

THEIR FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

WISCONSIN
TECHNICAL
COLLEGE
SYSTEM



A PARENT'S GUIDE TO SELECTING A COLLEGE

WTCSYSTEM.EDU



2-year college

Join the military

Full-time job

Attend a 4-year college

Learn a trade



Launch a business



Join Peace Corps

Take a gap year

MANY OPTIONS WORTH EXPLORING

Options abound for your high school student

There is no shortage of options available to your child upon graduating high school. As you see in the image to the left, your high school student has probably never had so many paths to consider. The stakes have never been higher because of the high cost of education and the debt that can smother students. **An evolving economy** opens new pathways and opportunities to students who want hands-on, relevant and individual learning opportunities.

This guide will help you discuss the options and provide important **discussion tips**. Once you know all the options, you and your child can customize a path that fits your child's interests and strengths, helping ensure success and happiness. You can **go confidently**, knowing there are always on-roads and off-roads on the path to success.



FOSTER A SHARED VISION OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR CHILD

WISCONSIN'S 16 TECHNICAL COLLEGES

BLACKHAWK

608.757.7710

blackhawk.edu

MADISON COLLEGE

800.322.6282

madisoncollege.edu

NORTHEAST WISCONSIN

888.385.6982

nwtc.edu

CHIPPEWA VALLEY

715.833.6300

cvtc.edu

MID-STATE

888.575.6782

mstc.edu

NORTHWOOD TECH

800.243.9482

northwoodtech.edu

FOX VALLEY

800.735.FVTC (3882)

fvtc.edu

MILWAUKEE AREA

800.720.MATC (6282)

matc.edu

SOUTHWEST TECH

800.362.3322

swtc.edu

GATEWAY

800.247.7122

gtc.edu

MORAINES PARK

800.472.4554

morainepark.edu

WAUKESHA COUNTY

262.691.5566

wctc.edu

LAKESHORE

888.GO TO LTC (468.6582)

gotoltc.edu

NICOLET COLLEGE

715.365.4493

nicoletcollege.edu

WESTERN

800.322.9982

westerntc.edu

NORTHCENTRAL

888.682.7144

ntc.edu

For the hard of hearing

711 (relay)



VIEW COLLEGE LOCATIONS

WTCSYSTEM.EDU/COLLEGES



Evolving economy	4
Value of degrees	6
Career interest	8
Career pathways	9
Being an engaged parent	10
Making financial sense of college	14
Benefits of a two-year college	18
Transfer options	20
Planning timeline	22
Career options	24

GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FORCES SHAKE-UP WORKFORCE TRADITIONS



Employers are taking new, creative approaches to hiring and emphasizing skills relative to careers.

New technologies now require new skills. A global pandemic and supply issues, along with mass retirements, changing employee expectations (and more) have re-shaped and strained the hiring landscape. How employers respond to these changes may determine their future success in hiring and keeping employees.



“Our employees have all been hired from technical colleges. We find that they are a perfect fit for our business, ready to hit the ground running,”

— KATIE SEDLACEKI,
HARRIS REBAR AMBASSADOR STEEL



**YOUR CHILD
COULD EARN AN
ANNUAL SALARY OF MORE THAN**
\$50k
BY ATTENDING A
TWO-YEAR COLLEGE

Source: usnews.com/education/best-colleges/paying-for-college/

IT'S ABOUT SKILLS

The workplace and education demands
continue to evolve

Most companies today seek employees with specific skills and technical abilities. In fact, **about two-thirds of new jobs require some college — a technical diploma, associate degree or higher.** Because of the high cost of many educational options, students may take on a lot of debt and struggle to get ahead.

Employers struggle to find and hire workers with skills in high-demand fields, despite great opportunities in high-paying, fulfilling careers, like information technology, construction, health care, manufacturing and others. These unfilled jobs will be ripe for the choosing of technical college graduates, whose practical and hands-on education prepared them well for these roles. An efficient and affordable education fills jobs and saves tuition costs all at the same time. As technology changes with increasing speed, there will always be opportunities to change paths or continue education as needed.

ALL DEGREES HAVE VALUE

Education is the best investment in future success

Return on investment (ROI) is an important consideration in selecting a college. ROI varies most between fields, NOT necessarily by levels of degree. For example, jobs in high demand where specific skills are both highly valued and scarce by nature will pay more. Consider what careers and skills (versus what degree) might interest your child.

WAGES SOMETIMES DEPEND ON THE AVAILABILITY OF WORKERS AND SKILLS, NOT ON THE TYPE OF DEGREE.

“Employers in every sector and in every region of the state rely on Wisconsin’s technical colleges in order to compete and grow.”

— S. MARK TYLER, FORMER PRESIDENT,
OEM FABRICATORS, INC.



SALARY GROWTH FOR TECHNICAL COLLEGE GRADUATES IS HIGHER THAN AVERAGE

With a hands-on, practical approach to learning, a technical college education sets students up for success, not just in terms of starting salary and availability of jobs but also in continued wage growth over time.



Source:

WTCS Five-Year Graduate Follow-up Report for 2013-2014 graduate, published December 2020.



MEDIAN SALARY 6 MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREES

\$50,000

MEDIAN SALARY 6 MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION FOR ALL CREDENTIALS

\$46,800



Source:

WTCS Graduate Outcomes Report for 2021 Graduates, published 2022.

LAND A JOB AND HIT THE GROUND RUNNING

Wherever your child's interests or passions lie, chances are there are employers who need skilled workers. Generally, employers value technical college graduates and pay good salaries to attract and retain them.

GRADUATES ROUTINELY REPORT GOOD RESULTS FROM THEIR EXPERIENCE AND OVERALL RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Wisconsin's technical colleges partner with employers to ensure the education students receive will match the needs of the employer. Student satisfaction with their education and working within their field demonstrates the relevance and quality of the education they receive.

GRADUATES WHO FIND A JOB WITHIN SIX MONTHS

93%



GRADUATES WHO WERE SATISFIED OR VERY SATISFIED WITH THEIR TECHNICAL COLLEGE EDUCATION

97%



GRADUATES EMPLOYED IN A JOB RELATED TO THEIR TRAINING

80%



Source:

WTCS Graduate Outcomes Report for 2021 Graduates, published 2022.



THE CAREER YOUR CHILD LOVES IS WAITING...

Encourage career exploration



TAKE THE CAREER QUIZ

5 minutes is all it takes to see which careers match your child's interests. The short online activity will also give them a place to start thinking about and discussing future career possibilities.



EXPLORE YOUR CAREER PATH

WTCSYSTEM.EDU/CAREERS



The illustration below is an example of a pathway a student might take if they are interested in health care. Each step in the pathway adds credentials and improves career outlook, and students could start at any point along the path.

**PATHWAY
CERTIFICATE**

Healthcare
Customer Service

**SHORT-TERM
PROGRAM**

Certified Nursing
Assistant (CNA)

**TECHNICAL
DIPLOMA**

Licensed Practical
Nurse (LPN)

**ASSOCIATE
DEGREE**

Associate Degree
Nursing (RN)

**BACHELORS,
MASTERS &
BEYOND**

Bachelor Degree
Nursing (RN)

**GO ON
FROM HERE!**

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Build a career, one step at a time

CERTIFICATES

Short-term certificates meet employers' custom needs for skills or certifications in business, health, trade and industry.

SHORT-TERM PROGRAM

These programs focus on custom skills related to specific jobs and can often take less than one year to complete.

TECHNICAL DIPLOMA (one or two years of full-time study)

Technical diploma programs deliver hands-on learning and are offered at all Wisconsin technical colleges.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE (60-70 credits)

All Wisconsin technical colleges offer two-year programs requiring about 60 semester credits leading to an associate degree.

TRANSFER TO A FOUR-YEAR

Many credits transfer into four-year degree programs. This is an affordable way to begin your four-year degree.

Here's a quick overview of the types of degrees you can earn at a Wisconsin technical college — either before or after completing a bachelor's degree — expanding your career potential.

CERTIFICATE (typically six months or less)

- » Entry-level or specific skill-related credentials for quick employment gains

TECHNICAL DIPLOMA (one- to two-year programs)

- » Real-world programs created with employer input
- » Typically one to two years to complete full time

ASSOCIATE DEGREE (two-year programs)

- » Academic degree with a focus on hard and soft skills
- » Typically two years to complete full time
- » May build on smaller credentials (certificates, degrees and diplomas)

APPRENTICESHIP (journeyworker status)

- » Participating employers pay for supervised, structured on-the-job training and classroom learning
- » Prepares skilled tradespeople to enter the workforce with a median salary of **\$80,000+/year**
- » Visit WTCSYSTEM.EDU/apprenticeship for more information

There are as many possible paths as there are technical college students. Even while working toward a high school diploma, a student may begin to take college courses, either through dual credit opportunities or through youth apprenticeships.



SEE WHAT ALL THE WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGES HAVE TO OFFER!



VISIT A TECHNICAL COLLEGE CAMPUS



TALK WITH CURRENT STUDENTS OR RECENT GRADUATES



ENCOURAGE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

HOW CAN YOU BE AN ENGAGED PARENT?

- » Take interest in your child’s hobbies and education.
- » Visit a technical college campus.
- » Have your child job shadow a friend or relative to see what they do for a day.
- » Talk with current students or recent graduates.
- » Visit a university campus.
- » Occasionally revisit the student’s interests.
- » Encourage volunteer opportunities.
- » Remember to focus on what your child wants to do.

“
We attended the open houses and saw the positives of the school; the beautiful campus, the state-of-the-art equipment and hands-on labs. The instructors are direct from industry and promoted how our son would learn real-world skills from industry professionals.

— LAURIE C., PARENT

BEGINNING A DISCUSSION

It can be difficult to begin a conversation about careers and higher education if it hasn't been a natural topic of conversation for parents and children. Children often want to enjoy independence and parents often want to have some influence.

- » **Consider your child's passions and hobbies, which are often a great basis for a career.** Talk to them about how a hobby could translate into a career.
- » **Your child may not have a clear sense of direction.** It may not appear to be a logical choice, but parents should be ready for their child to say, "It just feels right."
- » **Value > hype.** Value means getting a high quality education without the high cost associated with some colleges and universities. The stress that comes with taking on huge debt has longer lasting effects than short-lived pride associated with a college brand.
- » **Discuss rather than dictate.** Make suggestions and ask questions to help your child think about their options and be open to hearing what they have to say.
- » **Assume your children are capable of making this decision for themselves.** Many parents struggle with their child becoming independent, but they need to understand the child is directly affected by his or her own decisions.

PARENTS WHO GIVE THEIR CHILDREN ROOM TO DISCOVER WHO THEY ARE – ON THEIR OWN TERMS – INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD FOR FUTURE CAREER HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS.

The proximity of the school was beneficial, and they had the courses that she was looking for. I pointed out to my daughter that it was also less expensive to attend a technical school rather than a four-year college.

– DANIEL P., PARENT





QUESTIONS

TO HELP START THE DISCUSSION

Ask your child these questions to help determine which path is right for them:

- » Do you know what you want to study?
- » Do you desire large or small classes and campuses? Why?
- » Do you envision working with your hands or more with people?
- » Are you drawn more to learning through books and lectures or through hands-on, practical experience?
- » Have you had the opportunity to visit both two- and four-year colleges to see what they're like?
- » What financial resources do you have access to?
- » Do you want the option of living at home?
- » Do you want to move out and experience more independence?

IF YOU ONLY READ THIS!



Consider these important but sometimes overlooked facts about technical college experience and student life

- » Several of Wisconsin's technical colleges offer dorms for students who want to live on campus.
- » Athletics are available through either intra- or extramural teams or through the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) at many Wisconsin technical colleges.
- » Contrary to popular belief, many technical college programs are eligible for financial aid.
- » There are many ways for technical college students to be active around campus through professional groups and clubs, honor societies or student government. These activities are a great way to connect with fellow students, develop leadership and other skills employers want.
- » Apprenticeships provide opportunities for students in the trades (and in other areas), that employers sponsor. Students get paid for time spent in class and on-the-job training.
- » Technical colleges offer technology and services available to students, including cafeterias, student lounges, daycare centers, tutoring, food pantries, wi-fi and workspace, job placement centers and library resources to name a few.
- » 98% of Wisconsin's employers surveyed said a technical college was important to the overall success of their business.



MAKING FINANCIAL SENSE OF COLLEGE

The facts tell the story: student debt is a growing problem

Using the U.S. Department of Education's Repayment Estimator, the monthly payment on a direct subsidized loan for **the average student debt would be \$359/month for 10 years, for a total repayment amount of \$43,124.** This amounts to \$4,308 per year from your student's earnings. Consider what else your child could do with that money (savings, transportation, rent, etc.). To avoid the big IOU, here are some financial items to consider when selecting a college:



- » The tuition amount **doesn't include the full cost associated with obtaining a degree**, which often includes room and board, books, computers or tablets, food and transportation.
- » One year of full-time student tuition at a Wisconsin technical college is more affordable than other higher educational options in Wisconsin.
- » A student attending a local community or technical college can often live at home, **saving thousands of dollars** in room, board and travel.
- » Technical college students have **access to a wide range of scholarships and grants**, just like students at other higher education institutions.



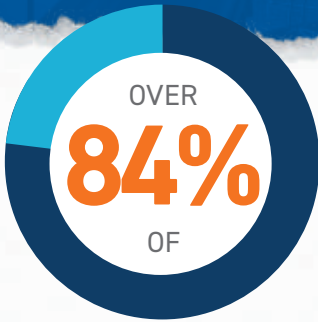
“*Financial obstacles in my life made it hard to find a college that would help me obtain a degree. Enrolling at my technical college gave me an opportunity to take advantage of college classes in a cost-efficient way.*”

— KEYDI O., TECHNICAL COLLEGE STUDENT

TUITION

Tuition changes each year but is more affordable than other colleges in Wisconsin.

Visit WTCSystem.edu/tuition for the current rates.



FIRST-TIME AND FULL-TIME STUDENTS
RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID

Source: educationdata.org/financial-aid-statistics

**YOUR CHILD
COULD SAVE**
\$30k

Illustration of three stacks of coins, with the tallest stack on the right and two shorter stacks on the left.

BY ATTENDING A TWO-YEAR
COLLEGE INSTEAD OF A
FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION.

Source: thinkimpact.com/community-college-statistics/



FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES
WTCSystem.edu/financialaid



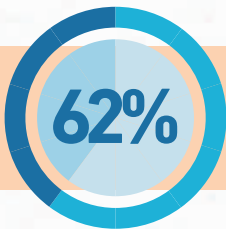


Main Entrance

MAXIMIZE TIME, MINIMIZE DEBT

Consider upfront cost as well as completion time

Many recent graduates are struggling to find work that pays off debt and provides the means to live a full life. A heart-to-heart chat with your child to determine the best path for them may result in tremendous savings on education and possibly a bigger return on college investment, too.



**OF STUDENTS IN 4-YEAR PROGRAMS
ACTUALLY GRADUATE IN 6 YEARS**

Source: *National Center for Educational Statistics*

A bachelor's degree, while often referred to as a four-year degree, can take five or six years for many students to complete. A technical education is focused on practical, hands-on skills development, so the degrees generally require two years of full-time enrollment or less. Technical degrees and diplomas are ideal for students who want to work in highly technical professions like health care or information technology, for example. Given how outside factors continue to change employers' workforce needs, technical certificates, diplomas and degrees make great options for students to continue their education by taking small stacks of credits over time as needed.

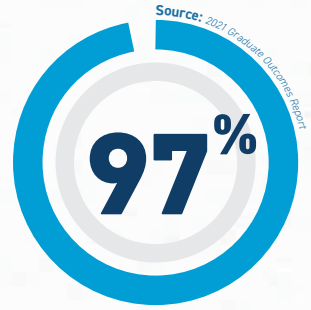
DUAL CREDIT

Advanced Standing and Transcribed Credit

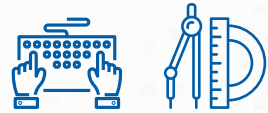
Some students can earn college credits before starting college. In fact, the more college credits they earn in high school, the further they will be on the pathway toward a college degree. Some students who plan carefully may even complete a college degree or diploma while in high school. This early entry into the pathway helps students get a head start, saving you time and money.

Start College Now

Juniors and seniors who qualify while in high school can take college courses through a Wisconsin technical college. Approved courses count toward high school graduation and college credit.



**OF WISCONSIN'S
TECHNICAL COLLEGE
GRADUATES ARE
SATISFIED OR VERY
SATISFIED WITH THEIR
EDUCATION.**



EARN COLLEGE CREDITS IN HIGH SCHOOL
WTCSYSTEM.EDU/DUALCREDIT

YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP

Youth Apprenticeship offers great opportunities for high school students. Participating students can explore college courses and related careers on the way to high school graduation. The employer pays the college costs and pays the student for part-time work under the supervision of a skilled mentor.

Youth apprenticeships are available in many different industries, including:

- » Agriculture
- » Food and Natural Resources
- » Architecture and Construction
- » Arts, A/V Tech and Communications
- » Health Sciences
- » Finance
- » Manufacturing
- » Marketing
- » Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
- » Transportation, Distribution and Logistics
- » Information Technology (IT)
- » Hospitality, Lodging and Tourism

THE BENEFITS OF A TWO-YEAR COLLEGE

Research all the options to get the most rewards

Are you aware of the many benefits attend a two-year college can provide? There are many incentives to choosing to attend a two-year college, no matter if you're fresh out of high school or are looking to take a break from the workforce and go back to school.

Below are just a few of the advantages you can expect to receive when taking classes at a two-year college – some of which may surprise you. Read on to see for yourself.

Value and Affordability

One of the most well-known benefits two-year colleges offer is the overall value when compared to their four-year university counterparts. It's no secret that the cost of tuition keeps rising at universities across the country, often creating a significant financial burden down the road for many students who attend one from the outset.

Two-year colleges offer many of the classes required by four-year universities, but typically for a fraction of the cost. Two-year colleges offer scholarships and financial aid that can help reduce the cost even further, all while building toward a two-year degree, potential transfer to a four-year college, or earning a certificate.

Schedule Flexibility

Two-year colleges are designed to provide a maximum amount of flexibility to cater to the diverse scheduling needs of their students. This means offering plenty of night classes, once-a-week degree programs, and condensed coursework that ensure students a wide range of options for completing their courses and degrees.



Quality and Experience of Professors

Perhaps the best-kept secret of community colleges is the actual professors and instructors teaching the courses.



It's very common for highly experienced professors who spent years on staff at renown universities to teach classes at community colleges. Many instructors choose to teach at two-year colleges because of the flexible hours, passion for teaching, and desire to continue working in their field. Your child can take advantage of this and get their education from qualified professionals.

Smaller Class Sizes

Four-year universities generally have a large student population, which can lead to the need for bigger classroom sizes — especially with core courses. This often means attending classes with over 100 other students, and sometimes even more. This type of classroom environment may not be the best for your child.

On the other hand, two-year colleges generally have smaller class sizes, which naturally leads to the opportunity for more personalized instruction from professors, and the likelihood of a more fulfilling course experience overall.

A Chance to Select A Major Without Pressure

Not everyone has everything figured out right away. When universities are expensive, it might be frightening to select a degree without knowing if your child may want to pursue it later in life or not.

Career exploration is something a two-year college can help your child with. They may attend classes at their technical college without taking on major debt.

One of the great things about technical colleges is they are a low risk, high reward way to grow and learn without breaking the bank.



EXPLORE WHAT WTCS HAS TO OFFER
WTCSYSTEM.EDU

TRANSFER OPTIONS

If your child's goal is to earn a bachelor's degree or higher, they can begin their education journey at a technical college and spend less overall

Students can start with a short-term or two-year program and end with a bachelor's degree or more. Students in a four-year university or college can also transfer to one of Wisconsin's technical colleges.



TRANSFER CREDITS TO A TECHNICAL COLLEGE

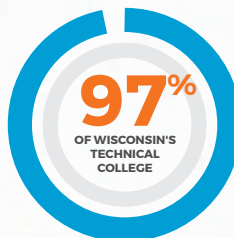
Students who previously attended another college or university, may be able to transfer credits, receive existing credits or earn new credits for skills and knowledge gained at that college. Wisconsin technical colleges also grant college credit for career-related learning, work experience and military service.



TRANSFER CREDITS TO A UNIVERSITY

All 16 technical colleges have program-specific transfer agreements with four-year private colleges and universities and the University of Wisconsin System as well as the College of Menominee Nation and the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College, and some colleges and universities in other states.

GRADUATES ARE SATISFIED OR VERY SATISFIED WITH THEIR EDUCATION



39%

of students

**TRANSFERRING CREDITS TO
WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGES**
were from the
**UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN
SYSTEM**

Source: WTCS Credit Transfer Report 2018-19

25,000+

STUDENTS ATTENDING A
WISCONSIN TECHNICAL
COLLEGE HAD

**ALREADY
EARNED**

COLLEGE CREDITS UPON
ENROLLING IN A TECHNICAL
COLLEGE PROGRAM.

Source: WTCS data, 2018.



LEARN ABOUT TRANSFER OPTIONS

WTCSYSTEM.EDU/TRANSFER

WHAT'S NEXT?

It's never too early to think about future careers and the steps needed to get there

It's important for your child to consider how their decisions now may impact their future. Everything from the high school courses they choose, to clubs and activity participation, to the way they spend free time. As parents, you can help guide the discussion. The following time line might also be helpful to guide your child through some important activities along their path. If your child is already past all these points, don't fret! Wisconsin's technical colleges can walk you both through the next steps of evaluating college options. Even without advanced preparation, attending a technical college is one of the best ways to get a high quality, in-demand and fulfilling education and come out ahead financially.

A CHECKLIST FOR YOUR CHILD:

- » Take this online career quiz to help identify skills, strengths and interests: WTCSYSTEM.edu/careers
- » Think about your future career with your Academic & Career Plan (ACP) and visit these sites to learn more about different careers:

MY NEXT MOVE mynextmove.org

BIG FUTURE roadtriplnation.com/edu/careerfinder

EXPLORE CAREERS – CAREER ONE STOP careeronestop.org/explorecareers

CAREER QUIZ WTCSYSTEM.edu/careers



FRESHMAN YEAR

- » Try some extracurricular activities and see what interests you
- » Discuss college and career interests with school counselors; ask about taking college courses while in high school
- » Talk to people about their jobs – What do they do? What do they like about their job? What other careers did they consider?
- » Learn and practice good study habits to carry on to college. Figure out how you learn best so you can maximize your effort
- » Choose courses matching your interests and abilities and that relate to potential careers
- » Observe jobs around you; especially new or unusual jobs to help narrow your options

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- » Discuss college with your parents. Talk about your interests and the opportunities ahead of you
- » Begin talking about how you might pay for college and what scholarships, grants and loans might be available
- » Get active in clubs and other volunteer activities — you can list them on your college application
- » Meet with your school counselor to discuss dual credit options
- » Connect with people in various fields of interest for interviewing or job shadowing
- » Make a list of what you would look for in a college (e.g. programs, class size, cost)



JUNIOR YEAR

- » Are you interested in health care, IT, education, manufacturing, public safety? Learn what college majors fall under each industry (view the career options on the next few pages to give you an idea of some possibilities)
- » Apply for high school/college credit programs in fall; Youth Apprenticeships provide job skills and college credit
- » Start planning for admissions testing including the ACT, SAT tests
- » Visit collegegoalwi.org, then attend a College Goal Wisconsin event in fall for assistance completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- » Pursue summer jobs, internships or job shadows
- » Start to narrow your list of college choices
- » Schedule campus visits; try to visit a variety of colleges so you know how they vary
- » Note application and scholarship deadlines on a calendar to help stay on track

SENIOR YEAR

- » Talk to people about their careers and see if you can job shadow or volunteer with peers, family and business owners
- » Plan to take the college admissions tests that your potential colleges accept
- » Apply to college in fall if you haven't already
- » Apply for scholarships
- » Visit the FAFSA website, fafsa.gov to find out what you need to complete the form if you are interested in financial aid



EDUCATION THAT LEADS TO A FULFILLING CAREER

As you and your child explore education options, be aware there are many different careers available in a wide range of fields — and transfer opportunities too!

\$80,000
ANNUAL MEDIAN SALARY

The following pages depict just a few examples of careers among the many professions. A technical college degree in one of these areas will help prepare your child for the future. He or she will learn the skills needed for in-demand careers in this ever-changing economy and the confidence to pursue a career they love.



THE MEDIAN ANNUAL SALARY ONE YEAR AFTER COMPLETION IS \$80,000.

Source: WTCS Apprenticeship Completion Report 2019-20, published January 2022

APPRENTICESHIP

Learn a trade while you earn your way.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » Arborist
- » Cosmetology
- » Electrical Construction
- » Heavy Equipment Operator
- » Information Technology
- » Mechatronics
- » Plumbing

Skills that we acquire through the apprenticeship program really help us build a better foundation so we are more valuable to employers and to the community.

— JESSICA C., MILESTONE PLUMBING INC.,
TECHNICAL COLLEGE STUDENT



AGRICULTURE, FOOD & NATURAL RESOURCES

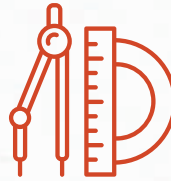
Manage the food supply and cultivate land and resources.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » Agribusiness, Science & Technology
- » Agriculture Equipment & Mechanics
- » Agronomy/Agronomist
- » Animal Science, Livestock & Dairy
- » Farm Business & Management
- » Horticulture & Landscaping

AGRICULTURE MAKES UP 11.8% OF WISCONSIN'S EMPLOYMENT. THAT'S 435,700 JOBS!

Source: Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, updated 5/6/2021



ARCHITECTURE & CONSTRUCTION

Build and maintain residential and commercial space.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » Architectural Technology
- » Computer-Aided Design (CAD)
- » Utility Construction and Service
- » Construction Worker
- » HVAC - Heating, Ventilation, A/C

CONSTRUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BE ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING INDUSTRIES IN WISCONSIN BETWEEN NOW AND 2029.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor



ARTS, AUDIOVISUAL TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATIONS

Create compelling content and entertainment.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » Digital Media Design
- » Gaming & Animation
- » Graphic Design
- » Interior Design
- » Photography
- » Television & Video Production

GRADUATES OF WEB & DIGITAL MEDIA DESIGN HAVE A MEDIAN SALARY OF \$49,448 SIX MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION.

Source: 2020 Graduate Outcomes Report



BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

Provide services to businesses and consumers.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » Administrative Assistant
- » Human Resources
- » Leadership Development
- » Office Manager
- » Office Systems Specialist

IN 2020, THERE WERE OVER 1,885 GRADUATES AMONG 52 PROGRAMS IN THIS CLUSTER, ALLOWING FOR MANY DIFFERENT CAREER OPTIONS.

Source: 2020 Graduate Outcomes Report



EDUCATION & TRAINING

Learn to teach, inspire, and help others grow, or learn more yourself.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » Early Learning Teacher
- » Library & Information Services Technician
- » Teaching Assistant
- » Career & Tech Ed Teacher

THIS FIELD REQUIRES A DEDICATION TO PEOPLE AND A PASSION FOR HELPING THEM ACHIEVE GOALS. IMPROVE THEIR ABILITIES AND GROW.



FINANCE

Track income and expenses for clients or business.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » Accounting Assistant
- » Bookkeeping
- » Financial Services
- » Payroll Assistant
- » Tax Accountant

THIS SECTOR IS BROAD AND CONTAINS OPPORTUNITIES IN PROBLEM SOLVING AND NUMBER-CRUNCHING.



JOBS IN HEALTH CARE WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN DEMAND AS BABY BOOMERS AGE AND REQUIRE MORE CARE.

HEALTH SCIENCES

Prevent and treat illness, improve quality of life.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » Dental Hygienist
- » Dietary Manager
- » Nursing
- » Pharmacy Technician
- » Radiography



TOURISM HAS A \$22.2 BILLION ECONOMIC IMPACT ON WISCONSIN AND SUPPORTS A TOTAL OF 202,217 JOBS.

Source: Wisconsin Dept of Tourism, National Travel and Tourism Week, 2019 Key Highlights

HOSPITALITY & TOURISM

Become an expert planner, host and entertainment lead.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » Banquet and Catering Manager
- » Event Planner
- » Hotel Manager
- » Pastry Chef
- » Restaurant Chef



A GOOD FIELD FOR PEOPLE WITH AN INTEREST IN HELPING OTHERS, WITH LOTS OF POTENTIAL FOR ENTREPRENEURS OR SELF-EMPLOYMENT.

HUMAN SERVICES

Help others learn and live at their best.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » Barber/Cosmetologist
- » Funeral Service Director
- » Sign Language Interpreter
- » Substance Abuse Counselor



THE MEDIAN STARTING SALARY FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE GRADUATES IN THE IT CLUSTER IS \$48,876 SIX MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION.

Source: 2021 Graduate Outcomes Report

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Use programming and technical skills to manage networks and secure data.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » Business Analyst
- » Computer Support Technician
- » Cybersecurity Specialist
- » Network Security Specialist
- » Web & Software Developer



THE MEDIAN STARTING SALARY FOR PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS IS \$51,293 SIX MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION.

Source: 2021 Graduate Outcomes Report

LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY

Help maintain safety and order in our communities.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » Forensic Science
- » Fire Protection Technician
- » EMT-Paramedic
- » Paramedic Technician
- » Law Enforcement



THE MEDIAN STARTING SALARY IN MANUFACTURING FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE HOLDERS IS \$54,213 SIX MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION.

Source: 2020 Graduate Outcomes Report

MANUFACTURING

Make, invent or assemble goods in a clean, high-tech atmosphere.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » Automated Systems Technician
- » CNC Operator
- » Machinist
- » Safety Engineer
- » Welder



MARKETING, SALES & SERVICE

Creatively promote goods and services to business and/or consumers.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » Fashion Marketing
- » Graphic & Web Design
- » Marketing & Communications
- » Social Media Marketing

THE MEDIAN SALARY FOR SHORT-TERM TECHNICAL DIPLOMA GRADUATES IN SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING IS \$65,000 SIX MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION.

Source: 2021 Graduate Outcomes Report



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS (STEM)

Use technology and innovation to invent, problem solve and keep systems running.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » Civil Engineering Technology
- » Electrical Engineering Technology
- » Electronics
- » Engineering Technology

ASSOCIATE DEGREE STUDENTS IN STEM PROGRAMS HAVE MEDIAN SALARIES OF \$58,236 SIX MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION.

Source: 2021 Graduate Outcomes Report



TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION & LOGISTICS

Manage the successful transfer of goods.

CAREER OPTIONS

- » Airplane Mechanic
- » Automotive Mechanic
- » Supply Chain Manager
- » Truck Driver

THE TRUCK DRIVING PROGRAM IS USUALLY UNDER ONE YEAR, BUT THE MEDIAN SALARY IS \$52,000 SIX MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION.

Source: 2021 Graduate Outcomes Report



TRANSFER CREDITS

Many credits transfer into four-year degree programs. This is an affordable way to begin your four-year degree.

While students often transfer from a two-year college to a four-year college/university, many university students also transfer into a technical college. Check with an admissions representative to ensure your credits will transfer as expected.



To view real-world salary and employment data of our graduates, visit WTCSystem.edu/gradoutcomes

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Source: 2021 Graduate Outcomes Report

93%
of graduates
are employed within
SIX MONTHS

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