the relevance and quality of the education they receive.

GRADUATES WHO FIND A JOB WITHIN SIX MONTHS **94%**



GRADUATES WOULD RECOMMEND A TECHNICAL COLLEGE EDUCATION **96%**



GRADUATES EMPLOYED IN A JOB RELATED TO THEIR TRAINING **79%**



Source:

WTCS Graduate Outcomes Report for 2017 Graduates, published May 2018.



THE CAREER YOUR CHILD LOVES IS WAITING...

Encourage career exploration



TAKE THE CAREER INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE

10 minutes is all it takes to see which careers match your child's interests.

The short online activity will also pay off by giving him or her a place to start thinking about and discussing future career possibilities.



EXPLORE YOUR CAREER PATH
WISTECHCOLLEGES.ORG/CAREERS

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Build a career, one step at a time

If your child knows where he or she wants to go but doesn't know how to get there...

Career Pathways help make education more efficient.

Students earn a credential with just a few courses, then

earn a more advanced certificate, degree or diploma

as they complete other related groups of courses.



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT



VETERAN OR MILITARY



4-YEAR TRANSFER STUDENT OR GRADUATE

LIFELONG LEARNING OPTIONS/PATHWAYS MAY INCLUDE:

Hands-on Career Awareness, Exploration



Dual Credit for High School Students

Earn college credit in high school



Degrees, Diplomas & Certificates



Industry-Based Certification

Microsoft, Automotive Service Excellence (ASE), American Welding Society



Credit Transfer

Credit for Prior Learning, Liberal Arts Transfer and more



Youth Apprenticeship



Registered Apprenticeship



Student Support Services

Academic and Financial Advising, Tutoring, Career Counseling and more



Bridges to Occupational Programs

High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED), General Education Development (GED), Adult Basic Education (ABE), English Language Learner (ELL)





VISIT A TECHNICAL
COLLEGE CAMPUS



TALK WITH CURRENT STUDENTS
OR RECENT GRADUATES



ENCOURAGE VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES

HOW CAN YOU BE AN ENGAGED PARENT?

- » Take interest in your child's hobbies and education.
- » Visit a technical college campus.
- » Talk with current students or recent graduates.
- » Visit a university campus.
- » Have your child job shadow a friend or relative to see what they do for a day.
- » Occasionally revisit the student's interests.
- » Encourage volunteer opportunities.
- » Remember to focus on what your child wants to do.

We attended the open houses and saw the positives of the school; the beautiful campus, the state-of-the-art equipment and hands-on labs. The instructors are direct from industry and promoted how our son would learn real-world skills from industry professionals.

— LAURIE C., PARENT

BEGINNING A DISCUSSION

It can be difficult to begin a conversation about careers and higher education if it hasn't been a natural topic of conversation for parents and children. Children often want to enjoy independence and parents often want to have some influence.

- » Consider your child's passions and hobbies, which are often a great basis for a career. Talk to her or him about how a hobby could translate into a career.
- » Your child may not have a clear sense of direction. It may not appear to be a logical choice, but parents should be ready for their child to say, "It just feels right."
- » Value > hype. Value means getting a high quality education without the high cost associated with some colleges and universities. The stress that comes with taking on huge debt has longer lasting effects than short-lived pride associated with a brand.
- » Discuss rather than dictate. Make suggestions and ask questions to help your child think about their options and be open to hearing what they have to say.
- » **Assume your children are capable of making this decision for themselves.** Many parents struggle with their child becoming independent, but they need to understand the child is directly affected by his or her own decisions.

PARENTS WHO GIVE THEIR CHILDREN ROOM TO DISCOVER WHO THEY ARE – ON THEIR OWN TERMS – INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD FOR FUTURE CAREER HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS.

The proximity of the school was beneficial, and they had the courses that she was looking for. I pointed out to my daughter that it was also less expensive to attend a technical school rather than a four-year college.

— DANIEL P., PARENT





QUESTIONS TO HELP START THE DISCUSSION

Ask your child these questions to help determine which path is right for them:

- » Do you know what you want to study?
- » Do you desire large or small classes and campuses? Why?
- » Do you envision working with your hands or more with people?
- » Are you drawn more to learning through books and lectures or through hands-on, practical experience?
- » Have you had the opportunity to visit both two- and four-year colleges to see what they're like?
- » What financial resources do you have access to?
- » Do you want the option of living at home?
- » Do you want to move out and experience more independence?



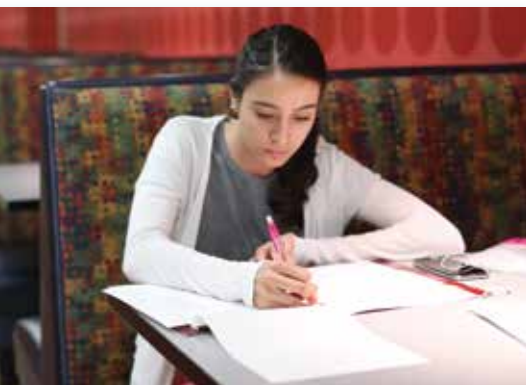
WHERE DOES YOUR CHILD'S PASSION LIE?
[WISTECHCOLLEGES.ORG/CAREERS](https://wistechcolleges.org/careers)

MAKING FINANCIAL SENSE OF COLLEGE

The facts tell the story: student debt is a growing problem

Using the U.S. Department of Education's Repayment Estimator, the monthly payment on a direct subsidized loan for **the average student debt would be \$359/month for 10 years, for a total repayment amount of \$43,124.** This amounts to \$4,308 per year from your student's earnings. Consider what else your child could do with that money (savings, transportation, rent, etc.). To avoid the big IOU, here are some financial items to consider when selecting a college:

- » The tuition amount **doesn't include the full cost associated with obtaining a degree**, which often includes room and board, books, computers or tablets, food and transportation.
- » One year of full-time student tuition at a Wisconsin Technical College is under \$4,100.
- » A student attending a local community or technical college can often live at home, **saving thousands of dollars** in room, board and travel.
- » Technical college students have **access to a wide range of scholarships and grants**, just like students at other higher education institutions.



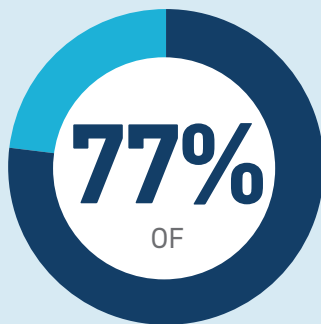
“Financial obstacles in my life made it hard to find a college that would help me obtain a degree. Enrolling at my technical college gave me an opportunity to take advantage of college classes in a cost-efficient way.”

— KEYDI O., TECHNICAL COLLEGE STUDENT



Source:

WTCS Five-Year Graduate Follow-up Report for Class of 2010,
published December 2016.



FIRST-TIME AND FULL-TIME
STUDENTS RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID

**WISCONSIN
TECHNICAL
COLLEGES**

\$4,026*

**UW TWO-YEAR
INSTITUTIONS**
(includes fees)

\$5,186

**UW FOUR-YEAR
INSTITUTIONS, min.**
(includes fees)

\$7,389

**UW FOUR-YEAR
INSTITUTIONS, max.**
(includes fees)

\$10,534

**ANNUAL AVERAGE COST
OF COLLEGE TUITION**

*WTCS tuition is set by the Wisconsin
Technical College System Board in March for
the following year. It does not include books,
materials or program/college-related fees.

ALL FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS (AVERAGE PUBLIC OUT-OF-STATE AND PRIVATE NON-PROFIT, 2017-2018)	\$30,180
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Sources: WTCS Tuition Work Group; UW HELP System Tuition Chart, The College Board 2018, College Costs: FAQ's



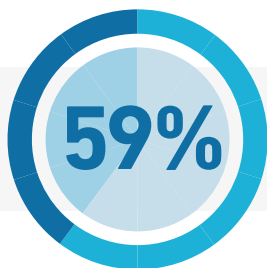
FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES
WISTECHCOLLEGES.ORG/FINANCIALAID



MAXIMIZE TIME, MINIMIZE DEBT

Consider upfront cost as well as completion time

Many recent graduates are struggling to find work that pays off debt and provides the means to live a full life. A heart-to-heart chat with your child to determine the best path for him or her may result in tremendous savings on education and possibly a bigger return on college investment, too.



**OF STUDENTS IN 4-YEAR PROGRAMS
ACTUALLY GRADUATE IN 6 YEARS**

Source: WTCS Five-Year Graduate Follow-up Report for Class of 2010, published December 2016.

A bachelor's degree, while often referred to as a four-year degree, can take five or six years for many students to complete. A technical education is focused on practical, hands-on skills development, so the degrees generally require two years of full-time enrollment or less. Technical degrees and diplomas are ideal for students who want to work in highly technical professions like health care or information technology, for example. Given how technology continues to change employers' workforce needs, technical certificates, diplomas and degrees make great options for students to continue their education by taking small stacks of credits over time as needed.

GET A HEAD START

College-level courses could begin in high school
(saving hundreds in future tuition costs)

By planning ahead, students can earn high school and college credits at the same time, shortening time to a degree and reducing overall costs. Here are some ways to get a head start in high school:

YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP

Youth apprenticeship combines school and technical instruction with mentored, paid, on-the-job learning. Students can enroll in college classes to meet high school graduation requirements. Youth apprenticeship students take a class and work for a participating employer under the supervision of a skilled mentor.

DUAL CREDIT

Dual credit provides opportunities for high school students to take college-level coursework while in high school to get a head start. Students earn college credits (at no cost to them) while continuing to fulfill high school graduation requirements.

ADVANCED STANDING AND TRANSCRIPTED CREDIT

These options align high school coursework to college-level coursework, or provide college-level coursework in high school.

START COLLEGE NOW (FORMERLY YOUTH OPTIONS)

With school board approval, high school juniors and seniors may take courses at a technical college that are not offered in high school.

EARN COLLEGE CREDITS IN HIGH SCHOOL
WISTECHCOLLEGES.ORG/PREPARE



KNOW ALL THE OPTIONS

Research all the options to get the most rewards

Many adults settle for a low-skill job or no job at all because their education may not match the skills employers need. Meanwhile, good-paying jobs and apprenticeships requiring a two-year degree and/or technical skills sit vacant. This changing job market allows a lot of flexibility and promotion for people with the right skills.

With over 500 career programs to choose from, technical college students can receive an associate degree or another degree such as a one- or two-year technical diploma, short-term diploma/certificate or an apprenticeship with an employer sponsorship.

CERTIFICATE (typically six months or less)

- » Entry-level credential for quick employment gains

TECHNICAL DIPLOMA (one- to two-year programs)

- » Real-world programs created with employer input
- » Typically one to two years to complete full time

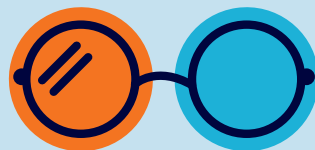
ASSOCIATE DEGREE (two-year programs)

- » Academic degree with a focus on hard and soft skills
- » Typically two years to complete full time
- » May build on earlier credentials (certificates, degrees and diplomas)

APPRENTICESHIP (journey worker or a skilled, registered trades person)

- » Employers pay for supervised, structured on-the-job training and classroom learning
- » Prepares skilled tradespeople to enter the workforce (with a median salary of \$77,753/year six months after completion)
- » Visit wistechcolleges.org/apprenticeship for more information

IF YOU ONLY READ THIS!



Please consider these important but sometimes overlooked facts about technical college experience and student life

- » Several of Wisconsin's technical colleges offer dorms for students who want to live on campus.
- » Athletics are available through either intra- or extramural teams or through the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) at many Wisconsin technical colleges.
- » Contrary to popular belief, many technical college programs are eligible for financial aid.
- » There are many ways for technical college students to be active around campus through professional groups and clubs, honor societies or student government. These activities are a great way to connect with fellow students, develop leadership and other skills employers want.
- » Apprenticeships provide opportunities for students in the trades (as well as in other areas), that employers sponsor. Students get paid for time spent in class and on-the-job training.
- » Technical colleges offer technology and services available to students, including cafeterias, student lounges, daycare centers, job placement centers and library resources to name a few.
- » 98% of Wisconsin's employers surveyed said a technical college was important to the overall success of their business.

TRANSFER OPTIONS

If your child's goal is to earn a bachelor's degree or higher, they can begin their education journey at a technical college and spend less overall

Students can start with a short-term or two-year program and end with a bachelor's degree or more. Students in a four-year university or college can also transfer to one of Wisconsin's technical colleges.

IN

TRANSFER CREDITS TO A TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Students who previously attended another postsecondary institution may be able to transfer credits or receive credit for skills and knowledge earned.

OUT

WAYS TO TRANSFER TO A UNIVERSITY

PROGRAM-TO-PROGRAM TRANSFER AGREEMENTS

All 16 technical colleges have program-specific transfer agreements with four-year private colleges and universities and the University of Wisconsin System.

UNIVERSAL CREDIT TRANSFER AGREEMENT

Allows for roughly a year's worth of general credits taken at our technical colleges to seamlessly apply toward a bachelor's degree.

LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE TRANSFER PROGRAM

Five of Wisconsin's 16 technical colleges have Liberal Arts Transfer programs, providing the first two years of a bachelor's degree transferable to many four-year universities:

Chippewa Valley Technical College, Madison College, Milwaukee Area Technical College, Nicolet College, Western Technical College.



40%

of students

TRANSFERRING CREDITS TO

WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGES

were from the

UNIVERSITY OF

WISCONSIN

SYSTEM

Source: WTCS Credit Transfer Report 2016-17, released Sept. 2018

LEARN ABOUT TRANSFER OPTIONS

WISTECHCOLLEGES.ORG/TRANSFER



WHAT'S NEXT?

It's never too early to think about future careers and the steps needed to get there

It's important for your child to consider how decisions they make about courses they take, extra-curricular activities and time spent could impact their future. As parents, you can help guide the discussion. The following time line might also be helpful to guide your child through some important activities along their path. If your child is already past all these points, don't fret! Wisconsin's technical colleges can walk you both through the next steps of evaluating college options. Even without advanced preparation, attending a technical college is one of the best ways to get a high quality, in-demand and fulfilling education and come out ahead financially.

MIDDLE SCHOOL/ONGOING

- » Take this online career interest questionnaire to help identify skills, strengths and interests: wistechcolleges.org/careers
- » Think about your future career with your Academic & Career Plan (ACP) and visit these sites to learn more about different careers:

MY NEXT MOVE mynextmove.org

CAREER PATHWAYS wicareerpathways.org

BIG FUTURE bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers

EXPLORE CAREERS – CAREER ONE STOP careeronestop.org/explorecareers

CAREER QUESTIONNAIRE wistechcolleges.org/careers

FRESHMAN YEAR

- » Try some extracurricular activities and see what interests you
- » Discuss college and career interests with school counselors; ask about taking college courses while in high school
- » Talk to people about their jobs – What do they do? What do they like about their job? What other careers did they consider?
- » Learn and practice good study habits to carry on to college. Figure out how you learn best so you can maximize your effort
- » Choose courses matching your interests and abilities and that relate to potential careers
- » Observe jobs around you; especially new or unusual jobs to help narrow your options

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- » Discuss college with your parents. Talk about your interests and the opportunities ahead of you
- » Begin talking about how you might pay for college and what scholarships, grants and loans might be available
- » Get active in clubs and other volunteer activities — you can list them on your college application
- » Meet with your school counselor to discuss dual credit options
- » Connect with people in various fields of interest for interviewing or job shadowing
- » Make a list of what you would look for in a college (e.g. programs, class size, cost)



JUNIOR YEAR

- » Are you interested in health care, IT, education, manufacturing, public safety? Learn what college majors fall under each cluster/industry (view the career options on the next few pages to give you an idea of some possibilities)
- » Apply for high school/college credit programs in fall; Youth Apprenticeships provide job skills and college credit
- » Start planning for admissions testing including the ACT, SAT tests
- » Visit collegegoalwi.org, then attend a College Goal Wisconsin event in fall for assistance completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- » Pursue summer jobs, internships or job shadows
- » Start to narrow your list of college choices
- » Schedule campus visits; try to visit a variety of colleges so you know how they vary
- » Note application and scholarship deadlines on a calendar to help stay on track

SENIOR YEAR

- » Talk to people about their careers and see if you can job shadow or volunteer with peers, family and business owners
- » Plan to take the college admissions tests that your potential colleges accept
- » Apply to college in fall if you haven't already
- » Apply for scholarships
- » Visit the FAFSA website, fafsa.gov to find out what you need to complete the form



DO WHAT YOU LOVE

Love what you do!

As you and your child explore education options, be aware there are many different careers available in a wide range of fields (and transfer opportunities too!).

The following pages depict just a few examples of careers among the many professions. A technical college degree in one of these areas will help prepare your child for the future. He or she will learn the skills needed for in-demand careers in this ever-changing economy and the confidence to pursue a career they love.

\$77,753

ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY

APPRENTICESHIP



THE MEDIAN
ANNUAL
SALARY ONE
YEAR AFTER
COMPLETION
IS \$77,753.

Source: WTCS Apprenticeship
Completion Report 2016-17,
published January 2019

Learn a trade while
you earn your way.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » ARBORIST
- » COSMETOLOGY
- » ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION
- » HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR
- » INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- » MECHATRONICS
- » PLUMBING

Skills that we acquire through the apprenticeship program really help us build a better foundation so we are more valuable to employers and to the community.

— JESSICA C., MILESTONE PLUMBING INC.,
TECHNICAL COLLEGE STUDENT

AGRICULTURE, FOOD & NATURAL RESOURCES



AGRICULTURE MAKES UP 12% OF WISCONSIN'S EMPLOYMENT. THAT'S 413,500 JOBS!

Manage the food supply and cultivate land and resources.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » AGRIBUSINESS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
- » AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENT & MECHANIC
- » AGRONOMY/AGRONOMIST
- » ANIMAL SCIENCE, LIVESTOCK & DAIRY
- » FARM BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT
- » HORTICULTURE & LANDSCAPING

Source: Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, updated 2/16/18

ARCHITECTURE & CONSTRUCTION



Build and maintain residential and commercial space.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY
- » COMPUTER-AIDED DESIGN (CAD) TECHNICIAN
- » LINEWORKER
- » UTILITY CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICE
- » CONSTRUCTION WORKER

CONSTRUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BE ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING INDUSTRIES IN WISCONSIN BETWEEN 2014 AND 2024.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor

ARTS, AUDIOVISUAL TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATIONS



GRADUATES OF WEB & DIGITAL MEDIA DESIGN HAVE A MEDIAN SALARY OF \$43,300 SIX MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION.

Create compelling content and entertainment.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » DIGITAL MEDIA DESIGN
- » GAMING & ANIMATION
- » GRAPHIC DESIGN
- » INTERIOR DESIGN
- » PHOTOGRAPHY

Source: 2017 Graduate Outcomes Report

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION



Provide services to business and consumers.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
- » HUMAN RESOURCES
- » LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
- » OFFICE MANAGER

IN 2017, THERE WERE OVER 2,015 GRADUATES AMONG 42 PROGRAMS WITH- IN THIS CLUSTER, ALLOWING FOR MANY DIFFERENT CAREER OPTIONS.

Source: 2017 Graduate Outcomes Report

EDUCATION & TRAINING



THIS FIELD REQUIRES A DEDICATION TO PEOPLE AND A PASSION FOR HELPING THEM ACHIEVE GOALS, IMPROVE THEIR ABILITIES AND DO THEIR BEST.

Learn to teach others or learn more yourself.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
- » LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES
- » TEACHING ASSISTANT

FINANCE



Track income and expenses for client or business.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
- » BOOKKEEPING
- » FINANCIAL SERVICES
- » INVESTMENT RESEARCHER
- » TAX ACCOUNTANT

THIS CLUSTER IS BROAD AND CONTAINS MANY OPPORTUNITIES IN VARIED FIELDS.



HEALTH SCIENCES

Prevent and treat illness, improve quality of life.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » DENTAL HYGIENIST
- » DIETARY MANAGER
- » NURSING
- » PHARMACY TECHNICIAN
- » RADIOGRAPHY

JOB IN THE HEALTH FIELDS WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN DEMAND AS BABY BOOMERS AGE AND REQUIRE MORE CARE.



HOSPITALITY & TOURISM

Plan, host and entertain others expertly.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » BANQUET AND CATERING MANAGER
- » EVENT PLANNER
- » HOTEL MANAGER
- » PASTRY CHEF
- » RESTAURANT CHEF

THERE ARE MANY ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES AS WELL AS THE CHANCE TO WORK FOR SOME OF THE FINEST HOSPITALITY ORGANIZATIONS.



HUMAN SERVICES

Help others learn and live at their best.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » BARBER/COSMETOLOGIST
- » FUNERAL SERVICE DIRECTOR
- » SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER
- » SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELOR

A GOOD FIELD FOR PEOPLE WITH AN INTEREST IN HELPING OTHERS, WITH LOTS OF POTENTIAL FOR ENTREPRENEURS OR SELF-EMPLOYMENT.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Use programming to manage networks and data.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » BUSINESS ANALYST
- » COMPUTER SUPPORT TECHNICIAN
- » NETWORK SECURITY SPECIALIST
- » SOFTWARE DEVELOPER SPECIALIST
- » WEB & SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

THE MEDIAN STARTING SALARY FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE GRADUATES IN THE IT CLUSTER IS \$43,000 SIX MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION.

Source: 2017 Graduate Outcomes Report



LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY

Help maintain safety and order in our communities.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » FORENSIC SCIENCE
- » FIRE PROTECTION TECHNICIAN
- » EMT-PARAMEDIC
- » PARAMEDIC TECHNICIAN
- » LAW ENFORCEMENT

THE MEDIAN STARTING SALARY FOR PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS IS OVER \$41,000 SIX MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION.

Source: 2017 Graduate Outcomes Report



MANUFACTURING

Make, invent or assemble goods.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » AUTOMATED SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN
- » CNC OPERATOR
- » MACHINIST
- » SAFETY ENGINEER
- » WELDER

THE MEDIAN STARTING SALARY IN MANUFACTURING FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE HOLDERS IS NEARLY \$48,000 SIX MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION.

Source: 2017 Graduate Outcomes Report

MARKETING, SALES & SERVICE



MARKETING IS CURRENTLY ONE OF THE INDUSTRIES WITH THE MOST JOB OPENINGS IN WISCONSIN.

Source: Wisconsin TechConnect™

Promote goods, products and services to business and/or consumers.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » FASHION MARKETING
- » GRAPHIC & WEB DESIGN
- » MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
- » RETAIL MANAGEMENT
- » SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS (STEM)



ASSOCIATE DEGREE STUDENTS IN STEM PROGRAMS HAVE MEDIAN SALARIES OF \$44,457 SIX MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION.

Source: 2017 Graduate Outcomes Report

Use technology and innovation to keep systems running.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
- » ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
- » ELECTRONICS
- » ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION & LOGISTICS



THE TRUCK DRIVING PROGRAM IS USUALLY UNDER ONE-YEAR, BUT THE MEDIAN SALARY IS \$46,000 SIX MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION.

Manage the transfer of goods.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » AIRPLANE MECHANIC
- » AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC
- » SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGER
- » TRUCK DRIVER

Source: 2017 Graduate Outcomes Report

TRANSFER PROGRAMS



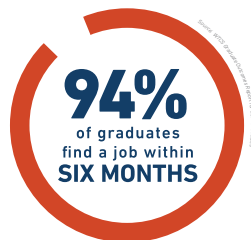
Many credits transfer into four-year degree programs. This is an affordable way to begin your four-year degree.

While students often transfer from a two-year college to a four-year college/university, many university students also transfer into a technical college. Check with an admissions representative to ensure your credits will transfer as expected.



To view real-world salary and employment data of our graduates, visit wistechcolleges.org/outcomes

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