

# Overview of Options After High School

*There are many options possible after a student has completed their high school education. A brief summary of some of those options are shown below.*

- Apprentice Program

Many trades have training programs that can help a student master the skills necessary to begin a career as a professional tradesman.

The state of California maintains a web-site with more information about apprenticeships.

<http://www.dir.ca.gov/databases/das/descOfAppr.html#Qualifications>

“In many skilled occupations, persons with a high school diploma or its equivalent are preferred. Prospective skilled workers usually like to work with their hands and to use various tools to build and repair things. They like to finish things once they have started and don't care how dirty or greasy the job, so long as they get it done. They enjoy visits to shops and factories and like to talk to mechanics about the jobs they do and the problems they meet in their work. In school, they get along well in shop, science, mathematics and mechanical drawing classes, and enjoy working on practical problems in the classroom and at home.”

- Gap Year

This is a concept which is becoming more common in the United States. It is a period, typically an academic year, taken by a student as a break between secondary school and higher education. Frequently the student gains work experience, travels, completes a religious mission or other detailed activity.

Some examples of programs that might work during a gap year include:

AFS Intercultural Programs

[www.afs.org](http://www.afs.org)

Americorps

[www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org)

American Friends Service Committee

[www.quakerinfo.org/service](http://www.quakerinfo.org/service)

Global Service Corps

[www.globalservicecorps.org](http://www.globalservicecorps.org)

Habitat for Humanity

[www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org)

Outward Bound

[www.outwardbound.org](http://www.outwardbound.org)

Where There Be Dragons

[www.wheretherebedragons.com](http://www.wheretherebedragons.com)

National Outdoor Leadership School

[www.nols.edu](http://www.nols.edu)

- Employment

Some students and families may need/want to begin employment (or expand current employment) immediately after completing high school. There are a wide range of options and a corresponding wide range of employment. In general, large national or international corporations prefer an accredited high school diploma or a GED for entry employment. Many, especially those outside of California, do not recognize the CHSPE.

- Military

In general the U.S. military does not accept the CHSPE exam as evidence of high school completion; however, policy varies depending on the branch of the armed forces applied to and the position. In general the U.S. military is more accepting of the GED exam as evidence of high school completion; however, policy varies depending on the branch of armed forces applied to and the position.

Typically, 15-30 college units allows an applicant to be treated the same as a traditional high school graduate

- Community College

There are over 100 Community Colleges in California as well as Community Colleges located outside of California. California Community Colleges must accept all students who apply for admission. In general, Placement Tests are required before a student can enroll in English or math courses. Other courses may also require Placement Tests or have some type of pre-requisite.

You can find more information about Community Colleges in the "College and University Information" handout.

- University

In California, universities can be put into three broad categories; California State Universities (CSUs), University of California (UCs) and Private Institutions. There are also numerous universities located outside of California. Each category has its own admission requirements and procedures. In fact often within each category, individual universities (or sometimes even individual majors) have specific admission requirements and procedures. It should be noted that many CSUs and UCs only admit freshmen (12 or less college units) or qualified transfer juniors (at least 60 specific units).

- Zero Tuition College

An online community linking students and mentors to create a free college for self-directed learners. More information can be found at [www.ztcollege.com](http://www.ztcollege.com)