



The STEM Academy at Showalter

"Unlocking Young Minds for the Future"

OPTIONS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

High school can sometimes feel like it will go on forever, but it won't. After school, you will have to make a choice about what you want to do with your life. There are a number of factors involved with this decision. You may have financial constraints; you may not be sure what you want to do; you may want a break from academics and the chance to explore something new. Let's take a closer look at some of your options following high school. Remember there is no right choice; the key is determining what is right for you.

Four-year colleges or universities

At four year schools you can earn a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BS) degree. You can attend a public or private institution. The cost of attending private colleges and universities is usually much higher than public colleges and universities. Although tuition may cost more, do not count private schools out as they tend to offer more financial aid and scholarship than public institutions. Both public and private schools offer a variety of majors and fields of studies. Depending on the college, you can study almost anything ranging from psychology to business to health or technical sciences. The admissions criteria varies for each school, and some are extremely competitive. College is a rewarding experience, but it is important to remember that being a college student requires a lot of self-discipline and personal responsibility.

Two-year colleges

At two year schools you can earn an associate's degrees, either an Associate of Arts (AA) or an Associate of Science (AS). There are public and private options and the admissions process is generally simpler than that of a four-year school. An Associate's degree is a minimum requirement for some jobs and can prepare you for a career in two years. After two years, many students decide to continue with their studies and transfer to a four year college to earn a bachelor's degree. Public community colleges usually do not provide housing in dormitories, but they are widely accessible and often the cheapest option. Private two-year colleges are similar to four-year colleges, but only award Associate's degrees.

Trade schools

Trade or vocational programs offer a direct path toward specific jobs. Students who do not enjoy traditional school may prefer the type of hands-on learning offered at trade schools. There are programs in a wide range of areas such as construction, electronics, web design, medical assistance, culinary and much more. In addition to providing practical experience, trade school can help students obtain licenses and certifications they will need to be successful in their chosen field. Many trade schools offer apprenticeships or internships that help students move into the workforce.

The military

The military is a good option for students seeking training, discipline and physical activity. The military offers excellent education and employment opportunities. Enlisting in the armed forces after high school makes you eligible for tuition assistance and GI Bill benefits, so you can get a degree for free. You get paid a salary while you serve, and you can pursue specialized training in a number of fields. The military can become a life-long career or a stepping stone to other civilian jobs. Military service looks great on a resume!

The minimal age for enlisting in the military is 17. However, there are also other requirements including a diploma or GED, physical requirements and placement tests. The United States Military's branches include the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, and the National Guard. To learn more about military options, contact your local recruiting office.

JOB CORPS

Job Corp is a no-cost career technical training and education program for low income young people ages 16 through 24. Job Corps staff works with each student to create individualized personal and career development plans that put and keep students on the track to success. The most successful students stay in the program between 1 and 2 years. Job Corps offers hands-on training in more than 100 career technical training areas, including Automotive Maintenance and Light Repair, Carpentry, Office Administration, and Welding. All career technical training areas are aligned with industry credentials and are designed to meet the requirements of today's careers. Job Corps also offers Advanced Training for students who want to take their education to the next level. Most students live on campus in dormitories. While enrolled in the program, students receive meals, basic medical care, and a living allowance. Job Corp has over 100 locations throughout the U.S. For more information, go to <https://www.jobcorps.gov/> or call (800) 733-JOBS.

Employment

If more schooling is not right for you, some teens go straight to work. Finding a job that pays well with a high school diploma can be tough. Consider volunteering or finding an internship while still in high school in order to build skills and gain experiences that will look good on your resume and make you a stronger job applicant.