

- **ADULT EDUCATION:** Adult education programs can prepare you to qualify for an entry level job, or help you advance in a job in terms of pay and/or position. Adult education classes are available at the Loma Vista Adult Center in Concord, and also through the Regional Occupation Program, which offers classes at high schools throughout the county.
- **APPRENTICESHIPS:** An apprenticeship is a more formal way of learning a skill or trade. Although you work with someone at a particular job, you must also attend class. Most programs are 3-4 years in length; however, some may be as short as 2 years while others last as long as 6 years. The number of apprentice openings is usually limited. Tests, personal interviews, and high school mathematics through trigonometry may be required.
- **COMMUNITY COLLEGES:** Two-year colleges offer a large number of programs including short-term vocational preparation (Certificate Programs), Associate of Art or Science degrees, and courses of study designed to facilitate transfer to a four-year college. Tuition is very reasonably priced. Community college students have priority transferring to University of California and California State University campuses at the Junior level.
- **DISTANCE LEARNING:** Distance learning includes high school and college level courses taught by correspondence, via cable television, and on the Internet. These are options for those who cannot or do not wish to attend formal classes. Supervised final examinations are generally required to receive credit. Visit the California Virtual Campus at: www.cvc.edu
- **FOUR YEAR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES:** Majors offered by four-year colleges and universities offer a wide variety of job preparation possibilities. More than 100 areas of study may be offered. Some of these areas of study will prepare students for specific occupations, while others emphasize research and preparation for advanced study. University of California campuses focus on research and preparation for graduate and professional school. California State University campuses focus on preparing students for employment after graduation, although many choose to attend graduate school.
- **GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL:** Some occupations require more than 4 years of full-time enrollment. Admission to graduate school requires completion of the Bachelor's degree; some professional schools, such as pharmacy and optometry, admit students who have completed 2 or 3 years of undergraduate study.
- **MILITARY TRAINING:** Branches of the military offer training in almost 1,500 civilian-related jobs. Classroom study is generally required along with on-the-job-training. Taking the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery will help you to determine which training programs you may qualify for. Most branches of the military now provide opportunities for enlisted personnel to earn credit towards a college degree while they serve. The Air Force has its own community college.
- **ON-THE JOB TRAINING:** This is an informal type of training. Someone who knows the job well will teach you while you observe and assist that person in performing it. High school graduation may or may not be required, but is always desirable. On-the-job training allows you to earn while you learn.
- **VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS:** These include privately-owned business, trade, and technical schools which may be in business to make a profit. The programs offered generally last no more than two years, and allow an individual to obtain highly specialized training. Tuition is generally high, but most provide an externship and good job placement services. Check out the credentials of the school before applying, and read the fine print in the contract carefully!
- **SPECIALIZED SCHOOLS:** These institutions offer specialized training similar to Vocational Schools, but are usually non-profit. Many award two and/or four-year degrees, and tuition is generally high. These schools are a good choice for students who have very clear career goals. Find out which organization(s) provide accreditation, and seek financial aid.

POST HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING WORK SHEET

As you make decisions about your plans after high school, check the appropriate boxes below.

MY POST HIGH SCHOOL PLANS INCLUDE:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Apprenticeship Program | <input type="checkbox"/> | Full-time Employment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Art School | <input type="checkbox"/> | Marriage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | California State University (CSU) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Military Academy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Community College Certificate Program | <input type="checkbox"/> | Military/National Guard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Community College Associate's Degree | <input type="checkbox"/> | Out-of-State College or University |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Community College Transfer Program | <input type="checkbox"/> | Private/Independent College or University |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Community Service
(Mission, AmeriCorps, City Year, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Technical/Trade/Specialized School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Distance Learning | <input type="checkbox"/> | University of California (UC) |

TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL I NEED TO:

- Discuss my plans with my family and ask for advice and assistance.
- Research college and/or career options and gather relevant information.
- Visit several colleges, trade, technical or specialized schools during the next year.
- Update my resume.
- Acquire application and interview skills.
- Job Shadow or seek an Internship in a field that interests me.
- Apply to colleges, plus financial aid and scholarships

MY FINANCIAL PLANS ARE TO:

- Determine what my family will pay towards my educational expenses.
- Apply for financial aid.
- Apply for scholarships.
- Work to earn money to help offset my educational expenses.
- Pay full cost of higher education, which may mean alternating terms of school and work (cooperative education), or part-time enrollment in school.

MY IMMEDIATE EDUCATIONAL GOAL IS TO OBTAIN THE FOLLOWING CREDENTIAL:

- A Certificate of Study - usually 1-2 years beyond high school.
- Associate of Arts Degree (A.A.) or Associate of Science (A.S.) - usually 2 years of full-time enrollment.
- Bachelor of Arts Degree (B.A.) or Bachelor of Science (B.S.) - usually 4 years of full-time enrollment.
- Master of Arts Degree (M.A.) or Master of Science (M.S.) - graduate work beyond Bachelor's degree.
- Doctoral Degree (PhD) or professional degree - usually 4 or more years beyond Master's degree.