## Technical/Vocational Training: Xello:
 https://student.xello.world/goals-and-plans/pathway-profile/techAndVocTraining

- **Choose the career or career field you'd like to train for:**

Check out the education requirements for careers that interest you. Look for careers you can go into with technical or vocational training.

      Examples include Animator, Carpenter, Licensed Practical Nurse, and Paralegal

**Tip:** You can filter careers by Education level on the Explore Careers page. Choose "2-Year College or Technical Training" to see relevant careers.

- **Research the technical or vocational training options available:**

Look into the ways you can get training for your chosen career or career field. The options include:

**Going to a technical or vocational school**

      These schools focus on programs that prepare students for a specific career or career field

      They may also be known as trade schools, career colleges, or specialty colleges

      Examples include Atlanta Technical College, Carolinas College of Health Sciences, and Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics

**Going to a community college**

      These schools often offer programs that prepare students for a specific career or career field

      Examples include El Paso Community College, Tacoma Community College, and Anne Arundel Community College

**Taking a program through a trade association**

      Trade associations represent a particular industry, and sometimes offer training

      Examples include Associated Builders and Contractors, the International Air Transport Association, and the Scaffold & Access Industry Association

**Getting online training**

      Lots of providers offer courses and programs that can be taken online

Examples of online training providers include Udemy, Coursera, and Codecademy

Technical schools, colleges, and trade associations may also offer online options

Be sure to research any training providers you're interested in. You can do this by:

Visiting their website

Reading online reviews

Talking to current or former students

Visiting the school

Googling the name of the provider

Talking to your counselor

**Key questions to consider:**

What is the reputation of the provider or program?

What is the cost of the program?

How is the program delivered?

How long is the program?

How many graduates get jobs?

Is there a work experience component?

What are the classrooms and equipment like?

What kind of credential will you earn?

What kinds of financial assistance are offered?

If you are interested in a school or college, make sure it's accredited by a reputable agency. This means that it has met standards in the quality of its education. This is especially important to research in the case of for-profit schools.

You can search for a specific school's accreditation records in the Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

- **Make sure you meet the requirements:**

This varies by school and program.

Most technical/vocational schools and community colleges are open admission. This means that anyone with a high school diploma or GED can enroll. You won't need to write the SAT/ACT or meet a GPA requirement.

But some programs do have extra admission requirements. This is most often the case for high-demand programs. For example, if you're applying to a competitive nursing program you may need to have a minimum ACT score.

You usually don't need to meet any specific requirements to attend programs offered by trade associations and online training providers.

- **Find out the application deadlines:**

  Some schools have set application deadlines. Find out the deadline as soon as you know where you're applying, and record it.

  Many schools have rolling admissions. This means they accept applications throughout the year. Classes often start in fall, spring, and summer. Be sure to check the enrollment cut off for the start date that works best for you. The earlier you can apply, the better. This way you can register in the classes you want before they fill up.

  It's important to keep financial aid deadlines in mind as well. You will need to file for financial aid by a specific date. Make sure you find out and record this date so you won't miss out on financial aid.

  Trade associations and online training providers often accept applications year round. Their programs do not always follow the traditional school year.

- **Find out how to apply:**

  The actual application process varies depending on the training provider.

  Applying to a technical/vocational school or community college

  In most cases you will apply directly to the school. There will be an online form to fill out on the website. You may need to create an account before you can apply.

  Applying to a program through a trade association

  The association will provide instructions on its website. In most cases there will be an online form to fill out.

  Applying to an online program

  The process depends on the provider. Many online training providers do not have an application process. Instead you'll enrol yourself directly in the program on the provider's website.

If there is a program cost, you'll "buy" the program. This is similar to any other kind of online shopping. Some online courses and programs are free.

You'll generally apply to online training offered by trade associations through a form on their website.

- **Apply for admission:**

  You'll typically fill out an online form to apply. Each application process is different. But there's some common information you'll need to provide. This includes:

  - Your personal information

    This includes your full legal name, date of birth, and residency and citizenship information.

  - Your contact information

    Email is the most important means of communication for most training providers. Make sure you include an address you check often. You may also be asked to provide your mailing address and phone number.

  You may also be asked to provide:

  - Your educational goal.

    This can include your intended program of study and when you plan to begin your studies.

  - Your academic history

    This generally includes the name of your high school, expected date of graduation, and type of diploma.

  - Proof of your upcoming graduation

    You often need to have your high school send your official transcript to the school. This will show that you are on track to graduate. If you have already graduated, you may need to provide your high school or GED diploma.

  - A credit card number

    There may be a fee to apply to a school. If you're enrolling through an online training provider, you may need to pay for the program.

- **Apply for financial aid:**

  If you're going to attend a technical/vocational school or a community college, look into completing the FAFSA. FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Fill out the free FAFSA form to qualify for grants, work-study, and loans. The FAFSA also helps you qualify for college and state aid. This will help you pay for your education. If you're planning to start school in the fall you'll need to complete the FAFSA by June 30. Some schools have earlier deadlines. Either way, it's best to apply early. There are limited funds to go around. The earlier you apply, the more money you can get.

In fact, you can fill out the FAFSA before you apply to schools. You can list 1 to 10 schools on the form. List any colleges you plan to apply to. These colleges will receive your FAFSA information. Any college you're accepted to will then build a financial aid package based on your FAFSA details.

You'll fill out the FAFSA form on the federal government's website. The form is available on October 1 every year.

- **Look for scholarships:**

  It's a good idea to look for scholarships in addition to filling out the FAFSA. A scholarship is a sum of money that can help you pay for your training. And the best part is that scholarships are free money! They don't need to be repaid.

  The earlier you can start looking for scholarships, the better. You can start even before you know where you're going to apply.

  What are scholarships based on?

  Scholarships are awarded based on many factors, such as your:
  - Academic performance
  - Field of study
  - Career interest
  - Volunteer work
  - Achievements
  - Hobbies
  - Race or ethnicity
  - Gender identity

  Who offers scholarships?

  Many organizations offer scholarships, including:
  - Colleges and technical schools
  - Businesses
  - Non-profit organizations

Unions

Banks

Governments

Individuals

Finding scholarships

There are many ways to find scholarships:

Talk to your counselor about what's out there

Contact the schools or training providers you're applying to

Ask the adults in your life if their employers offer scholarships

Find out if any community organizations you're involved with offer scholarships

- **Do placement testing:**

  If you'll be attending a school you may need to take placement tests before you start classes. These tests will determine your level of study for English and math.

  If you took the SAT or ACT you may be exempt from this testing, providing you meet minimum scores.

- **Register for classes and attend orientation:**

  The last step if you're attending a school is to register for your classes! You may have the help of an academic advisor to choose your classes. They can help you develop an academic plan for your time at the school.

  You'll need to pay the tuition and fees before you start class. If you'll be attending school in-person you may also need to provide proof of immunization against diseases like measles and mumps.

  Some schools have orientation sessions for new students before classes begin. This is a great way to get introduced to the school and meet other students.