

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS & ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

Perhaps the most important decision you will be facing is that of choosing the vocation you will enter. Now is a good time to begin seriously planning for your future. In **Family Connections** there are materials available that give you up-to-date information on your interest areas as well as Career Inventories that can be administered.

There are many resource handbooks available if you are considering a vocational or trade school. Besides our **Family Connections**, utilize the public library and local bookstores for the latest opportunities, career choices, and training programs in and out of the state of Arizona. All of the research shows that the majority of occupations in today's society does not require a full four-year diploma but do require 2-3 years post high school training and education for entry level positions. Arizona has many schools that are medical and technology based. Call schools offering your program and request catalogs and applications. Visit the school and inquire as to which companies or businesses have hired their graduates in recent years. Check to see if they are licensed by the Arizona State Post-Secondary School Licensing Bureau. Make sure the courses will adequately prepare you for the field.

When considering a private occupational school it is recommended that you consult:

- Your counselor
- Graduates of the school you are considering
- Unions or professional associations in the field
- Accreditation organization
- People working in the field in which you are seeking training
- Employers
- State Licensing Bureau

Call any schools you may find interesting and go for a visit. Ask the difficult questions regarding rate of employment for recent graduates, placement services (they find you a job), and whether they are accredited and offer courses necessary in your field of study.

While in high school, consider **Paradise Valley High School District Star Tech Programs or West-Mec** Programs that might save you time and money towards your certification. Check on apprentice programs and internships where you can acquire experience, skills and knowledge while working.

Types of Vocational Schools

Private Occupational Schools. These schools, known as proprietary schools, provide training programs directed to a particular trade or occupation. Example: Scottsdale Culinary Institute.

Community College Associate Degree Programs. AA degrees are offered in fire-fighting, film & video, nursing, radiology technology and numerous other fields of study. Example: Gateway C.C. – medical training in every area of health care.

Correspondence Schools. These schools offer virtually every area of occupational education. Students complete written assignments at home.

Medical Technology Schools. These schools offer training in nursing and other health-related occupations such as MRI Tech, medical transcriptionist, etc. Example: Bryman School.

Company Training Schools. Many companies offer on the job training for employees.