

1 ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER: TYPES OF COLLEGES

The term college includes technical colleges, 2-year community colleges, **vocational** or trade schools and 4-year colleges or universities. There is not one type of college that is perfect for everyone, so it is important to explore your options.

WHERE SHOULD I GO FOR COLLEGE?

Public and Private 4-year College/University

These schools offer bachelor's degrees, usually completed in 4 years of full-time study. Private schools typically charge a higher **tuition** but can offer a significant amount of **scholarships** to make attendance affordable. Students that graduate from these schools can become a robotics engineer, business analyst, or nutritionist.

Make sure to review ANY school's **accreditation** and job placement rates.

Private 2-year College/ Vocational/ Trade Schools

Private 2-year, vocational or trade schools provide education for a specific career. Students that graduate from these schools can become a chef, massage therapist, or paralegal.

Community and Technical Colleges (CTCs)

These schools offer **associate's degrees** and **certificates**, including for specific **trades**. Washington state has 34 public CTCs. Students that graduate from CTCs can enter many careers, such as nursing, automotive repair and cybersecurity.

Learn more about the programs they offer at checkoutacollege.com



Some CTCs now offer **bachelor's degrees**.

OCT: GRADE 11
NOV: GRADE 9 and 10

40% of 4-year graduates in Washington started at a community college.

This chart shows common characteristics for each type of college in Washington state.

| | Community and Technical Colleges | Public 4-year Colleges | Private 4-year Colleges |
|---|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Selectivity All require an application . Moderate and highly selective colleges typically require applicants to submit essays, grades, test scores and other components. | Least selective | Moderate to highly selective | Moderate to highly selective |
| Campus Size number of undergraduate students | 5,000-30,000 | Over 10,000 | Less than 5,000 |
| Tuition Tuition per year for full-time enrollment (for local residents) | Low (around \$4,000) | Medium (\$7,000-\$11,000) | High (over \$30,000) |
| Undergraduate Degrees Offered | Certificates and associate's degrees (AA, AAS) | Bachelor degrees (BA or BS) | Bachelor degrees (BA or BS) |