



Journal of Business and Social Science Review  
Issue: Vol. 4; No.3; March 2023 (pp.14-15)  
ISSN 2690-0866(Print) 2690-0874 (Online)  
Website: www.jbssrnet.com  
E-mail: editor@jbssrnet.com  
Doi: 10.48150/jbssr.v4no3.2023.a2

## **Trade Schools May Be The Answer**

**B. A. Neil**  
**Retired Professor**  
**Business Law**

**Key Words:** Trade schools, college, tuition, job-specific skills.

Individual students have the privilege of attending a college or trade school. In both instances, the student is given the necessary knowledge to secure a job or continue their studies for advanced degrees.

There is no perfect answer to picking a trade school over a college. However, 70% of all jobs require some type of "college education or post-secondary schooling." (Carnevale & Cheah, 2018).

College allows an individual to expand their ability to reason, while trade schools provide industry-specific job skills, such as mechanical or technical skills.

After completing the trade school, the students are usually provided a certificate or diploma. At that point, they can take the "licensing exam or become an apprentice" (Carnevale) in their given trade.

On the other hand, colleges provide a basis for reasoning as well as more classroom instruction. While colleges provide a general understanding, trade schools provide the educational background for a vocation.

In addition, a college education usually takes longer to complete. 120 to 128 semester credit hours, as opposed to 60 credits for a technical or trade school. Realistically, the trade school student is able to start working and making money, assuming they have completed school.

Financially, there are important considerations as well, with college tuition costing as much as \$60,000.00 annually, while a trade school may cost only \$10,000.00. (U.S. Department of Education, 2020). Admission standards are yet another limiting consideration.

Although the college graduate may earn more over their lifetime, the trade school graduate gets an "early jump" on earnings and entering the workforce. In addition, the trade school graduate will most likely have a more stable career than a college graduate. It is unlikely that their job can be subject to automation or outsourcing. Besides, the United States is currently in need of more skilled laborers.

Since trade schools train for a specific trade, students only enroll in classes that are relevant to their specific selected trade or field of study. Ultimately, it "depends on what they want to do with their career" (Intercoast).

"If you're looking for job-specific skills, trade school is no doubt the better route, particularly when you factor in the cost of your education. However, if you're interested in research or a general pursuit of knowledge, you may thrive in a more traditional college setting". (Thomas Farriere, Intercoast College)

Recently, there has been an increase in trade school enrollments, as there has been a shortage of skilled workers. Trade schools should not be considered a “second choice”. Even though negative attitudes continue to persist.

Students that are attending trade schools are getting job training that will provide them with “a way up the economic ladder”. (Peter Goodman, 3/13/10, The New York Times).

### **APPENDIX**

- [1] Carnevale, A.P. & Cheah, B. (2018) *Five Rules of College and Career Game*. Georgetown University Center for Education and Workforce.
- [2] U.S. Department of Education (2020) *College Affordability and Transparency List*.
- [3] Thomas Ferriere, Intercoast Colleges Fairfield, (Blog), *Trade School Vs College: What’s the Difference and Which is Best for You?*
- [4] Peter Goodman, (March 13, 2010), *In Hard Times, Lured Into Trade Schools and Debt*. The New York Times