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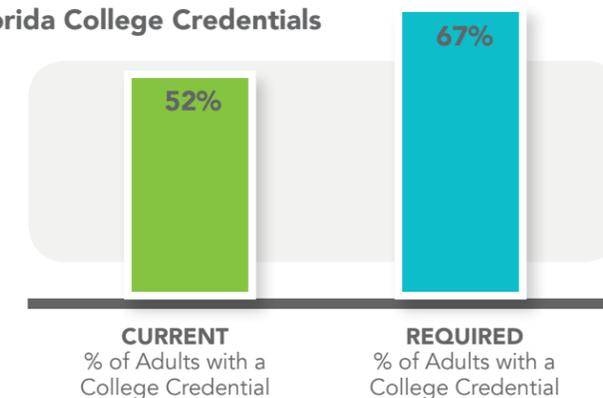
The intent of the guide is to provide students with quality career options, while also helping local employers increase their pipeline of skilled workers in order to foster growth and prosperity in our region.

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 Florida College Access Network (floridacollegeaccess.org), 2 of every 3 new jobs created in Florida by 2025 will require education or training beyond high school.**

These careers requiring credentials make up the largest and fastest growing category of jobs in Florida.

Florida College Credentials

52%

67%

CURRENT
% of Adults with a
College Credential

REQUIRED
% of Adults with a
College Credential

Key industries in Florida will be unable to find sufficiently trained workers to fill these positions if not enough people earn a credential in the high-demand fields listed in the following pages.

*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 2021, which shows jobs in highest demand and their average wages that have been rounded.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

In-Demand Technical Certifications
Technical College, 2 – 18 months

Web or App Developer
Average Wage: $30/hr
$62,000/yr.

Practical Nurse (LPN)
Average Wage: $23/hr.
$48,000/yr.

Computer Support Specialist
Average Wage: $23/hr.
$48,000/yr.

Real Estate Agent
Average Wage: $22/hr.
$46,000/yr.

Plumber
Average Wage: $22/hr.
$46,000/yr.

Heating Air Conditioning Mechanic
Average Wage: $21/hr.
$43,000/yr.

Electrician
Average Wage: $21/hr.
$43,000/yr.

Automotive Service Technician
Average Wage: $20/hr.
$42,000/yr.

Machinist
Average Wage: $20/hr.
$42,000/yr.

Carpenter
Average Wage: $20/hr.
$42,000/yr.

CDL Truck Driver
Average Wage: $19/hr.
$40,000/yr.

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

Medical Assistant (CMA)
Average Wage: $17/hr.
$35,000/yr.

Phlebotomist
Average Wage: $16/hr.
$33,000/yr.

Nursing Assistant (CNA)
Average Wage: $14/hr.
$25,000/yr.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Software Developer
Average Wage: $46/hr.
$96,000/yr.

Registered Nurse (RN)
Average Wage: $33/hr.
$69,000/yr.

Medical Sonographer
Average Wage: $33/hr.
$69,000/yr.

Occupational Therapy Assistant
Average Wage: $31/hr.
$64,000/yr.

Physical Therapy Assistant
Average Wage: $30/hr.
$62,000/yr.

Respiratory Therapist
Average Wage: $29/hr.
$60,000/yr.

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

Insurance Sales Agent
Average Wage: $26/hr.
$54,000/yr.

Business Administrator/ Supervisor
Average Wage: $25/hr.
$52,000/yr.

Veterinary Technician
Average Wage: $18/hr.
$37,000/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
College or University, 4 years

Financial Manager
Average Wage: $52/hr.
$108,000/yr.

Registered Nurse (BSN)
Average Wage: $36/hr.
$75,000/yr.

Accountant
Average Wage: $32/hr.
$67,000/yr.

Management Analyst
Average Wage: $32/hr.
$67,000/yr.

Marketing Specialist
Average Wage: $28/hr.
$58,000/yr.

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

Health Educator
Average Wage: $24/hr.
$50,000/yr.

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

Physician Assistant
Average Wage: $53/hr.
$110,000/yr.

Nurse Practitioner
Average Wage: $49/hr.
$102,000/yr.

Occupational Therapist
Average Wage: $44/hr.
$91,000/yr.

Physical Therapist
Average Wage: $41/hr.
$85,000/yr.

Your Next Steps:

Find the Educational Path That's Right for You:

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.

Education Foundation of Sarasota County
www.EdFoundationSRQ.org/students Learn about scholarships, financial aid, college and career planning, finding a mentor, and resources like *LaunchPad4U* where students and their families can meet with a College Career Advisor virtually or in-person.

Manatee Education Foundation
https://mefinfo.org/students-families/ Provides *The Scholarship Source*, a directory of scholarships offered by local service clubs, foundations, schools, businesses, and organizations.

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.

State Funding – Students should also complete the Florida Financial Aid Application at http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ 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.

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