

Career and College Focus

2019-2020 Navigator Lesson Plan #1

Alternatives to a Four-Year College

College week is concluding, and seniors have applied to the college their choice and are gearing up for next steps after high school. What about you? What if a 4-year college isn't a possibility? Please know that you still have many choices and many ways to reach your career goals.

1. Community College

Advantages of attending community college:

- a. Costs less than traditional 4-year college
- b. High rate of employment – community colleges are connected with area employers
- c. Hands-on-training
- d. Career focused/employment training
- e. Smaller class sizes
- f. General education portion is connected to career
- g. Wide range of courses and programs

AB Tech Community College, Asheville, NC <https://www.abtech.edu/>

Quick Careers - A-B Tech has many short-term training options designed to help students get started in a new career quickly. Instead of training in terms of years, these classes operate in terms of months or weeks. Are you ready for your new career? Completing short-term training courses at A-B Tech can prepare students for higher paying jobs.

<https://www.abtech.edu/economic-and-workforce-development-continuing-education/quick-careers>

Haywood Community College, Clyde, NC <https://www.haywood.edu/>

Southwestern Community College, Sylva, NC, <https://southwesterncc.edu/>

Blue Ridge Community College, Flat Rock, NC, <https://www.blueridge.edu/>

2. Military

- The military is an exciting career option. Each of the five services offers over 350 different job opportunities. Members on active duty earn 30 days paid vacation each year, full medical and dental benefits for you and your family, and the opportunity to travel and live across the world.
- An enlisted E-5 with a high school degree and 4 years of active service living in Candler, NC would earn \$58,000 annually. A career E-9 with a high school degree and 30 years of service living in Candler, NC would earn \$119,000 annually.
- An officer with 4 years of active service living in Candler, NC would earn \$95,000 annually. A career officer at the rank of O-6 living in Candler, NC with 30 years of service would earn \$177,000 annually. (pay rate is for members with dependents)
- Military members on active duty receive 100% free college tuition. Members also receive the Post 911 GI Bill which pays 100% tuition, books, and a housing allowance of approximately \$1,500 a month for 4 years. The Post 911 GI Bill can be used by the member, a spouse, or transferred to their children to be used at a later date.
- Also, the retirement pay for a 51 year old O-6 with 30 years of service is 107,000 for life with an annual COLA adjustment. The retirement pay for a 48 year old E-9 with a high school degree and 30 years of service is \$68,000 for life with an annual COLA adjustment.
- For more information see the link below or talk to the Enka JROTC Instructors.

<https://militarybenefits.info/military-pay-calculator/>

3. Temporary Agencies

Temporary staffing agencies are a great place to begin if you're not sure how to start your career search. You will be placed in a job that is a match for your skills and interests with the possibility of being hired full time! Plus, companies may be willing to pay for future education as a full-time employee. A few are listed below, but Buncombe County has many more temporary agencies. Please click on this link to explore additional options. [Buncombe County Temporary Agencies](#)

- Asheville Staffing Resources
- Adeddo Employment Service
- Friday Technical Services
- Aerotek
- Manpower
- Comforce Staffing Services
- Express Employment Professionals
- Kimmel & Associates
- Sunshine Employment Resources
- Labor finders

4. Apprenticeships – 3-5-year programs where you can earn while you learn. Examples of careers:

- HVAC Services
- Building Automation
- Fire Detection
- Security Systems
- Capital Projects
- Project Management
- Electrician
- Residential Wireman
- Telcom Installer
- Lineman

A few local companies that offer **Apprenticeship programs and on the job training:**

Asheville Electrical JATC, 46 New Leicester Hwy, Asheville, NC 28806, 828-505-0216, ext. 1102, www.aejatc238.org

Asheville Homebuilders Association, 14 Mimidis Lane, Swannanoa, NC 28778, 828-299-7001, <https://commercial.gentryheatinginc.com/>

Carolina Specialties Construction, LLC, PO Box 825, Hendersonville, NC, 828-458-0168, <http://cscwnc.com/>

Ed Holmes & Associates Land Surveyors, PA, 300 Ridgefield Ct, Suite 301, Asheville, NC 28806, 828-225-6562, <http://edholmessurveying.com/index.php>

Gentry Service Group, 100 Buckeye Access Rd, Swannanoa, NC 28778, 828-274-2520, <https://commercial.gentryheatinginc.com/>

MB Haynes Corporation, 187 Deaverview Rd, Asheville, NC 28806, www.mbhaynes.com

MSS Solutions, 125 Glenn Bridge Road, Arden, NC 28704, 828.651.0266, www.msssolutions.com

PlumbSmart Technologies, PO Box 2200, Weaverville, NC 28787, 828-974-6147, <https://plumbsmarttech.com/>

Tennoca Construction Co, 1575 Smoky Park Hwy, Candler, NC 28715, 828-665-8331, <https://www.tennoca.com/>

TP Howards Plumbing Company, 90 Number Nine Rd, Fairview, NC 28730, 828-628-1369, <https://www.tphowardsplumbing.com/>

Vannoy Construction, 551 Brevard Rd, Suite 111, Asheville, NC 28806, 828-575-1300, <https://www.jrvannoy.com/>