

## **Not interested in a bachelor's degree? Here are some excellent options!**

(Excerpt from March 2017 article on [careerbuilder.com](#))

### **Attend community college.**

Community college is emerging as not only a good value, but also a promising way to land a job. The programs offered are often a direct response to the needs of the current job market. In just two years' time, students can earn an associate degree or a certification as a [veterinary technician](#), a [dental hygienist](#), [web designer](#) or even a [winemaker](#).

Community college also affords you the option of transferring to a four-year college after receiving your associate degree. The first two years of most bachelor's degree programs are comprised of the same set of classes—including entry level English, math and science courses—but often at a fraction of the price.

### **Enroll in technical college.**

Technical colleges specialize in career-driven courses that teach skills that apply to specific careers, such as carpentry or electrical work. Unlike a four-year college, you aren't required to take classes that aren't related to your career focus. This option is great if you already have a career in mind and want to go directly into it.

In addition, there is a growing domestic demand for high-precision skills. [Skilled trade workers are a disproportionately older population](#). As they begin to retire, there will be a large number of jobs to fill. Technical college will prepare you to take on those roles.

### **Try an apprenticeship or fellowship.**

Apprenticeships offer the opportunity to learn a trade in an in-demand field. And unlike many internships, you get paid. Programs offer on-the-job training from experienced professionals. If you go this route, you'll likely be working with your hands. [The construction industry currently makes up two-thirds of apprenticeship programs in the U.S.](#)

If you have a great idea but don't want to wait four years to execute it, consider applying for a fellowship. For example, the Thiel Fellowship—launched by PayPal founder Peter Thiel—offers \$100,000 to skip college and pursue a business idea while being mentored by the world's top scientists, researchers and business leaders.

The program is competitive, though. Only 20 candidates are selected each year. If you don't get in, there are several other programs to pursue, including [Echoing Green](#), [Enstitute](#) and [UnCollege Gap Year](#).

### **Join the military.**

There are many practical benefits to joining a branch of the military. In addition to a competitive salary, free health care and little-to-no living costs, the military will pay your tuition while in service. Soldiers have access to a variety of online learning options and there are satellite classrooms on many bases. Once your service is complete, you can also use the GI Bill to pay for part of your tuition. The military also offers retirement with benefits after 20 years of service.

**BOTTOM LINE: Our goal at BCHS is to help you have a plan for life after high school. Please utilize our resources while they're available to you!**