

# ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER: TYPES OF COLLEGES

The term college includes technical colleges, 2-year community colleges, **vocational** or trade schools and 4-year colleges or universities. There is not one type of college that is perfect for everyone, so it is important to explore your options.

## WHERE SHOULD I GO FOR COLLEGE?

### Private 2-year College/ Vocational/ Trade Schools

Private 2-year, vocational or trade schools provide education for a specific career. Students that graduate from these schools can become a chef, massage therapist, or paralegal.

### Public and Private 4-year College/University

These schools offer bachelor's degrees, usually completed in 4 years of full-time study. Private schools typically charge a higher **tuition** but can offer a significant amount of **scholarships** to make attendance affordable. Students that graduate from these schools can become a robotics engineer, business analyst, or nutritionist.

Make sure to review ANY school's **accreditation** and job placement rates.

### Community and Technical Colleges (CTCs)

These schools offer **associate's degrees** and **certificates**, including for specific **trades**. Washington state has 34 public CTCs. Students that graduate from CTCs can enter many careers, such as nursing, automotive repair and cybersecurity.

Learn more about the programs they offer at [checkoutacollege.com](http://checkoutacollege.com)



Some CTCs now offer **bachelor's degrees**.

**OCT:** GRADE 11  
**NOV:** GRADE 9 and 10

40% of 4-year graduates in Washington started at a community college.

This chart shows common characteristics for each type of college in Washington state.

	Community and Technical Colleges	Public 4-year Colleges	Private 4-year Colleges
<b>Selectivity</b> All require an <b>application</b> . Moderate and highly selective colleges typically require applicants to submit essays, grades, test scores and other components.	Least selective	Moderate to highly selective	Moderate to highly selective
<b>Campus Size</b> number of undergraduate students	5,000-30,000	Over 10,000	Less than 5,000
<b>Tuition</b> Tuition per year for <b>full-time enrollment</b> (for local residents)	Low (around \$4,000)	Medium (\$7,000-\$11,000)	High (over \$30,000)
<b>Undergraduate Degrees Offered</b>	Certificates and associate's degrees (AA, AAS)	Bachelor degrees (BA or BS)	Bachelor degrees (BA or BS)