WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

CareerEdge
Funders Collaborative

Choose Your College Path to a Good Career

Well-paying jobs with opportunity for growth require education or training past high school. Getting industry-recognized credentials for jobs that are available now is easier and less expensive than you might think.

All of these pathways, including technical certifications, are considered forms of college and can lead to career laddering jobs with good wages.

Technical Certifications

Offered at Technical Colleges
Usually 2 to 18-month programs

Apprenticeships offer free training with a paid job that leads to a certification

A.S. (Associate of Science) Degrees

Offered at Community Colleges
2-year programs, focused on a specific career path

Bachelor's Degrees and Beyond

Offered at Colleges and Universities
4 years and beyond for more advanced programs

Local Employers Are Looking for Trained Workers

This guide was developed by CareerEdge Funders Collaborative to provide students, parents, guidance counselors or mentors with information about high demand jobs in our region* and the educational pathways for obtaining those jobs.

The intent of the guide is to provide students with quality career options, while also helping local employers increase their pipeline of skilled workers in order to foster growth and prosperity in our region.
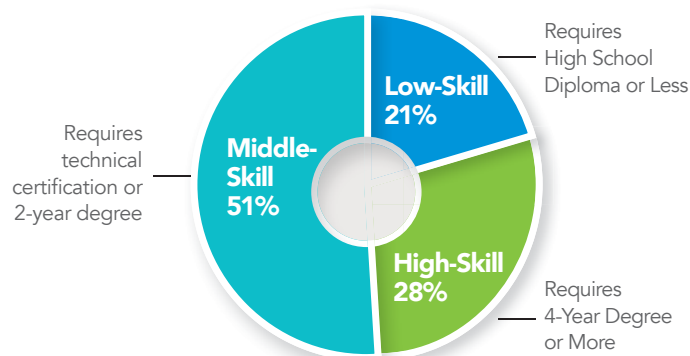
Skills Needed for In Demand Jobs

The majority of jobs in the future will require some education after high school, but most won't require a four-year college degree. **According to the National Skills Coalition, more than half of Florida jobs will require a technical certificate or 2-year degree.**

These middle-skill jobs, which require education beyond high school but not a four-year degree, make up the largest part of America's and Florida's labor markets. Key industries in Florida are unable to find enough sufficiently trained workers to fill these positions.

Florida Job Openings by Skill Level 2013-2021

Low-Skill 21% — Requires High School Diploma or Less

Middle-Skill 51% — Requires technical certification or 2-year degree

High-Skill 28% — Requires 4-Year Degree or More

Source: National Skills Coalition analysis of long-term occupational projections from state labor/employment agency.

*The job examples on the following pages were chosen based on the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's (DEO) Supply/ Gap report for the Southwest Florida region, accessed January 2017, which shows jobs in highest demand and their average wages that have been rounded.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

In Demand
Technical Certifications for Middle-Skill Jobs
Technical College, 2 – 18 months

Web or App Developer
Average Wage: $27/hr
$55,000/yr.

Executive Assistant
Average Wage: $21/hr.
$44,000/yr.

Practical Nurse (LPN)
Average Wage: $21/hr.
$43,000/yr.

Automotive Service Technician
Average Wage: $19/hr.
$40,000/yr.

Dental Assistant
Average Wage: $18/hr.
$38,000/yr.

Machinist
Average Wage: $18/hr.
$37,000/yr.

CDL Truck Driver
Average Wage: $18/hr.
$37,000/yr.

Accounting / Bookkeeping Clerk
Average Wage: $16/hr.
$33,000/yr.

Medical Assistant (CMA)
Average Wage: $15/hr.
$31,000/yr.

Pharmacy Technician
Average Wage: $15/hr.
$31,000/yr.

Nursing Assistant (CNA)
Average Wage: $13/hr.
$27,000/yr.

In Demand
Apprenticeships for Middle-Skill Jobs
A paid job along with free technical college leading to a certification

Heating Air Conditioning Mechanic
Average Wage: $20/hr.
$42,000/yr.

Electrician
Average Wage: $20/hr.
$41,000/yr.

Plumber
Average Wage: $19/hr.
$40,000/yr.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

In Demand
Associate of Science (A.S.) Degrees for Middle-Skill Jobs
Community College, 2 years

Registered Nurse (RN)
Average Wage: $30/hr.
$63,000/yr.

Software Developer
Average Wage: $29/hr.
$61,000/yr.

Computer Systems Administrator
Average Wage: $28/hr.
$58,000/yr.

Insurance Agent/Risk Management
Average Wage: $28/hr.
$58,000/yr.

Physical Therapy Assistant
Average Wage: $27/hr.
$55,000/yr.

Business Administrator/Supervisor
Average Wage: $22/hr.
$46,000/yr.

What's the difference between A.S. (Associate of Science) and A.A. (Associate of Arts) degrees?

An A.S. degree is a career-oriented degree focused on a specific occupation.

Alternatively, the 2-Year A.A. (Associate of Arts) degrees at community colleges provide the foundation for transferring to a 4-year institution with the required general education classes for a bachelor's degree program.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

In Demand
Bachelor's Degrees for High-Skill Jobs
College or University, 4 years

Engineer
Average Wage: $40/hr.
$82,000/yr.

Business Administrator
Average Wage: $35/hr.
$72,000/yr.

Computer System Analyst
Average Wage: $34/hr.
$70,000/yr.

Registered Nurse (BSN)
Average Wage: $32/hr.
$67,000/yr.

Accountant
Average Wage: $29/hr.
$61,000/yr.

Marketing Manager
Average Wage: $27/hr.
$57,000/yr.

Teacher
Average Wage: $27/hr.
$56,000/yr.

Financial Planner
Average Wage: $25/hr.
$51,000/yr.

In Demand
Advanced Degrees for High-Skill Jobs
Bachelor's and Beyond
College or University, more than 4 years

Physician Assistant
Average Wage: $54/hr.
$112,000/yr.

Physical Therapist
Average Wage: $43/hr.
$90,000/yr.

Occupational Therapist
Average Wage: $39/hr.
$82,000/yr.

Your Next Steps:

Find the Educational Path That's Right for You:

Florida Shines https://www.floridashines.org/
Provides college planning tools and information about educational programs available in the state.

Career One Stop https://www.careeronestop.org/
Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, this site offers career exploration tools like skills and interest assessments, as well as salary and job demand information.

Mapping Your Future http://mappingyourfuture.org/guidetolife/
Has printable Guides to Life After High School for every grade of high school, providing planning recommendations for each year.

College Can be Affordable:

Federal Funding – All students should complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at https://fafsa.ed.gov/. The office of Federal Student Aid provides Pell Grants (which don't have to be paid back), loans, and work-study funds. The average annual Pell Grant award in 2016 was about $3700, with a maximum of about $5700.

State Funding – Students should also complete the Florida Financial Aid Application at https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/ua/sawstua_uaform.asp in order to apply for state-funded scholarships and grants, such as the Bright Futures merit-based scholarship and the needs-based Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG).

College-Based Aid – Most higher education institutions have scholarships and needs-based grants available as well. Check with the financial aid office at the school(s).

Private Aid – Many foundations nationally and locally offer college scholarships, including funding for technical programs. Your local Education Foundation or high school guidance counselor can provide links to these.

This guide was produced by

Career*Edge*
Funders Collaborative

(941) 955-8187

Visit our website for
details about CareerEdge
programs and services:
careeredgefunders.org
You can also contact us via email:
careeredgeinfo@sarasotachamber.com

CareerEdge
@careeredgefund
@careeredgefunders

In partnership with

United Way
United Way Suncoast

GULF COAST
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION