

# Non-Traditional Education Options for Corpsmembers

A Publication of The Corps Network  
[corpsnetwork.org](http://corpsnetwork.org)



# Non-Traditional Higher Education Options for Corpsmembers

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## Introduction

The Corps Network (TCN) supports Corps through advocacy, providing access to funding and project opportunities, and by offering expertise in Corps operations and programming. Every year, TCN's efforts help enable over 20,000 diverse young adults and recent veterans to strengthen communities, improve the environment, and transform their lives through service in Corps programs.

Corpsmembers across the country are provided unique opportunities by serving at a conservation or service Corps. Projects include, but are not limited to public lands improvement, trail building and maintenance, waterway restoration, erosion control, disaster response/recovery, wetland restoration, landscaping, urban farming, weatherization/energy efficiency, GIS/mapping for federal land agencies, just to name a few. This unique group of young adults and veterans gain work experience and develop in-demand skills.

Once Corpsmembers complete their term of service, or even during their term, they may choose to seek meaningful employment based on skills learned at the Corps, or they may choose to further their education. Not everyone is interested in conventional four-year degree programs. Many Corpsmembers want to continue their education in a non-traditional manner, attending trade schools, taking environmental/conservation/green career courses, obtaining an apprenticeship, or seeking outdoor education opportunities.

Much of the information in this document has been pulled from our March 2023 publication on non-traditional uses for the AmeriCorps education award. While many of the schools listed match all or a portion of the ed award, they are still good options for non-AmeriCorps members as well. **All links in this document were confirmed as active as of January 2023.**



## Types of Trade Schools

- Arts/Theater
- Auto Mechanics
- Carpentry
- Court Reporting
- Culinary Arts
- Massage Therapy
- Salon Training
- Many Others (some are listed later in this publication)

## Why Choose a Trade School

### Top 5 Reasons to Choose a Trade School

While you have learned many marketable skills during your term of service in the Corps, You many benefit from a trade school to help towards employment.

Perhaps you recently graduated from high school or earned your GED during your term at the Corps and wish to further your education. However, you don't have the time or resources to attend a traditional four-year university or college.

If that's the case, you may want to consider a trade school, which provides you the opportunity to earn a great education, job training, and hands-on experience that'll make you the ideal candidate for employment. And these aren't the only reasons more people are choosing trade school – here are five reasons trade school is becoming increasingly popular.

#### 1. The Cheaper Cost of Education

The price of a college education increases every year, and many recent graduates are finding themselves saddled with enormous debt. Is college really the best choice, or is there a better way for you to get an affordable education? According to The Simple Dollar<sup>1</sup>, obtaining a bachelor's degree from a university or college will cost you an average of \$127,000. Compare that to the estimated cost of a trade school education at only around \$33,000, trade school offers a huge savings of \$94,000!

This picture gets even worse if you consider the high drop-out rate of colleges and universities. According to the National Center for Education Statistics<sup>2</sup>, as many as 40 percent of students drop out before completing their four-year college education. Oftentimes, this leaves students without a marketable degree and with large student loans that must be repaid.

## 2. Job Security of Trade Jobs

Most of the skills learned in trade school never go out of style, and the jobs cannot be outsourced to other countries. Take auto mechanics, for example. It's inconceivable to think about shipping an automobile to another country for repairs. Additionally, employers are finding that skilled labor positions are some of the hardest to fill, so they're going to great lengths to make sure valuable workers are retained.

The job security of trade jobs is presently at a premium because many Baby Boomers are retiring, leaving a critical shortage of qualified applicants to fill vacated positions. Just think of all the skilled labor that'll be required to build roads and bridges in the future or to lay pipe and string power lines. Obviously, such jobs will continue to be in high demand.

## 3. Specialized Programs Produce Desired Skill Sets

Many jobs are going unfilled today because of a mismatch between the skills employers are looking for and the skill sets jobseekers have to offer. To remedy that, many trade schools have built strong relationships with employers and offer specialized programs tailored to meet employers' needs. In some cases, employers work with trade school administrators to develop the curriculum needed to meet current employment needs. This is especially true in high-demand fields such as business, technology, and healthcare.

An associate degree or a certificate earned through an accredited trade school is evidence that you have the necessary skills and experience to perform the duties of a specific job. Most employers will view this as equal or superior to on-the-job training, especially when you consider that many of these courses are taught by instructors who have real-world experience in the subject area.

## 4. Quicker Path to Earnings

Another benefit to attending a trade school is students usually complete their education in half the time required for a college degree. This means that trade school graduates will have as much as two years or more of additional earnings. When you couple this with the fact that trade schools cost less, it's easy to see how a trade school can provide you with a quicker route to financial success.

## 5. Multiple Career Paths

You may be under the impression that trade schools only offer courses in such things as carpentry, auto mechanics, and welding. While that may have been true in the past, the range of courses in today's trade schools has greatly expanded, and now includes many courses that will prepare you for a range of well-paying jobs. Some of these courses are:

- Cardiovascular Technologist
- Commercial Pilot
- Computer Specialist
- Dental Hygienist
- Fashion Designer
- Radiation Therapist
- Web Developer

The above list is only a sampling of courses offered. Chances are excellent that if you have a particular career path you want to pursue, you'll be able to find a trade school that offers related courses, often with a degree or certificate.

If attending a trade school sounds like the right option for you, you owe it to yourself to do some additional research. Look into various trade schools, the courses they offer and their cost. Many of these will accept the AmeriCorps Education Award, just ask. Think about the skills you want to acquire and the vocation in which you would like to build a career. Then you'll have the information you need to make the decision that's best for you.

Like anything, it's always a good idea to be aware of the latest research. We recommend comparing at least 3 or 4 options before making a final decision. Doing a search online is typically the quickest, most thorough way to discover all the pros and cons you need to keep in mind.

<sup>1</sup>[The Simple Dollar, Why You Should Consider Trade School Instead of College](#)

<sup>2</sup>[National Center for Education Statistics, Fast Facts](#)



## **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)**

If you received any type of scholarship from your Corps, it may not count towards your expected family contribution (EFC) on the FAFSA. But you'll have to check the FAFSA to find out if this works for you.

Hiding midway through the FAFSA, you'll find the question relevant to getting your scholarship income to NOT count against you for financial aid. On the paper version of the 2013-14 FAFSA, it's easy to find: **Question 43D**.

It's trickier to find the question when filling out the FAFSA online. When you reach a screen labeled "Student Financial Information Continued," you should see a number of check boxes. Click the checkbox next to the text, "Grants and scholarship aid reported to the IRS." When you click the box, this text should appear:

Student grant and scholarship aid reported to the IRS in your (and your spouse's) adjusted gross income. Includes AmeriCorps benefits (awards, living allowances, and interest accrual payments), as well as grant and scholarship portions of fellowships and assistantships.

Make sure you fill this out! It can help you get a better financial aid package than if you just leave it blank. Though you won't get the satisfaction of doing the math yourself, when you submit your FAFSA, the financial aid office will subtract the amounts you list in this section. This gives you a lower adjusted gross income. In other words, if your only source of income in the previous calendar year is \$9,000 from your Corps stipend, then for financial aid purposes **your income is \$0**, and you potentially could receive a better financial aid package than a student who earned \$9,000 at a regular job. (Be aware that other factors may apply here -- for example, if your parents still claim you as a dependent or if you have other assets.)



The potential **benefits can stretch into two school years**. The FAFSA you fill out for the 2023-24 school year is based on your 2022 taxes. Likewise, down the road, the FAFSA you fill out for the 2024-25 school year will be based on your 2023 taxes. The Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA) is a form (in both paper and online versions) that prospective students fill out who'd like to receive financial aid to go to school. You can learn more at <https://studentaid.gov/>. Usually, it is filled out early in a new calendar year as schools have priority financial aid deadlines that occur often in March or earlier. Even if you are not yet accepted to a school, you can still fill out the FAFSA.

It is completed annually by current and anticipating college students (both undergraduate and graduate) and sometimes their parents to determine eligibility for federal student financial aid (including grants, loans, and work-study programs).

Check with the school's financial aid office for its priority deadline. Filling out the FAFSA before the deadline could help you get the best possible aid package.



## Non-Traditional Education Options

The following pages contain higher education institutions and other training programs for non-traditional education options.

We've only scratched the surface on curriculum and career options in this publication. The first few pages below concentrate on a variety of courses at a few select schools followed by career options and a random sampling of schools in those specific areas. With apprenticeships in the building trades and energy efficiency a major focus at many Corps right now, we have found a couple of schools offering courses in these areas. Check the Title IV listings and other websites provided in this document for schools in your area and what they have to offer. **Note: a) we try to check all links to ensure they are still active and check the programs offered at these institutions, however, things may have changed since this publication was updated and b) we note the Title IV schools because they are required to accept the AmeriCorps education award in case any of you previously earned one and still have time to use it.**

### U.S. Department of Education Title IV Schools:

- <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/resource-type/Federal%20School%20Code%20Lists>
- <https://www.thiscollegelife.com/finance/student-loans/complete-list-of-title-iv-schools/>

### To search schools by subject, try these websites:

- [www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator](http://www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator)
- [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)
- [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

### Search for scholarships:

- [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com)
- [scholarships.com](http://scholarships.com)





## Sample College Listings

Some schools and technical institutes specialize in one subject while others offer a wide range of training. Take for instance the *Pennsylvania College of Technology* in Williamsport, PA ([www.pct.edu](http://www.pct.edu)). They offer Bachelor of Science degrees, Associate degrees and certificates. **Here are some of the fields of interest offered:**

### Bachelor of Science (BS)

Degrees may parallel or build upon the two-year majors, or they may stand as their own unique majors. While the associate's degrees primarily emphasize practical applications, the individual curriculums offer a broader educational experience by adding advanced practical applications, liberal arts study, systematic problem solving, cultural diversity, senior-year projects, and interdisciplinary courses that develop appreciation for the relationships between science, technology, and society. PCT offers Distance Learning - Degree-completion programs exist for students who have attained a two-year Associate's degree in selected program areas. And students may complete a bachelor's degree online in Applied Health Studies; Automotive Technology Management; Dental Hygiene: Health Policy and Administration Concentration; Health Information Management; Nursing (also offered via traditional classroom setting); Technology Management; and Web Design and Multimedia. Courses include Business & Computer Technologies; Accounting; Construction & Design Technologies which includes HVAC, Sustainable Design, Construction Management; Nursing; Culinary Arts; Industrial & Engineering Technologies which includes Computer Aided Product Design, Electronics and Computer Engineering, Welding and Transportation Technology including Automotive Technology Management and Aviation Maintenance Technology.

### Associate Degree

majors help students prepare for employment or serve as the basis for additional education. Associate's degree majors require a minimum of 60 credits and are founded on a [core curriculum](#) that supports and complements the discipline-specific courses.

The **Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.)** degree offers students the opportunity to gain the technical and occupational skills needed for employment. Many four-year colleges accept all or a substantial portion of A.A.S. degree credits as part of a bachelor's degree.

The **Associate of Arts (A.A.)** degree is designed to parallel the first two years of a liberal arts education at a four-year college.

The **Associate of Applied Arts (A.A.A.)** degree is offered in Advertising Art and Mass Media Communication. These majors offer students the opportunity to gain the technical and professional skills needed for employment and to prepare for transfer to a four-year college. Courses include Accounting; Business Management; Legal Assistant-Paralegal; Construction & Design Technologies, HVAC, Electrical Technology; Renewable Energy Technologies, Health Sciences; Culinary Arts; Hospitality Management; Industrial Engineering; Electronics and Computer Engineering; Machine Tool Technology; Welding Technology; Advertising Art; Early Childhood Education; Human Services; Mass Media Communication; Studio Arts; Natural Resource Management; Forest Technology; Landscape/Horticulture Technology; Automotive Technology; Collision Repair, Aviation Technology.

### Certificates in Special Field of Study

These majors are occupational in nature and heavily skills oriented. They are not primarily for transfer, but in certain cases can be transferred to some colleges. Certificate majors vary in length and include a [core curriculum](#) in communication and math, but do not exceed two years of course work.

Courses include Health Information Coding; Nurse-Health Care Paralegal; Construction & Design; Electrical; Building Maintenance; Basic Construction; Plumbing; Paramedic; Practical Nursing; Automotive Service Technician; Aviation Maintenance Technician; Collision Repair Technician.

## College Search

With today's technology, there are many internet sites that give you the opportunity to search for the school you want based on your interests. Whether you want to become a barber, pilot, fashion model, forest ranger, truck driver, or professional chef, you can search for schools that offer those types of courses.

### [www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator](http://www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator)

College Navigator consists primarily of the latest data from the **Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)**, the core postsecondary education data collection program for NCES – the National Center for Education Statistics.

### What is the importance of an education?

It's important because in every culture an educated, skilled work force is what makes individuals, businesses, and societies grow and prosper. Knowledgeable individuals with the ability to develop, follow through, and execute a plan are what build cities and governments. Formal education provides the fundamentals where we learn to research, comprehend, to analyze reason and make decisions. Receiving information and learning to think and reason

creates knowledge that can be applied and shared. Colleges provide a basis for knowledge that allows an individual to become a vital asset to the community and labor market. Pursuing and obtaining a degree, gives an individual proof of the type and level of knowledge gained.

### How does an education benefit me?

An education improves your value in the marketplace by leading to better paying jobs and can be a factor in job promotions. Employers want people who are knowledgeable and educated working for them. They look for prospective employees with college degrees. A college degree is many times a requirement to even qualify to apply for a job. A degree gets a foot in the door to career opportunities. It attracts better jobs and better pay. Well educated job seekers have an advantage in today's competitive market.

Furthering one's education can significantly improve the outlook of his or her future. Those holding a degree may have access to better employment opportunities, greater pay, and better benefits. However, there are so many schools offering degree programs that it may be hard to choose. While reading reviews can be quite helpful in deciding, not all of these reviews are created equally. That's why finding a reliable school review service can be so important.

### Information

Some online college reviews may offer only basic services. This can include vague information such as tuition, location, and other general information. Although these facts may be of high importance, there are other factors to consider. We pride ourselves on gathering resources that can address these concerns and more. Providing prospective students with an insight into college life at the school of choice is our business.

### Resources

To include the most informative reviews, various resources are sought. Simply presenting information found on web pages of the learning institution is not an option. Focusing on entertaining, yet factual reviews is what makes this service unique. Building a comprehensive and well-respected college review service to assist those searching for the right school is the ultimate priority.



*Kaleah never imagined that she would be the **Urban Corps of San Diego County** Corpsmember selected to be the graduation speaker. In her speech she mentioned, "My name originates from the tribal people of Hawaii. It means the flower wreath; the beloved. It's joy and happiness and I never understood why I was given this name when I have experienced so many struggles and hardships."*

*Now Kaleah believes her possibilities are endless, "I can now see a bright future ahead of me and I plan on being in cosmetology and nursing school. I'll be the flyest nurse in that emergency room!"*



## Sample Schools

The following pages are a list of some career and technical programs that teach career skills to current or former Corpsmembers to help them compete in today's business environment. If you are entering the workforce for the first time, or ready to make a career change, these programs can combine your interests and passion with the skills you will need to compete for jobs in high-demand. Again, we have done our best to keep this as up to date as possible. **The information should be current as of December 15, 2022.**

### Sample School #1

**Maricopa Community Colleges (10 Colleges. Unlimited Opportunities)**  
Arizona (multiple locations) <https://www.maricopa.edu/>

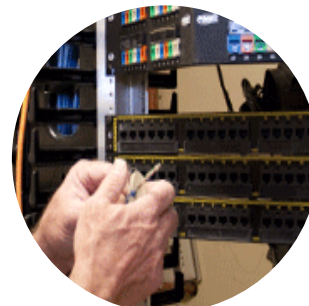
#### Accounting

Bookkeeping and accounting clerks manage the financial records of companies or clients. They maintain and update accounting records, receipts, accounts payable and receivable, and profit and loss. They document and record financial data, and gather information used for reports, research, financial statements and payroll use. Their record keeping serves the organization's need to keep track of all revenues and expenses.



#### Computers: Cisco Networking

The widespread use of the Internet and intranets also has resulted in an increased focus on security. Security threats range from damaging computer viruses to online credit card fraud and identity theft. Most organizations are now employing the services of security consulting firms which specialize in all aspects of information technology (IT) security. These firms assess computer systems for areas of vulnerability, manage firewalls and provide protection against intrusion and software "viruses." They also play a vital role in homeland security by keeping track of people and information.



GCC's Cisco Networking Academy prepares students to test for the CCNA and CCNP industry-recognized certification. The curriculum is taught by Cisco Certified Academy instructors. The degrees in this program provide training for a position working in a networking and Internet environment. Knowledge and skills are developed via hands-on training to install, configure, maintain and troubleshoot Cisco routers, switches, advanced routing protocols, Local Area Networks (LANs) and Wide Area Networks (WANs). Courses in the program prepare students for the Cisco Certified Networking Associate examination.

### **Family Life Education**

Family life education encompasses many types in social services and education. Typically, the job title of human services assistants provides customers with support and assistance in obtaining social services to meet their unique needs. They work closely with teachers, court liaisons, social workers, psychologists, and providers of medical care to provide quality service to customers. They maintain accurate records and consult with supervisors when problems come up.



Career Opportunities - Successful completion of this degree may lead to employment in a variety of different occupations and industries. Below are examples of related occupations with associated Arizona-based annual median wages\* for this program. Education requirements vary for the occupations listed below, so you may need further education or degrees in order to qualify for some of these jobs and earn the related salaries. Please visit with an academic advisor and/or program director for additional information.

Childcare Workers	\$24,890
Directors, Religious Activities and Education	\$44,060
Eligibility Interviewers, Government Programs	\$34,230
Family & Consumer Sciences Teachers, Postsecondary	\$62,860
Fundraisers	\$53,870
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	\$25,000
Recreation Workers	\$25,240
Social and Community Service Managers	\$63,920
Social and Human Service Assistants	\$32,030
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	\$24,840

\* [Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics Program](#). Updated May 2019.

## **Nursing**

Nurses provide holistic care for patients with acute and chronic conditions. They educate patients and the public about various medical conditions and provide advice and emotional support to patients' family members. They record patients' medical histories and symptoms, help perform diagnostic tests and analyze results, operate medical equipment, administer treatment and medications and help with patient follow up and rehabilitation.



## **Other Courses:**

Construction Management, Electrical, Carpentry, Plumbing; Costume design; Cosmetology; Creative Writing; Crime Scene Investigation; Culinary Arts; Dance; Desktop Support; Disc Jockey Techniques; Documentary Film Production; Early Childhood Education; Emergency Management; Emergency Medical Services and Fire Preparatory Academy; Entrepreneurial Studies; Environmental and Natural Resources Conservation/Stewardship; Fire Service Management; Forensic Science; Hazardous Materials Response; Hospitality (Hotel Mgt Restaurant Mgt Spa/Wellness Center Mgt Tourism Development and Mgt); HVSC Technician; Interior Design; Interpreter Preparation; Journalism and New Media Studies; Juvenile Corrections; Landscape/horticulture; Law enforcement; Leadership Development; Marketing; Medical Billing and Coding; Nursing; Occupational Therapy Assistant; Paralegal; Personal Training; Photography; Programming Project Management; Public administration; Public safety; Recreation Management; Retail Management; Screenwriting; Social Media Marketing; Stage Combat; Sustainable Agriculture; Sustainable Food Systems; Video Game Production; Web Design/Development; Welding; Workforce Development and Community Re-entry; Yoga Instruction/Therapy

## Sample School #2

### College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts

New York & Los Angeles [www.amda.edu](http://www.amda.edu)

#### Art, Design and Performance

A career in the Arts whether it's acting, theater design, stagecraft, filmmaking, or photography may require a diverse skill set. If a member plans to pursue a degree, certificate or professional program in the arts they would develop a strong set of skills that could lead to a path in entertainment industry, electronic media/broadcasting, television, theater or even commercial work.



Conservatory program includes a large variety of fundamental aspects of the arts. Learn different techniques of acting, improvisation, voice and speech control and stage combat.

#### Degrees Offered:

Campuses	Program Title	Degree Length
Los Angeles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acting</li> <li>• Music Theatre</li> <li>• Dance Theatre</li> <li>• Performing Arts</li> </ul>	Bachelor of Fine Arts (Four-Year)
Los Angeles and New York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Studio Program:</u> Acting for State, Film and Television</li> <li>• <u>Integrated Program:</u> Acting, Music, Theatre, Dance</li> <li>• Dance Theatre Conservatory: Theatrical, Commercial, and Concert Dance</li> </ul>	Conservatory Certification (Two-Year)

## Sample School #3

Red Rocks Community College  
Lakewood, CO [www.rrcc.edu](http://www.rrcc.edu)

Starting at RRCC makes cents! At about half the cost of a four year university you will complete all of your general education requirements for the bachelor's and can take electives geared toward a specific major. By the time you finish your four-year degree you will save a significant amount of money versus attending the first at RRCC and transferring.

### Carpentry Certificates

#### Career Paths

- Cost Estimator
- Energy Efficiency Auditor and Construction Worker
- Construction Manager
- Plumber
- Glazier
- Cement Mason & Concrete Finisher
- Painter
- Brickmason & Blockmason
- Electrician
- Carpenter
- Construction Worker



### Construction Technology

The Construction Technology Department at RRCC houses several programs including electrical, HVAC, and plumbing. RRCC is continuously dedicated to staying on the cutting edge of the latest technologies and industry needs associated with these fields. These industries can provide a fruitful career with a multitude of employment opportunities. Some of our students train in one or more areas within each industry and often cross-over skill sets to stay in high demand.

### Computer Technology, Cybersecurity, Game Development and More

#### Career Paths

- Computer and Information Research Scientist
- Computer Programmer
- Computer Systems Analyst
- Cryptanalyst
- Database Administrator
- Operations Research Analyst
- Software Developer
- Systems Analyst
- Web Developer



### Emergency Management and Planning Degrees and Certificates



### Career Paths

- Emergency Manager
- Emergency Program Coordinator
- Disaster Planning Specialist
- Director of Safety and Security
- Manager of Security
- Business Continuity Specialist
- Risk Management Specialist
- Emergency Social Services Director
- Emergency Social Services Volunteer Coordinator
- Search and Rescue Manager
- Training Specialist
- Exercise Design Coordinator
- Disaster Planning Assistant
- Disaster Relief Coordinator
- Volunteer Coordinator

### **Firefighter One Academy**

Have you always wanted to be a firefighter? The Red Rocks Community College Fire Science program and Firefighter Academy can provide the key to an exciting career in the fire service! The Academy offers students the opportunity to learn from instructors, already on fire departments, as well as, to receive hands-on training in preparation for becoming a certified firefighter I with the state of Colorado from the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control.



### **Visual Arts**

The mission of the Visual Arts Department is to inspire the creative and thoughtful investigation of studio skills, cultivate original ideas, develop critical thinking and encourage a life-long appreciation of the arts. We do this through high quality 2 and 3-dimensional studio classes and research based art history and art appreciation classes. Our department is supportive of the diverse educational and professional needs of students with a wide range of goals.



### Career Paths

- Art Teacher
- Art Teacher Assistant
- Ceramicist
- Fine Art Photographer
- Fine Artist
- Gallery Assistant
- Gallery Director
- Gallery Owner

## Sample School #4

Palomar College

San Marcos, CA [www.palomar.edu](http://www.palomar.edu)

### **Apprenticeship – Career Education Programs**

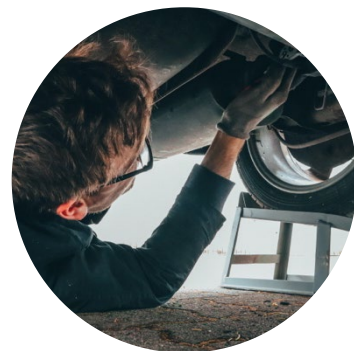
Palomar College, in partnership with local union organizations, provides apprenticeship training programs registered with California Division of Apprenticeship Standards. Apprentices earn college credit while learning occupational skills in the classroom and implement those skills in paid, on-the-job training while working for local contractors.

### **Cabinet and Furniture Technology**

Our programs prepare our students to open their own woodworking business or become employed by a high-end woodworking related business. We currently offer an Associate of Science Degree as well as a Certificate of Achievement in [8 different Program Areas](#). Students may also take coursework to complete a Certificate. Our courses range from **Furniture Design** and **Instrument Making** to **Production Cabinetmaking**. Our graduates are highly employable with the diversity of courses available.

### **Automotive Technology – [Learn more](#)**

- **Auto Chassis and Drive Lines** – *This program will prepare students for entry-level positions in all aspects of the Automotive Industry with an emphasis in drive-line repair.*
- **Auto Computer Controls and Electronic Tune-Up** – *This program will prepare students for entry-level positions in all aspects of the Automotive Industry with an emphasis in drive-ability concerns.*
- **Mechanics – General** – *This program will prepare students for entry-level positions in all aspects of the Automotive Industry.*



### **Fashion Merchandising and Design**

Fashion is one of the largest, most well-established industries in California. An education in Fashion serves the individual by providing the background necessary for these careers throughout California and the United States.

Palomar's Fashion Program provides appropriate education to meet the needs of this vast industry with Certificates and A.S. Degrees leading to potential transfer to Baccalaureate institutions. The Fashion program provides an environment that promotes critical thinking, creativity, multicultural awareness, sensitivity to various learning styles and an understanding of social, organizational and technological systems.



## **Graphic Communications**

The Graphic Communications Department provides excellent skill-building opportunities through our face-to-face and online classes. The faculty are highly qualified and fully engaged in a learning partnership with the students. Students are the center of our focus and the faculty is dedicated to help you achieve your educational and career goals.

We offer Beginning and Advanced courses with the Adobe Creative Suite and other relevant software to lead you towards mastery of our industry standards.

The department offers the following Career Paths:

- Digital Imaging and Publishing (GCIP)
- Multimedia and Web Development (GCMW)
- Foundations of Graphic Communications (GC)



## Non-Traditional Trades

### The Arts: Acting/Theater Design & Stagecraft/Filmmaking

#### Sample Schools:

**Allan Hancock College** / Santa Maria, CA -

[www.hancockcollege.edu](http://www.hancockcollege.edu)

**American Academy of Dramatic Arts** / New York and Hollywood, CA - [www.aada.org](http://www.aada.org)

**Central Lakes College** / Brainerd, MN - [www.clcmn.edu](http://www.clcmn.edu)



### Automotive/ Mechanic

Auto Mechanics interact with customers to obtain information about the problems that they are experiencing with their car. They examine various systems within cars to diagnose problems and run computerized diagnostic test to help them identify components that might be malfunctioning. Education options for mechanics include an Associate's degree in automotive technology, vocational training, an apprenticeship or job training. The mean hourly wage for mechanic is \$19.58 and the mean annual wage is \$40,720. <sup>1</sup>

#### Sample Schools:

**Northwood Technical College** / Shell Lake, WI -

<https://www.northwoodtech.edu/>

**Arizona Automotive Institute** / Glendale, AZ - [www.aai.edu](http://www.aai.edu)

**Automotive Training Center** / Pennsylvania (various) - [www.autotraining.edu](http://www.autotraining.edu)

**Arizona Automotive Institute** / Glendale, AZ - [www.azautoinst.com](http://www.azautoinst.com)

**Community College of Allegheny County** / Pittsburgh, PA - [www.ccac.edu](http://www.ccac.edu)

**Denver Automotive & Diesel College** / Denver, CO - [www.dadc.com](http://www.dadc.com)



<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes493023.htm>

### Business and Finance

A career in Business and Finance is becoming one of the fastest growing and in demand of all occupation because business professionals are in need in almost every industry. Business professionals work as health care administrators, financial analyst, and sales representatives. The program is designed for students who wish to gain the technology and skills necessary for employment and advancement in the business management environment.

#### Sample Programs:

**Walla Walla Community College** / Walla Walla, WA - [www.wwcc.edu](http://www.wwcc.edu)

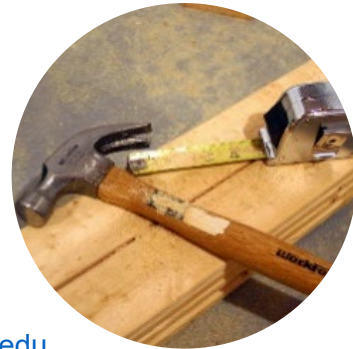
**Becker Professional Education** / Online - [www.becker.com](http://www.becker.com)

**Johns Hopkins University Carey Business School** / Baltimore, MD - <https://carey.jhu.edu/>

**Los Angeles City College** / Los Angeles, CA - [www.lacitycollege.edu](http://www.lacitycollege.edu)

### Carpentry, Construction, Electrical

These career paths can focus on building frameworks, including partitions, joist, studding, and wood stairways, window and door frames, and hardwood floor. This career path may privy a corps member to gain additional vocational skills like Electrical, Air Cooling and HVACC installations. The mean hourly income wage for a carpenter is \$26.06 and the mean annual wage is \$49,520 a year. <sup>2</sup>



#### Sample Schools:

**Eastern Florida State College** / Cocoa, FL - [www.easternflorida.edu](http://www.easternflorida.edu)

**Community College of Denver** / Denver, CO - [www.ccd.edu](http://www.ccd.edu)

**State University of NY College of Technology at Delhi** / Catskill Mountains, NY - [www.delhi.edu](http://www.delhi.edu)

### Cosmetology

Cosmetology is a profession specializing in enhancing a client's beauty. They provide beauty services that include caring for the condition of hair, skin and nails. The industry employs personal appearance workers including hair stylist, shampooers, barbers, makeup artist and manicurist. It takes within 1-3 years to be a licensed cosmologist. The annual wage for a cosmetologist can range from \$20,000 – \$53,000. <sup>3</sup>

#### Sample Schools:

**Eastern Florida State College** / Cocoa, FL - [www.easternflorida.edu](http://www.easternflorida.edu)

**Minnesota School of Cosmetology** / Woodbury, MN - [www.msccollege.edu](http://www.msccollege.edu)

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<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics (Carpenters) <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes472031.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics (Cosmetologist) - <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes395012.htm>

### Computer Science & Graphic Design

A career in the field of computer science and/or graphic design is a promising field with many employment opportunities increasing every day. Possible job paths may lead to a specialization in Computer and Information systems, Computer Systems analyst, Data Scientist etc.

#### Careers in Computer Science/Graphic Design

Computer Support Specialist \$26.69 per hour/ \$55,510 per year<sup>4</sup>

Data Scientist/Research Scientist – \$60.97 per hour/ \$126,830 per year<sup>5</sup>

Web Developers – Median Pay \$37.12 per hour/ \$77,200 per year<sup>6</sup>



#### Sample Schools:

**Mesa Community College** / Mesa, AZ - [www.mesacc.edu](http://www.mesacc.edu)

**Udacity** / Online - [www.udacity.com](http://www.udacity.com)

### Culinary Arts

A career in the culinary field could place the corps member in restaurants and other dining establishments working as prep cooks, restaurant managers, executive chef, sous chef etc. A chef or head cook supervises other culinary workers and oversees the running of the kitchen, often, the entire establishment. A cook who works under a chief's or head cook's supervision may be called an assistant or line cook.

#### Sample Schools:

**Arizona Culinary Institute Scottsdale** / Arizona (various) –

[www.azculinary.edu](http://www.azculinary.edu)

**Institute of Culinary Education** / New York City, NY - [www.ice.edu](http://www.ice.edu)

**Quality College of Culinary Careers** / Fresno, CA - [www.qualityschool.com](http://www.qualityschool.com)

**The Culinary Institute of America** / Hyde Park, NY - [www.ciachef.edu](http://www.ciachef.edu)



<sup>4</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics (Computer Support Specialist) <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/computer-support-specialists.htm#tab-1>

<sup>5</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics (Research Scientist) - <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/computer-and-information-research-scientists.htm>

<sup>6</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics (Web Developers) - <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/web-developers.htm>

### Emergency Medical Technician (Basic Training)

Emergency Medical Technician responds to emergency calls to provide efficient and immediate care to the critically ill and injured, and to transport the patient to a medical facility. The EMT drives the ambulance to the address or location given, using the most expeditious route, depending on traffic and weather conditions. A Basic Emergency Management Certificate will allow corps member to gain medical training, leadership skills, and critical thinking for outdoors, low- resource and remote professionals and leaders.

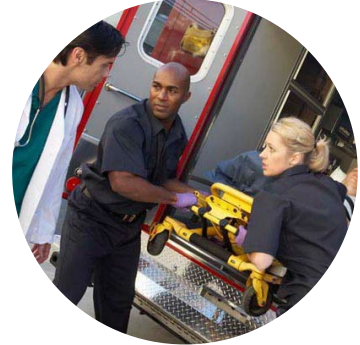
#### Sample Schools:

**Central Lakes College** / Brainerd, MN - [www.clcmn.edu](http://www.clcmn.edu)

**Erie Community College** / Buffalo, NY - [www.sunyerie.edu](http://www.sunyerie.edu)

**Merritt College** / Oakland in Alameda County, California - [www.merritt.edu](http://www.merritt.edu)

**Yakima Valley Community College** / Yakima, Washington - [www.yvcc.edu](http://www.yvcc.edu)



### Horticulturalist

#### American Society for Horticultural Science

Alexandria, VA [www.ashs.org](http://www.ashs.org)

#### Certifications offered:

**ASHS Certified Professional Horticulturist (CPH)**—Certification is the highest level of certification offered by ASHS. It recognizes those in horticulture who are established, with significant work experience, and most with advanced degrees in horticulture. Applicants must have a minimum of five years' experience with a Bachelor's degree in Horticulture or a closely related field OR three years' experience with an advanced degree in Horticulture or a closely related field.

Applicants must also meet the curriculum background requirements as stated in the CPH application.

**ASHS Certified Horticulturists (CH)**—are practicing horticulturists who are skilled and knowledgeable in all areas of horticulture. Those with the ASHS CH certification are required to pass a rigorous four-hour exam based on the following areas of horticulture:

Landscape Design and Maintenance  
Production of Fruits, Vegetables, Turf, and  
Ornamental Plants  
Shipping and Handling of Final Product  
Propagation

Monitoring and Testing, Diagnosing and  
Managing Plant Problems



### Massage Therapy

A career path to be a masseur can take about nine to sixteen months, depending on the amount of coursework for a Diploma in Professional Massage Therapy. The curriculum can include techniques from all around the work in human anatomy and physiology, acupressure and uses of alternative medicine.

#### Sample Schools:

**European Massage Therapy School** / Skokie, IL

- [www.school-for-massage.com/chicago-campus](http://www.school-for-massage.com/chicago-campus)

**University of Colorado Denver** / Denver, CO - [www.ucdenver.edu](http://www.ucdenver.edu)



### Mortuary Sciences

A career in Mortuary Science ranges from an accelerated one-year Associate Degree program to a three-and-a-half-year degree program. The curriculum courses include embalming theory, cremation fundamentals, restorative art and funeral planning. Career options vary from Medical Assistant, Morgue Attendant, to a Funeral Manager.

#### Sample Schools:

**The Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science** / Cincinnati, OH – [www.ccms.edu](http://www.ccms.edu)

**Mesa Community College** / Mesa, Arizona – [www.mc.maricopa.edu](http://www.mc.maricopa.edu)

### Natural Resources, Conservation and Forestry

Many of these programs are only two years. They develop critical skills and knowledge in animal/plant science, mechanics, communications, and public relations specific to become a park ranger. Some programs leave graduates with the ability to survey natural resources and understand their importance to society and ecological principals of conservation. Career options vary from Federal agencies i.e. National Parks Service, U.S. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife or in State Parks and other conservation agencies around the country.

#### Sample Schools:

**Central Oregon Community College** / Bend, OR - [www.cocc.edu/default.aspx](http://www.cocc.edu/default.aspx)

**Earth Institute at Columbia University** / New York, NY - <http://earth.columbia.edu/>

**The Wildlife Society** / Bethesda, MD - [www.wildlife.org](http://www.wildlife.org)

**Dixie State College of Utah** / St. George, UT - [www.dixie.edu](http://www.dixie.edu)

### Truck Driving Schools

To be a Truck Driver usually takes three to four weeks to receive a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training or a Class B – Straight Truck course. Some possible employers could be for a trucking company, manufacturing company or retail stores.

#### Sample Schools:

**Alexandria Technical College** / Alexandria, MN - [www.alextech.edu](http://www.alextech.edu)

**Diesel Driving Academy** / Locations in LA and AR - [www.dda.edu](http://www.dda.edu)

**Hamrick School** / Medina, OH - [www.hamrickschool.edu](http://www.hamrickschool.edu)

**HDS Truck Driving Institute** / Tucson, AZ - [www.hdstruckdrivinginstitute.com](http://www.hdstruckdrivinginstitute.com)



### Welding Schools

To achieve the skill set for a career in welding, programs range from a three-month structural welding course to a fourteen-month Associate of Occupational Studies. Some possible career options could be a construction company, utility company, automotive industry or sculptor.

#### Sample Schools:

**Cincinnati State Technical and Community College** / Cincinnati, OH - [www.cincinnati.state.edu](http://www.cincinnati.state.edu)

**Hobart Institute of Welding Technology** / Ohio (various) - [www.welding.org](http://www.welding.org)

**Fort Peck Community College** / Popular, MT [www.fpcc.edu](http://www.fpcc.edu)



Some schools noted above and these two offer more courses than the category in which they are listed.

**Dorsey College** various locations in MI [www.dorsey.edu](http://www.dorsey.edu)

Culinary Arts; Skilled Trades (electrical technician HCAC systems tech); Beauty (cosmetology, manicuring, esthetician); EMS Program; Massage Therapy; Dental Assistant

**Yestermorrow Design/Build School** / Waitsfield, VT – [www.yestermorrow.org](http://www.yestermorrow.org)

Accounting; Agriculture; Animation; Art; Auto body technology; Automotive Technology; Cosmetology; Computer Science; Culinary Arts; Dance; Electronics Technology; Early Childhood Studies; EMS; fashion; Environmental Health and Safety; Film/Video Production; Fire Technology; Graphic Design; Human Services; Law Enforcement; Music; Recreation Management; Wildland Fire Technology; Web Design; Welding Technology

### Yoga Teacher Certification

There are generally two ways to do this. You can either go through a community college that offers yoga instructor certification classes or go through a non-profit certification program that accepts financial aid. Community college programs are generally cheaper and may be more familiar with financial aid, but private programs are worth considering.

#### Sample Schools:

**College of Lake County** / Grayslake, IL

[www.clcillinois.edu/ads/yoga-teacher-certificate](http://www.clcillinois.edu/ads/yoga-teacher-certificate)

**Manchester Community College** / Great Path & Manchester, CT

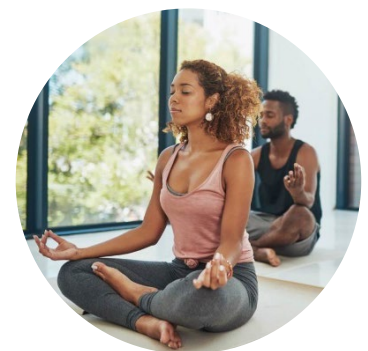
[www.manchestercc.edu/mcc-offers-yoga-teacher-certification-program](http://www.manchestercc.edu/mcc-offers-yoga-teacher-certification-program)

**Scottsdale Community College** / Scottsdale, AZ

[www.scottsdalecc.edu/programs/yoga-instruction](http://www.scottsdalecc.edu/programs/yoga-instruction)

**Anne Arundel Community College** / Arnold, MD

[www.aacc.edu/programs-and-courses/job-training/yoga-instructor](http://www.aacc.edu/programs-and-courses/job-training/yoga-instructor)





## Sample Regional Title IV Schools

While these schools have been selected here because they match some or all of the AmeriCorps Education Award, non-AmeriCorps members may find these schools of interest.

<https://americorps.gov/partner/partnerships/schools-national-service-search>

### PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION & CALIFORNIA

#### [Antioch University Seattle](#)

Seattle, WA [www.antioch.edu/seattle](http://www.antioch.edu/seattle)

Antioch University Seattle offers a \$2,000 National Service Scholarship to qualified AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni in recognition of academic potential, involvement in community and leadership. Students must be admitted to an undergraduate or graduate degree program and be attending full time. Scholarships are renewable with satisfactory academic achievement. As all of the University's programs are two years in length for full time students, the total award is \$4,000.

Arts and Literature Concentration  
Communication & Media  
Leadership & Sustainable Business  
Global and Social Justice Studies

Psychology and Counseling  
Spiritual Studies  
Urban Ecology



#### [Bastyr University](#)

Kenmore, WA [www.bastyr.edu](http://www.bastyr.edu)

Bastyr University is offering an AmeriCorps scholarship to qualified AmeriCorps alumni in recognition of academic potential and leadership in the field of Natural Health. This scholarship will provide \$1500 towards tuition to any AmeriCorps student who is admitted to Bastyr University through the regular admissions process. This AmeriCorps scholarship will be awarded in addition to any academic or need based scholarship that the student may be offered and will be renewable annually with satisfactory academic achievement.

Acupuncture & East Asian Medicine  
Ayurvedic Sciences  
Exercise Science  
Herbal Sciences  
Holistic Landscape Design

Human Biology  
Midwifery  
Naturopathic Medicine  
Nutrition  
Public Health

[California Institute of Integral Studies](#)

San Francisco, CA [www.ciis.edu](http://www.ciis.edu)

CIIS is a unique institution where education is rooted both in the great traditions of knowledge and in the most forward-looking visions of the future. Creative, curious, mindful, and socially aware—these are just a few of the words that describe the people of CIIS.

CIIS matches the AmeriCorps education award for the following students:

Undergraduates up to \$2,000

Masters up to \$3,000

Doctoral up to \$4,000

The award match would be granted if the student completed ONE year of study in our school and after the use of one full year of the AmeriCorps award. The match is given in the form of a scholarship, and it is only up to tuition charges for the semester that it is applied.

Acupuncture & Chinese Medicine:  
Master's Degree (MSTCM)  
Anthropology and Social Change  
Asian Philosophies and Cultures  
Community Mental Health  
East-West Psychology  
Expressive Arts Therapy  
Human Sexuality

Integral and Transpersonal Psychology  
Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness  
Somatic Psychology  
Transformative Leadership  
Transformative Studies  
Women's Spirituality Program

**SOUTHEAST REGION**

[Pulaski Technical College](#)

North Little Rock, AR [www.uaptc.edu](http://www.uaptc.edu)

Pulaski Technical College offers AmeriCorps alums the opportunity to apply for two scholarships each academic year, which will include full tuition and fees for up to four semesters per student. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA with 12 hours and be a US Citizen and resident of Arkansas. The Arkansas Service Commission is the point of contact for scholarship applicants.

Automated Manufacturing Systems  
Automotive Technology  
Aviation Technology  
Collision Repair Technology

Construction Management  
Diesel Technology  
Drafting and Design Technology  
Electronics

General Technology  
Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning &  
Refrigeration  
Machining and CNC

Military Technology  
Power Sports Technology  
Tractor and Trailer Logistics  
Welding Technology

*Sherman College of Chiropractic*

Spartanburg, SC <https://www.sherman.edu/>

In recognition of the dedication and commitment to community service AmeriCorps alumni exemplify, Sherman College of Chiropractic will offer a one-time matching scholarship of up to \$4,000 per Segal AmeriCorps Education Award recipient who is admitted to the doctor of chiropractic program. In addition, Sherman College will waive the application fee for any education award recipient. Please contact the Sherman College Office of Admissions for the application waiver code at 1-800-849-8771.

*Tidewater Tech*

Boiling Springs, SC <https://www.sherman.edu/>

In recognition of the dedication and commitment to community service AmeriCorps alumni exemplify, Sherman College of Chiropractic will offer a one-time matching scholarship of up to \$4,000 per Segal AmeriCorps Education Award recipient who is admitted to the doctor of chiropractic program. In addition, Sherman College will waive the application fee for any education award recipient. Please contact the Sherman College Office of Admissions for the application waiver code at 1-800-849-8771.

Automotive Technician  
Building Maintenance & Repair

Combination Welding  
Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning

*Future Generations University*

Franklin, WV <https://www.future.edu/>

Future Generations University offers a 25% scholarship, worth up to \$4,000, to AmeriCorps volunteers who enroll in either the Master in Applied Community Development program or the Certificate in Applied Community Development program. With two years of service, your Segal AmeriCorps Education Award and this scholarship will completely cover the cost of the master's degree.

At Future Generations University, you can learn with and from a community of global leaders passionate about making lasting change that improves life and advances justice and sustainability all over the world and in your community.

MA in Applied Community Development  
Courses: Sustainable Communities

Peacebuilding & Conflict  
Transformation  
Strategies for Conservation

Taking Impact to Scale  
Nonprofit Management  
Change your World  
Social Entrepreneurship

Food & Water Security  
Natural Resources & Conflict

[Georgetown University School of Continuing Studies](https://scs.georgetown.edu/)

Washington, DC <https://scs.georgetown.edu/>

Georgetown University School of Continuing Studies (SCS) will provide Segal Award recipients an additional 15% scholarship each semester for all Master of Professional Studies (MPS) programs, Executive Master of Professional Studies (EMPS) programs, and the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies (BALS) program. Tuition rates are adjusted annually and go into effect at the conclusion of each spring semester. This scholarship shall not apply to study abroad programs or any additional fees levied by Georgetown University. Students must remain in good academic standing according to the standards set forth by the SCS Office of Academic Affairs in order to continue receiving the scholarship.

**PROFESSIONAL MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS**

Global Hospitality Leadership	Design Management & Communications	Executive Master's in Emergency & Disaster Management
Sports Industry Management	Integrated Marketing Communications	Applied Intelligence Emergency & Disaster Management
Executive Master's in Global Higher Education Higher Education Administration	Public Relations & Corporate Communications	Systems Engineering Management
Executive Master's in Global Strategic Communications	Real Estate	Technology Management
	Urban & Regional Planning	

## MOUNTAIN REGION

[Flathead Valley Community College](#)  
Kalispell, MT [www.fvcc.edu](http://www.fvcc.edu)

Five (5) \$1,000 match awards are available. Please contact Danelle Whitten, Associate Director of Financial Aid at 406-756-3842 for more details.



### **AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES**

Agriculture  
Brewing Science and Brewery Operations  
Forestry  
Geospatial Technology  
Integrated Agriculture & Food Systems  
Natural Resources Conservation & Management  
Parks, Tourism and Recreation Management  
Wildlife Biology

### **OCCUPATIONAL TRADES**

Advanced Manufacturing  
Commercial Driver's License (CDL)  
Electrical Apprenticeship  
Electrical Technology  
Electronics Technician  
Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning  
Industrial Machine Technology (CNC)  
Industrial Maintenance  
Welding and Fabrication Technology

[Westminster College](#)

Salt Lake City, UT <https://www.westminstercollege.edu/>

Westminster College is pleased to offer an AmeriCorps Matching Grant to qualified undergraduate students in recognition of academic potential, involvement in community activities, and leadership. This award matched the AmeriCorps Education Award with up to \$4,725 annually based on the amount of funds the student requests from AmeriCorps. The matching amount will apply toward tuition for the student's first bachelor's degree and may not exceed a student's remaining financial need after all need-based financial aid has been awarded.

Aviation Flight Operations  
Aviation Management  
Geology  
Global Studies  
Outdoor Education and Leadership  
Sports Management

[Fort Peck Community College](#)

Poplar, MT <http://www.fpcc.edu/>

Fort Peck Community College will match up to three (3) individual Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards at \$1000.00 each per academic year. Match will be in the form of tuition waiver up to \$1000 per student per year.

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

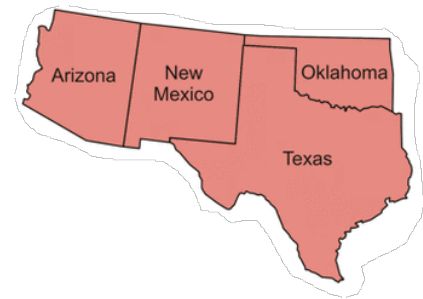
Accounting Technician  
Automotive Technology  
Business Assistant  
Diesel Technology

Graphic Web Design  
Healthcare Montana Pre-Nursing  
Truck Driving  
Welding Technology

## **SOUTHWEST REGION**

### [Prescott College](#)

Prescott, AZ <http://www.prescott.edu/>



Up to \$1,000 Segal Education Award match, applicable to all undergraduate programs. Undergraduate matches will be applied towards tuition and fees and are applied over the remaining terms in a student's program.

Up to \$2,000 Segal Education Award match, applicable to all graduate programs. Graduate matches will be applied towards tuition and fees and are applied over the remaining terms in a student's program.

AmeriCorps alumni who have already used their Segal Education Award but are interested in a graduate degree program at Prescott College, are eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship that will be applied towards tuition and fees and are applied over the remaining terms in a student's program. Alumni will be required to provide a copy of their Segal Education Award letter.

Designated Admissions Counselor to support AmeriCorps member through the application and aid process.

One-year enrollment deferrals for individuals who serve in AmeriCorps.

Opportunity for AmeriCorps members to receive four free undergraduate credits and three graduate credits for completing Arizona Serve's Civic Leadership Training modules. It is also possible to earn college credit for their year(s) of service through Prescott's Prior Learning Assessment, please reach out to an Admissions Counselor for more information.

Arizona Serve is the largest AmeriCorps program in the state of Arizona hosted through Prescott College in both Yavapai and Pima Counties.

## **ADVENTURE EDUCATION**

Adventure-Based Environmental Education  
Outdoor Experiential Education  
Outdoor Program Administration  
Wilderness Leadership

## **CULTURAL & REGIONAL STUDIES**

Border Studies  
Gender Studies  
Regional Studies

## **ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

Conservation Biology  
Earth Science  
Environmental Education BA  
Environmental Studies  
Marine Studies  
Natural History & Ecology

[Texas A&M University Bush School of Government & Public Service](#)

College Station, TX <http://bush.tamu.edu/>

The Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M partners with AmeriCorps in its MPSA (Master of Public Service and Administration) and MIA (Master of International Affairs) degrees\*. The MPSA and MIA degrees pay the application fee for AmeriCorps applicants, provide priority points in admissions consideration, grant aid for FT service of \$7,000 or more each year, provide in-state tuition rates, offer one-year enrollment deferrals, and can possibly waive the required professional internship requirement for seasoned AmeriCorps alumni. In year two, first-year awards are renewable by maintaining a minimum GPA or students can apply for graduate assistant (GA) positions that replace their first-year award. We value AmeriCorps alumni, and many receive awards that exceed \$10K or more, with several receiving what amount to full-ride considerations.

*\*This Bush School agreement does not extend to the Executive level degrees (EMPSA, MIP, MIP-DC campus), the joint MIA-MPH (while in the MPH portion), or online certificates. It only works with the MPSA and MIA on-campus degrees.*

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATES**

[Advanced International Affairs](#)

[Homeland Security](#)

[Nonprofit Management](#)

[Public Management](#)

[International Communication and Public Diplomacy](#)

[National Security Affairs](#)

**NORTHEAST REGION**

[Asnuntuck Community College](#)

Enfield, CT [www.asnuntuck.edu](http://www.asnuntuck.edu)

Asnuntuck Community College provides a \$1000 presidential tuition waiver for two (2) AmeriCorps Alumni admitted as full-time, matriculated students. Presidential tuition waivers are renewable with satisfactory academic progress for a total waiver of \$2,000. Applications are due by May of each year.



Additive Manufacturing  
Advanced Manufacturing Machine  
Technology  
Advanced Manufacturing Welding  
Technology  
Manufacturing Electro-Mechanical  
Maintenance Technology  
Manufacturing Electronics Technology  
Metal Fabrication Technology  
Quality Inspection Technology

Technology Studies: Advanced  
Manufacturing Welding Technology Option  
(A.S.)  
Technology Studies: Lean Manufacturing  
and Supply Chain Management option  
(A.S.)  
Technology Studies: Machine Technology  
option (A.S.)  
Technology Studies: Manufacturing Electro-  
Mechanical Maintenance Technology Option  
(A.S.)



Technology Studies: Manufacturing  
Electronics Technology option (A.S.)

[Delaware Valley University](#)  
Doylestown, PA [www.delval.edu](http://www.delval.edu)

Delaware Valley University offers a matching grant for AmeriCorps members who are eligible for the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award. The matching grant is for \$1,500 each year for up to four years equaling a total Segal Education matching grant of \$6,000. Recipients must meet the college's admissions requirements; be enrolled full time in one of the college's undergraduate degree programs and remain in good academic standing throughout their undergraduate studies.

Agribusiness (B.S.)	Equine Science (B.S.)
Animal Science (B.S.)	Food Science (B.S.)
Biology (B.S.)	Food Technology with Nutrition Specialization (B.S.)
Conservation and Wildlife Management (B.S.)	Horticulture (B.S.)
Crop Science (B.S.)	Small Animal Science (B.S.)
Dairy Science (B.S.)	Sustainable Agriculture Systems (B.S.)
Environmental Science (B.S.)	Turf Management (B.S.)
Equine Management (B.S.)	Zoo Science (B.S.)

[Rhode Island School of Design](#)  
Providence, RI <https://www.risd.edu/>

The Rhode Island School of Design offers to match the AmeriCorps grant for an amount not to exceed \$4725 for two, full-time, matriculated undergraduate or graduate students. Candidates should send a letter to the financial aid office by February 15th stating their eligibility and their interest in applying.

Apparel Design	Industrial Design
Architecture	Interior Architecture
Ceramics	Jewelry + Metalsmithing
Digital + Media	Landscape Architecture
Experimental and Foundation Studies	Literary Arts + Studies
Film / Animation / Video	Painting
Furniture Design	Photography
Glass	Printmaking
Graphic Design	Sculpture
History of Art + Visual Culture	Teaching + Learning in Art + Design
Illustration	Textiles

[Sterling College](#)

Craftsbury Common, VT [www.sterlingcollege.edu](http://www.sterlingcollege.edu)

The school will match education award funds up to \$1,500 per year.

Ecology  
Environmental Humanities  
Sustainable Agriculture

Sustainable Food Systems  
Outdoor Education  
Draft Horse Management

**MIDWEST REGION**

[Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs \(SPEA\)](#)

Bloomington/Indianapolis, IN [www.spea.indiana.edu](http://www.spea.indiana.edu)



SPEA strongly encourages students who have successfully completed volunteer service with AmeriCorps to apply. Alumni of the AmeriCorps program qualify for a reduction of 3 credit hours per year of service with a maximum award of 6 credit hours. This is a value of at least \$2,700 per year of service, depending on the residency. AmeriCorps alumni also satisfy the experiential requirement of the MPA and MSES degrees. Additionally, all who apply by SPEA's February 1 Priority Aid Deadline will be considered for merit aid opportunities including graduate, teaching, and research assistantships, as well as SPEA's nationally recognized Service Corps program. SPE waives three credit hours per year of service (up to 6 credit hours) from the degree requirements of all AmeriCorps alumni.

The SPEA and Center on Philanthropy at IU offer graduate programs in nonprofit management and philanthropic studies on the Indianapolis and Bloomington campuses. The 48-credit hour Master of Public Affairs offers a concentration in nonprofit management. Programs in nonprofit management on the IU Bloomington and Indianapolis campuses were ranked 1st and 6th respectively by U.S. News and World Report. The 36-credit hour Master of Arts in Philanthropic Studies is awarded by the Center on Philanthropy through the Indiana University School of Liberal Arts in Indianapolis. It is the first master's degree program in the United States to focus on the history, culture, and values of philanthropy. Students can also combine the two programs, earning both MPA and MA degrees, in 60 credit hours of courses. A limited amount of financial aid is available for students who qualify.

For more information about the nonprofit management program in Indianapolis -

<http://www.spea.iupui.edu> and the philanthropic studies program

<http://www.philanthropy.iupui.edu>

**UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES**

Public Affairs  
Environmental Science  
Environmental & Sustainability Studies  
Healthcare Management & Policy  
Arts Management

**MASTERS DEGREES**

Public Affairs (MPA)  
SPEA Connect Online MPA & Certificate Programs

Environmental Science (MSES)  
Public Affairs-Environmental Science Dual  
Degree (MPA-MSES)

Environmental Sustainability

[Illinois State University Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development](https://stevensoncenter.org/)  
Normal, IL <https://stevensoncenter.org/>

Through coursework and an 11-month paid internship, students earn a master's degree in anthropology, applied economics, kinesiology and recreation, political science, or sociology. Within each degree program, the applied community/economic development subplan covers a range of topics, including project design and management, grant writing, and other subjects in administration and planning. Additionally, each student drives an individual research agenda in areas like sustainable development, food systems, microfinance, and housing.

- The Stevenson Center matches the AmeriCorps Education Award through:
- Graduate assistantship (starting at \$914/month) during fall and spring semester (first year)
- Stipend (\$1,516/month) during 11-month professional practice internship (second year)
- 100% tuition waiver worth up to \$30,300 over 2-year program

Total financial support for Fellows is worth at least \$45,300 and up to \$64,200. The Stevenson Center matches the AmeriCorps Education Award for ALL admitted Fellows through:

- Graduate assistantship (starting at \$973/month) during fall and spring semester of first year
- Stipend (currently \$1,972/month) during second-year 11-month professional practice internship
- 100% tuition waiver worth up to \$32,682 over two-year program
- Other benefits, please see [Financial Support](#)

See [Stevenson Center](#) for important information regarding eligibility and program requirements.

**MASTER DEGREES:**

Anthropology  
Applied Economics  
Kinesiology and Recreation  
Political Science

Peace Corps Paul D. Coverdell Fellows  
Program  
Applied Community & Economic  
Development (ACED) Fellows Program  
Peace Corps Prep

**OTHER PROGRAMS:**

[University of Michigan--Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning](http://www.taubmancollege.umich.edu/)  
Ann Arbor, MI <http://www.taubmancollege.umich.edu/>

Taubman college offers Teach for America and other AmeriCorps alumni who are admitted to our graduate degrees a matching scholarship for up to \$10,000. The matching award is based on the award amount from AmeriCorps, the level of funding already awarded by Taubman College, and the availability of funds.

Master of Urban Planning  
Master of Architecture  
Master of Science in Architecture  
Master of Urban Design



## Go On an Expedition

### Outdoor Education Options

#### Outward Bound

[www.outwardbound.org](http://www.outwardbound.org)

Outward Bound educational programs, in city classrooms and outdoors in amazing wilderness settings. Courses vary from one week to an entire semester or instructor courses to gain experience in outdoor skills and leadership. You can receive college credit through certain institutions.

#### The International Wilderness Leadership School

[www.iwls.com](http://www.iwls.com)

An outdoor school that specializes in providing guide training, outdoor leadership training, wilderness education, and technical instruction. The programs include technical training in alpine mountaineering, sea kayaking, rafting, canoeing, rock and ice climbing, backcountry skiing/snowboarding, backpacking, and more.

#### Wildfire Job Training

[www.coloradofirecamp.com/index.html](http://www.coloradofirecamp.com/index.html)

If you are considering work in wildland fire suppression after your service, [Colorado Fire Camp](http://www.coloradofirecamp.com/index.html) - the only wildfire academy that teaches the required S-130/S-190 course year-round - accepts EAP awards for their training courses. Trainings in wildfire suppression, mitigation of wildfire risk, and stewardship of forests and grasslands are invaluable in making students more competitive for agency jobs and positions.



## Mountaineering Guide

You can use your award to take Kling Mountain Guide classes, if you sign up for the college credit option through San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico. You don't have to be a student there to enroll. Here are some of the classes offered through the college credit program:

- Rock Rescue
- Introduction to Mountaineering
- High Altitude Mountaineering
- Avalanche Clinic Level 1
- Avalanche Clinic Level 2
- Sport Climbing

**San Juan College** / Farmington, NM [www.sanjuancollege.edu](http://www.sanjuancollege.edu)

**Kling Mountain Guides** / Durango, CO [www.klingmountainguides.com](http://www.klingmountainguides.com)



## National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS)

[www.nols.edu](http://www.nols.edu)

A non-profit outdoor education school teaching environmental ethics, technical outdoors skills, wilderness medicine, risk management and judgment, and leadership on extended wilderness expeditions and in traditional classrooms. The NOLS mission is to be the leading source and teacher of wilderness skills and leadership that serve people and the environment.



*I used my first ed award from NCCC in a traditional manner. But used subsequent award towards my career in wildland fire, taking a wilderness EMT course with NOLS. I have now served as the EMT on three separate fire crews and am entering my fourth season with the Forest Service as a lead firefighter.*  
– Kim  
Alum, AmeriCorps St. Louis

LANDER, WY — The National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) is encouraging AmeriCorps alumni to continue their impressive track with a NOLS diploma by offering to match their education award.

“Your work and dedication has distinguished you among your peers, and I know great things are on your horizon,” NOLS Marketing Representative and AmeriCorps alumnus Travis Davis writes in a letter to fellow AmeriCorps grads.

The school sees great value in motivated students with a desire to learn, lead and help others. To support AmeriCorps alumni after their year of service, NOLS will match the AmeriCorps education award up to the full amount this year for semester and yearlong course tuition. AmeriCorps grads can also use their unmatched education award toward any course.

Interested AmeriCorps alumni can learn more at [info.nols.edu/ameriCorps](http://info.nols.edu/ameriCorps).

**Notes about NOLS** - For NOLS, as with a few other travel education programs, you must be an enrolled student and the funds for the course go from the school to NOLS rather than paying it directly as a member of the general public would. This may cost you more since you have to do it as a student paying tuition and often it's a higher fee than if you were paying the fee on your own (not using your ed award).

From NOLS: You are eligible to use your 529 College Savings Plan or AmeriCorps Education Award to cover the costs of your course, thanks to NOLS' partnership with Western State Colorado University.

Our NOLS courses are eligible for you to use your AmeriCorps education award and/or 529 Plan. For NOLS Expedition courses, NOLS will match your AmeriCorps education award up to \$2,000 dollars. Your AmeriCorps award/529 Plan also can be combined with other financial aid such as scholarships and VA benefits.

## Global Service Corps

Offers an overseas service experience with optional college credit and the chance to use your ed award for program fees, airfare, and related expenses. Whether serving in Tanzania, Cambodia, or Thailand, AmeriCorps alumni can stay involved in issues that are important to them while making a positive impact on global communities. Global Service Corps community development projects focus on the areas of health, education, and nutrition. Programs are offered throughout the year and range in length from as short as two weeks, to more intensive internships lasting six months or longer. College credits are also available for all programs, though it is not required to earn credit to use the ed award. [Learn more here.](#)



## Starting Your Own Business

Most community colleges have business start-up classes or entrepreneurship opportunities that coach students while they take classes and start their business venture. Some schools even offer business incubator opportunities, which is a place for businesses to grow during its beginning stages. Incubators offer support, access to resources, and networking opportunities with other new entrepreneurs.

**Step one** - Check with your local community college to see what they offer.

**Step two** - Research schools that offer business incubator opportunities. Some examples include:

- [Cumberland Business Incubator](#) - Roane State Community College / Crossville, TN
- [The Santa Fe College Business Incubation Program](#) - Santa Fe College / Santa Fe, NM
- [Technical Innovation Center](#) - Hagerstown Community College / Hagerstown, MD
- [John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center](#) - North Iowa Area Community College / Mason City, IA
- [Springfield Business Incubator \(SBI\)](#) - Springfield Technical Community College / Springfield, MA

### **Step three**

Enroll in the school's community college business start-up class.