

Careers for You! Overview

This book provides general descriptions of modern careers, including a practical definition, a list of formal qualifications, and suggestions of potential job opportunities, in different fields of interest. The book is divided into three sections based upon the level of education that is required in order to access each career:

High School Diploma or GED, Associate's Degree, & Bachelor's & Beyond.

High School Diploma or GED

This first section addresses the careers available to people who have successfully completed a high school curriculum and graduated with a diploma, or those who have passed the standardized test equivalent, or GED. The GED is the General Educational Development test and is administered by each state. Upon passing this, a student receives a high school equivalency diploma. There are requirements for eligibility to take the GED, including state residency, and a minimum age of sixteen.

Associate's Degree

This second section defines careers that require an associate's degree, which is awarded to a student following completion of a two year program at a community or a junior college. It is possible to break the associate's degree into two general categories: transfer degrees and career or professional degrees. A transfer degree allows a student to transfer from a community or junior college to a college or university, with credit for the first two years applied to a four year degree program. This text focuses on the career or professional degrees.

The requirement for admission to a program that offers an associate's degree is either a high school diploma, or a high school equivalency diploma. It is worth noting that many schools and colleges award military students credit towards a degree based on training, coursework, and occupational specialty. Apprenticeship programs also provide supervised training for careers that require hands-on learning experiences.

Bachelor's & Beyond

This final section discusses professions that require higher levels of education. A bachelor's degree is awarded to those students who successfully complete a post high school degree program, usually lasting four or more years, at an accredited college or university. Master's and doctorate degrees are considered graduate levels of study, and require many more years after completion of a bachelor's degree. Some graduate degree programs last as long as six or eight years.