

Alternative Post Secondary Options


Hanover High School
Counseling Department

Why choose an alternative?

- Four-year college doesn't feel like the right fit for me
- I'm not ready to go to a four-year college
- I want to take some time off from school
- I want to pursue a career path that does not require four-year college
- I want to save money



What are the statistics?

- 61.8% of 2021 high school graduates nationwide were enrolled in four-year colleges or universities (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)
 - In the class of 2021 at Arlington HS 15% of students did not plan to enroll in a four-year college after graduating (MA DESE)
 - According to a 2017 study, 51% of Americans who pursued a four-year college degree had regrets about their higher education decisions
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What are my options?

- 2 year college
- Apprenticeships & Trade School
- Gap Year
- Military



2 Year College

- Often referred to as community college or junior college
- Excellent for saving money or boosting students' GPA
- MA state community colleges are part of the **Mass Transfer Program**
- Great for students who are interested in career training programs



Apprenticeships & Trade Schools

- **Apprenticeships** are paid career-training programs where students learn on the job in addition to occasional classroom instruction
- **Trade Schools** give hands-on training in skills needed for specific careers
- Please see the HHS Counseling Office for a full list of trade schools and apprenticeship opportunities.



South Shore Technical School is offering FREE 13-week training programs for seniors in good academic standing and recent graduates. See your counselor for registration information.

Training programs include: HVAC, Automotive Technology, Horticulture and Landscape Design, Metal Fabrication and Welding.

Gap Year

- Staying local, working, saving money for the next chapter
- Connecting with internships
- Service projects
- Travel opportunities



Military

- Options for students in each military branch
- Recruiters work with students & families to discuss options and requirements
- Benefits include tuition assistance, housing, and job training



Education Benefits
for Military Members



What are my next steps?



- Talk to your **school counselor** to learn more about your options.
- Check out the **resources** listed at the end of this presentation for further research at home.


Remember that everyone is on a different path. It is okay to choose something other than a four-year school. It is okay to be unsure of your next step. Achieving success is not one-size-fits-all. It looks different for everyone!

Resources

Two Year Colleges

- Mass Transfer Program: <https://www.mass.edu/masstransfer/>
- Community Colleges in your area:
 - Bunker Hill Community College: <https://www.bhcc.edu/>
 - Roxbury Community College: <https://www.rcc.mass.edu/>
 - Middlesex Community College: <https://www.rcc.mass.edu/>

Apprenticeships & Trade School

- [Apprenticeship.gov](https://www.apprenticeship.gov) is a helpful search tool for career opportunities
 - [Careeronestop.org](https://www.careeronestop.org) connects you to Apprenticeship Offices
 - Check out trade schools' [College Scoreboard](#) on the Department of Education's website to ensure you are choosing a reliable program
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Resources

Gap Year


- Find internships at <https://internworks.com/>
- Service Project resources:
 - <https://www.cityyear.org/>
 - <https://www.habitat.org/stories/is-a-gap-year-right-for-you>
 - <https://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/is-peace-corps-right-for-me/>
- Gap year travel programs:
 - <https://efgapyear.com/>
 - <https://www.teenlife.com/category/gap/?program-type=gap>

Military

- More information about the military, benefits, and contacting a recruiter:
<https://www.usa.gov/join-military>



Additional References

- [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)
 - [Gallup & Strada Education Network](#)
 - [Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education](#)
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Thank You!