



TYPES OF POSTSECONDARY OPTIONS

Postsecondary is any education option after high school. Options may include two-year College, four-year College or university, independent private career schools, the military, or apprenticeships (on-the-job training).

CERTIFICATE OF GRADUATION

Community colleges are public institutions that offer programs that last two years. Community colleges are open to everyone with a high school diploma or GED and can be a stepping stone to a four-year degree. Tuition rates are usually the lowest among all types of colleges. In Maryland, there are 24 community colleges. These colleges usually do not offer the option to live on campus.

Private institution, sometimes called a **career or technical college** offers undergraduate and/or graduate programs of various lengths. Many have specialized programs such as culinary or cosmetology schools, while other schools may have programs completely online (also known as distance learning). These schools are for-profit businesses, meaning they are expected to make money for their owners or shareholders. Therefore, tuition rates are usually higher than other types of colleges.

Degrees: may offer Certificate, License, Associate, Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral or Professional

Public colleges or universities offer four-year programs. In Maryland, the basic entrance requirements include a high school diploma or GED (*contact the school directly for specific admission requirements*). Public universities offer in-state tuition, which means tuition rates are lower for students who are residents of the state where the college is located.

Joining the **Military** is a big decision. Think carefully and talk with family and/or a trusted adult as well as representatives from the Military as you consider your options.

Military Academies: Extremely elite and selective, students receive full four-year scholarships. Service after graduation is required.

ROTC: Train to be an officer while earning a Bachelor's degree with Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). Scholarships are available.

Enlistment: Requires a high school diploma or GED. Upon completion of service, veterans are eligible for money for college.

Private college or university offers four-year programs. Entrance requirements vary, with some colleges admitting the majority of applicants and others only a small percentage of highly qualified students (*contact the school directly for specific requirements*). Tuition rates are usually higher than public institutions, but they may be able to offer more generous financial aid packages.

Degrees: Bachelor's, may offer Postbaccalaureate Certificate, Master's, Doctoral or Professional

Apprenticeships: Paid, on-the-job training and classroom instruction for learning a specific set of skills allowing employees to "earn and learn." In Maryland, apprenticeships connect to a variety of career offerings from construction, manufacturing, and electrical to information technology and other STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) areas. The education requirements vary depending on the career field.