

Landscape maintenance
and design:
\$40,763/YEAR



Computer programming:
\$60,863/YEAR



Electrical systems and
power transmission:
\$137,526/YEAR



Registered nurse:
\$80,880/YEAR



YOU CAN DO THAT!



WITH CAREER EDUCATION
AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES

THE KEY TO TODAY'S JOBS: EDUCATION

Community colleges have faster (and less expensive) pathways to get the career of your dreams

BY GAIL ALLYN SHORT

In the past, a high school graduate could land a job or apprenticeship without a college degree and earn enough money to eventually buy their own home and support a family.

Times have changed. Today, employers are increasingly hiring college graduates for jobs once performed by workers with only a high school diploma. In fact, a 2014 study by the Pew Research Center found that millennials who are college graduates are more likely to get hired than those who have less education.

But while companies today are employing a more educated workforce, college is often pricey. The College Board reports that yearly tuition and fees at private, four-year colleges in the United States cost about \$32,410 before grants and financial aid. Public universities are about \$9,410 for in-state students — cheaper, but still out of reach for many people struggling to make ends meet.

Besides the cost, earning a college undergraduate degree usually takes four years. Moreover, a college degree does not guarantee employment if the career field has more qualified workers than there are jobs available.

That's why a growing number of students fresh out of high school and workers wanting to switch careers or upgrade their skills are bypassing traditional four-year universities for local, two-year community colleges. At community colleges, students can obtain the education needed to qualify for well-paying, hard-to-fill "middle skill" jobs, which require more education than a high school diploma, but less than a four-year degree.

California community colleges offer practical courses taught by industry experts in a wide range of professional, middle-skill fields such as computer networking, advanced automotive technology and nursing. In fact, 70 percent of nurses get their education at community colleges, according to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

For many of these middle-skills fields, earning an associate degree or certification takes two years or

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less, and having an associate degree or certification in a particular job sector can significantly increase a community college graduate's earning potential. For example, California Community Colleges' Salary Surfer data shows that 48 percent of graduates with associate degrees earned \$56,000 or more annually five years after getting their degree.

Community college graduates who earn their associate degree can transfer their credits to a four-year university if they wish to earn a bachelor's degree. Transfer students from community colleges make up about 48 percent of the University of California's bachelor's degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, according to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

Besides putting new and re-entry students on the fast-track to a well-paying professional career, community colleges are more affordable and flexible than four-year schools, offering low per-unit fees, evening classes and fewer requirements for admission.

With a community college education, students today can reach the career of their dreams.



WHY COMMUNITY COLLEGE?



Pathway to in-demand jobs – Community college programs are matched to jobs that employers need to fill in your area.



Affordability – The California State University system reports the average annual tuition for full-time, undergraduate students is \$5,742, but full-time community college students taking 12 units pay \$1,104 annually (based on \$46 per unit).



Convenience – Community colleges offer more evening classes so students who work in the day can go to school at night.



Fast – It takes about four years to earn a bachelor's degree, but you can earn an associate degree or a specialized certification in two years or less.



Increased Earning Power – People with an associate degree make an average of \$1.6 million over their lifetime, \$400,000 more than those with only a high school diploma.

SOURCE: Community College League of California

On the cover: Salaries shown vary depending on certification or degree achieved. All are median annual salary five years after graduation. (Source: SalarySurfer.cccco.edu)

“COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS SUPER AFFORDABLE. IT WAS A NO-BRAINER TO GO THERE.”

Trent Lewis
Licensed smog inspector



Trent Lewis, 19, became a smog check inspector by taking automotive courses at Lassen Community College. He's working at this well-paying job while earning credits at community college. He plans to transfer to Chico State to earn a four-year degree.
PHOTO BY NAOMI CROSBY

After passing his smog licensing exam, a well-paying job found Trent

BY GAIL ALLYN SHORT

In California, periodic smog inspections are required for most older vehicles — and that's meant good jobs for people like Trent Lewis.

At only 19 years old — he turns 20 this spring — he is already a licensed smog check inspector.

“I've been into cars my whole life,” says Lewis, noting his father once owned a car shop.

Because of Lewis' interest in cars, he says he began taking automotive classes at Lassen Community College in his hometown of Susanville not long after he entered high school.

Most community colleges offer automotive technology programs. Lassen Community College has a smog check training course that aims to give students the skills needed to pass California's smog check inspectors licensing exam. Certified smog check inspectors conduct emissions testing to determine if vehicles meet state requirements to stay on the road. Students who earn automotive technology certificates typically earn \$32,601 a year.

Lewis attended high school during the day and took automotive technology classes at Lassen Community College at night. He and his fellow auto tech students learned about state regulations, and how to perform visual and emission test procedures, among other skills.

In 2016, his senior year of high school, Lewis passed the exam and became a licensed smog check examiner for the state of California. The next year, once he became a full-time student at Lassen Community College, his certification course began paying off.

“A year after I got my smog license, an auto repair shop in Susanville contacted me,” he says. “They said, ‘We looked it up and saw you had a smog license. Would you be interested in a job?’”

Lewis accepted.

Now as a licensed smog inspector, Lewis says he is making a good income while still in college. He is currently at Lassen Community College studying for an associate degree in business.

Lewis says he plans to complete his basic classes at Lassen and then spend his last two years of college at a university in California. He wants to transfer his community college credits to Chico State University, where he plans to pursue studies in IT.

By spending two years in community college and only two years at a four-year institution, he will spend less money on tuition.

“Community college is super affordable,” he says. “It was a no-brainer to go there.”

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT: RADIANT SOLAR TECHNOLOGY

Radiant Solar Technology is a family-owned business based in Ukiah that designs and builds radiant and solar systems. With radiant heating systems, heat energy is emitted from a warm element, such as a floor, wall or overhead panel, and warms people and other objects in rooms rather than directly heating the air. Solar systems use photovoltaic cells to turn the sun's energy into electricity.

Owner Richard Silsbee says there is a great demand for hiring certified electricians. They look for candidates who are prompt, hard-working and willing to learn, as a lot of education takes place on the job.

Benefits include competitive pay based on experience, profit sharing and a monthly bonus after one year.

“The solar industry is always changing, and always interesting,” Silsbee says. “If you like being green and doing good things for the environment, this is a good business to be in.”





Emma Deal is a research and greenhouse assistant with an alfalfa company. Having an associate degree from Feather River College helped her get the job, which she does while continuing her education at UC Davis.

PHOTO BY MELISSA UROFF

A GREAT PLACE TO GROW

Environmental sciences courses have kept Emma where she wants to be — outside

BY GAIL ALLYN SHORT

Emma Deal says she has always loved the outdoors. Deal grew up on 12 acres in Rescue, a small community in El Dorado County. Growing up, she always had horses and goats, which led her to become a member of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) in high school.

So when a representative from Feather River College in Quincy came to her high school and told FFA students about the college's environmental studies program, Deal was intrigued.

Environmental science is a fast-growing field in the United States. In fact, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the job outlook for environmental scientists is expected to grow 11 percent by 2026 and 8 percent for wildlife biologists.

She applied to a couple of four-year universities, and they

accepted her applications, but after visiting Feather River's campus Deal was hooked.

"What drew me there was that it was a small, mountain town and Feather River had really great, unique programs, and it was surrounded by a national forest," she says. "So it was perfect for me."

In 2013, Deal enrolled at Feather River College.

"The instruction at Feather River was phenomenal," she says. "My environmental and biology classes were really great because they were small classes. You got to know your instructors on a first-name basis, and they knew all of their students."

Besides the classwork, environmental studies instructors regularly took their students on field trips in the nearby forest to learn about the plants, trees, deer and other forms of wildlife, she says.

Deal also gained experience by completing several internships related to wildlife biology. In addition, those internships got her a job capturing bats and prairie dogs with the U.S. Forest Service in Douglas, Wyoming.

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Emma Deal
Research and greenhouse assistant

Deal graduated from Feather River College in May 2016 and enrolled in UC Davis to study in its wildlife, fish, and conservation biology program.

Today, besides attending classes, she works as a research and greenhouse assistant at an alfalfa company in Woodland. She says she hopes to one day have a career in wildlife biology for the U.S. Forest Service. Deal will graduate in May 2019.

But for now, Deal credits Feather River College for preparing her for the rigors of UC Davis' academic program. Looking back, it's just one of the many advantages of community college.

"At Feather River College, I got great hands-on experiences," she says. "There were small class sizes, so I had a lot of one-on-one time with my professors, and I saved a lot of money on tuition."

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT: ENLOE MEDICAL CENTER

Enloe Medical Center in Chico regularly hires for positions that require special certifications — and not just registered nurses. There's a need for physical therapy assistants, phlebotomists, surgical techs and EMT/paramedics, just to name a few.

Shannon Smith, Director of Recruiting at Enloe Medical Center, says they often hire qualified candidates

who have been through health care certification programs offered through local community colleges. The most in-demand positions are registered nurses and diagnostic techs, who take images of patients using X-ray, MRI and CT scans.

"Health care is such a great career option because it offers flexibility in scheduling, a lot of job opportunities,

and a high level of personal satisfaction," Smith says.

She adds that Enloe focuses on "caring for our caregivers" by offering a generous paid time off policy and rich medical benefit plan.



Miguel Garcia got an IT job “pretty quick” after finishing his associate degree in Computer Information Systems at College of the Redwoods. He later went on to start his own web-design business.
PHOTO BY SHAUN WALKER

“YOUR EXPERIENCE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT. YOU DON’T HAVE TO GO TO A FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE TO GET A GOOD EDUCATION.”

Miguel Garcia
Entrepreneur



GETTING TO THE NEXT PHASE

Miguel found a better job thanks to career education — and now he’s the boss

BY GAIL ALLYN SHORT

After several years working his way up the ladder in the restaurant industry, Miguel Garcia of Eureka felt it was time for a new direction. While he enjoyed being a manager, he says he wanted more.

“At a certain point, I needed to move on,” says Garcia. “The job was great, but I felt like I needed a degree that would take me to the next phase of my life.”

Years earlier, he had studied at an art institute with dreams of becoming a graphic designer. He says he soon became disillusioned with the curriculum and classes because some of the software applications used were already becoming outdated.

In 2010, he learned that a local community college in Eureka, College of the Redwoods, offered an associate degree in computer information systems. He decided to give it a try and enrolled.

“I chose College of the Redwoods because ... it would be more affordable,” says Garcia, “and it was closer to home.”

The Associate of Science degree in Computer Information Systems provides instruction in Cisco networking, cyber security, programming fundamentals, Microsoft and server

operating systems, database applications and object-oriented programming in Java. The degree even includes an introductory business course.

Garcia says his instructors were knowledgeable and taught students how to use the latest technologies in the field.

“They were professional and did a really good job,” says Garcia. “A lot of the teachers were very helpful.”

Garcia says he also liked the college’s flexible schedule, which allowed him to attend classes during the day so he could work at the restaurant at night. He graduated in 2013.

“Once I graduated, I was able to find a job pretty quick at an IT company,” says Garcia. “I liked it because it was the perfect mix where I could use my art and technical skills.”

Three years later in 2016, Garcia left that company and started his own web design business.

“Not everyone has the opportunity to get a four-year degree,” he says. “And, I’ve seen plenty of people who went to a four-year college, and they aren’t doing anything with their degree. Your experience is what you make it. You don’t have to go to a four-year college to get a good education.”

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT: O&M INDUSTRIES

O&M Industries is a locally-owned industrial, mechanical and structural contractor and fabricator headquartered in Arcata. The company hires certified welders, steel fabricators, crane operators, sheet metal workers and HVAC technicians. Chris Albright of O&M says it’s hard to find qualified applicants for these jobs.

“We are turning away a lot of work that we have already secured because we cannot find enough skilled workers,” he says. “This shortage is soon to increase as we have some of our skilled and experienced craftsman that will retire within the next 10 years.”

Based on current and future demand, he estimates he could hire a combination of 5-10 new fabricators and certified welders per year. Most of O&M’s workforce is trained on-the-job starting at entry-level pay, but Albright says employees can move up quickly, with more experienced craftsmen earning more than \$30 an hour.

“The company focuses on treating people right while maintaining a can-do attitude, with safety and quality,” he says.

“Many of our employees have worked their entire career at O&M.”



WHAT IS CAREER EDUCATION?

CAREER EDUCATION GIVES YOU THE HANDS-ON TRAINING NEEDED TO EARN A CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE, WHICH OPENS THE DOOR TO A REWARDING CAREER WITH GREAT PAY.

Find out if your local community college offers programs to help you get the jobs listed below — which don't require a four-year degree!

Actors
Agricultural and Food Science Technicians
Air Traffic Controllers
Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians
Architectural and Civil Drafters
Audio and Video Equipment Technicians
Avionics Technicians
Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians
Chemical Technicians
Civil Engineering Technicians
Commercial Divers
Computer Network Support Specialists
Computer User Support Specialists
Computer, Automated Teller, and Office Machine Repairers
Cooks, Private Household
Court Reporters
Dental Assistants
Dental Hygienists
Desktop Publishers
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers
Dietetic Technicians
Drafters
Electric Motor, Power Tool, and Related Repairers
Electrical and Electronics Drafters
Electrical and Electronics Engineering Technicians
Electrical and Electronics Installers and Repairers, Transportation Equipment

Electrical and Electronics Repairers, Commercial and Industrial Equipment
Electrical and Electronics Repairers, Powerhouse, Substation and Relay
Electro-Mechanical Technicians
Electronic Equipment Installers and Repairers, Motor Vehicles
Embalmers
Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics
Engineering Technicians, Except Drafters, All Other
Environmental Engineering Technician
Environmental Science and Protection Technicians, Including Health
Firefighters
First-Line Supervisors of Fire Fighting and Prevention Workers
Forest and Conservation Technicians
Funeral Service Managers
Geological and Petroleum Technicians
Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists
Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
Industrial Engineering Technicians
Insurance Appraisers, Auto Damage
Library Technicians
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
Life, Physical, and Social Science Technicians, All Other
Makeup Artists, Theatrical and Performance
Manicurists and Pedicurists
Massage Therapists
Mechanical Drafters
Mechanical Engineering Technicians

Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians
Medical Assistants
Medical Equipment Repairers
Medical Records and Health Information Technicians
Medical Transcriptionists
Morticians, Undertakers, and Funeral Directors
Nuclear Medicine Technologists
Nursing Assistants
Occupational Therapy Assistants
Ophthalmic Medical Technicians
Paralegals and Legal Assistants
Phlebotomists
Physical Therapist Assistants
Prepress Technicians and Workers
Preschool Teachers
Psychiatric Technicians
Radiation Therapists
Radiologic Technologists
Registered Nurses
Respiratory Therapists
Respiratory Therapy Technicians
Semiconductor Processors
Skincare Specialists
Social Science Research Assistants
Sound Engineering Technicians
Surgical Technologists
Teacher Assistants
Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers
Veterinary Technologists and Technicians
Web Developers

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



AVIONICS TECHNICIAN:

Maintain the electrical systems on aircraft, from navigation systems to in-flight movies.



COURT REPORTER:

Love legal TV shows? You can transcribe everything said in a courtroom!



ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS REPAIRER, POWERHOUSE, SUBSTATION AND RELAY:

Help keep the lights on — for everyone in your community.



FOREST AND CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN:

Like long hikes? Get paid to do it!



MECHANICAL DRAFTER:

Create diagrams for how mechanical devices will work.



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT:

Be a part of someone's recovery journey — help patients feed themselves and walk again.



SEMICONDUCTOR PROCESSOR:

Help make the cool electronic gadgets we all depend on!



SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST:

Be in the operating room (but never have to hold the scalpel).



READY TO GET STARTED ON YOUR FUTURE?

A few things to get you going

How should I choose my career?

Your career should match your natural skills/interests with jobs currently available in your area. It starts with knowing yourself. What activities do you enjoy? Do you love working outside? Or would you rather work in front of a computer? You can explore careers at CaliforniaCareerEducation.org and use the SalarySurfer tool at SalarySurfer.cccco.edu to see salary information for those careers.

Career sectors that currently need more qualified applicants are:

- Advanced manufacturing and advanced technology
- Advanced transportation and logistics
- Agriculture, water and environmental technologies
- Business and entrepreneurship
- Energy, construction and utilities
- Global trade
- Health
- Information and communication technologies and digital media
- Life sciences and biotech
- Public safety and service
- Retail, hospitality and tourism

How do I find schools with the programs I need?

First, find community colleges near you by visiting CaliforniaCareerEducation.org and using the College Locator tool. (See the back page for a list of seven schools in Northern California.) Visit your local community college website to look for certificate and degree programs. Many of the careers discussed in this publication will appear under “Career Education” or “Career Technical Education.”

How do I apply?

Visit CCCApply.org to be directed to your community college’s admissions webpage. Many times, all you need is your Social Security Number, an e-mail address and your previous education information (any high schools or colleges you attended).

Do I need my high school diploma?

Nope. If you are 18 or over, you can attend community college!

Can I take classes if I am still in high school?

Many times, yes! This is called “dual enrollment” and it lets students complete certain courses while still in high school. Check with your high school counselor to see if your local community college offers dual enrollment.

How much will it cost?

California community college students currently pay \$46 per unit for classes. A full-time student taking 12 units each semester (fall and spring) will pay \$1,104 each year. There

may be additional fees, such as health fees, as well as expenses like books and parking/transportation.

Is financial aid available?

Financial aid is available year-round to help cover the cost of fees, books, supplies, and sometimes even rent. All students, even if they think they do not qualify, should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) — which opens the door to most types of financial aid — at icanaffordcollege.com.

How do I know which classes to take?

Your community college’s course catalog lists all of the courses that must be completed in order to earn a degree or certificate.

Many students get help selecting their classes from counselors, who can save students time and money by outlining the classes they need. Visit your community college counseling office early to plan your courses and to make sure you are on the fast track to completing your certificate or degree.

How long will it take to complete my degree or certificate?

That depends on how academically prepared you are and how many units you are able to take each semester. Every student is different, and each program has different requirements, but some certificates can be completed in as few as two semesters.

START YOUR PATH TO THE JOBS OF TOMORROW – TODAY!

YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY
COLLEGES OFFER **MORE THAN 200
DIFFERENT CAREER PROGRAMS**
TO GET THE HANDS-ON TRAINING
AND SKILLS YOU NEED TO GET
THE JOBS THAT NEED YOU.



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CAREER EDUCATION



MORE ONLINE

- Take the quiz and find your career path with the **FREE "Here to Career" app** from California Community Colleges (available for iOS and Android).
- Learn about in-demand careers and how to get them at **CaliforniaCareerEducation.org**



Find the community college near you!

Explore programs



Get financial aid information



Apply!



MENDOCINO COLLEGE

1000 Hensley Creek Road
Ukiah, CA 95482
www.mendocino.edu



Feather River College

FEATHER RIVER COLLEGE

570 Golden Eagle Ave.
Quincy, CA 95971
www.frc.edu



COLLEGE OF THE
REDWOODS

COLLEGE OF THE REDWOODS

7351 Tompkins Hill Road
Eureka, CA 95501
www.redwoods.edu



COLLEGE OF THE SISKIYOU

800 College Ave.
Weed, CA 96094
www.siskiyous.edu



BUTTE COLLEGE

3536 Butte Campus Drive
Oroville, CA 95965
www.butte.edu



Shasta
College

SHASTA COLLEGE

11555 Old Oregon Trail
Redding, CA 96049
www.shastacollege.edu



LASSEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

478-200 Highway 139
Susanville, CA 96130
www.lassencollege.edu