



The CorpsNetwork

Strengthening America through
service and conservation

**“I’m not going to
College, so why
would I want an
Ed Award?”**

Non-Traditional Uses of the AmeriCorps Education Award

Fourth Edition - October 2009



***Corps strengthen the fabric of America by
revitalizing communities, preserving and restoring the environment,
preparing youth for responsible productive lives
and building civic spirit through service.***

***The Corps Network currently administers a number of multi-state national
direct AmeriCorps programs in addition to a large national
Education Awards Program. Since 2000 over 24,000 members from 80
Corps across the country have enrolled in the Ed Awards Program.***

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“I plan to use the AmeriCorps scholarship I earned to continue my education in an apprenticeship program in Bricklaying when the Wild Fire Prevention Program is completed. Last winter I graduated from a Vocational School in Welding and Bricklaying. So, to tie in everything I've done so far I believe that doing the best you can is the motto for achieving your goals. Commitment, teamwork and dedication is the star I'm shooting for. Having the opportunity to work and help make a difference to the environment and community is an expression of your attitude towards helping others.”

Yvette Chischillie
Southwest Conservation Corps



This publication was based solely on anecdotes by former Corpsmembers and information currently available and easily accessible. The research on different types of education award usage and educational institutions was done through the U.S. Department of Education website and the Internet.

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INTRODUCTION

This document and its accompanying brochure were designed to address the needs of those Corpsmembers who don't plan to continue their education in a traditional four-year degree program. Not only can this serve as a tool to encourage current Corpsmembers to join The Corps Network's Education Awards Program, but it may be used as a recruitment tool as well. By sharing this information with your Corpsmembers, everyone is given the opportunity to make an informed decision about his/her future. The Corps Network's member corps have permission to copy these documents for their corpsmembers.

Why Should I enroll in the AmeriCorps Ed Awards Program?

It's a great way to achieve the goals that fit the diverse lifestyles of young adults. Career options range from Automotive Technology to Computer Arts and Web Design.

What if I don't plan to continue my education?

You have seven years to use the Ed Award. Once you've completed your term in the Corps, you may feel differently. Or, you may want to work for a year or so after leaving the Corps and before using your education award. You have time to think about your future, so why not go for it - get that scholarship now so it will be there when you need it.

ABOUT YOUR EDUCATION AWARD

After successfully completing a term of service, AmeriCorps members who are enrolled in the National Service Trust are eligible to receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award. You can use your Segal AmeriCorps Education Award to pay education costs at qualified institutions of higher education, for educational training, or to repay qualified student loans. The amount of the award is :

Service Term	Minimum # of Hours	Ed Award (Scholarship Amount)	Ed Award (Scholarship Amount) Beginning 2010-2011
Full-time	1700	\$4,725.00	\$5,350
One-year Half-time	900	\$2,362.50	\$2,675
Reduced Half-time	675	\$1,800.00	\$2,038
Quarter-time	450	\$1,250.00	\$1,415
Minimum-time	300	\$1,000.00	\$1,132

This information can be found on the AmeriCorps website at: http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/benefits/index.asp

Under certain circumstances, you can use the education award to study outside the United States. Contact the National Service Trust at 800 942 2677 for further information. At the time you use the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, you must have received a high school diploma, or the equivalent of such a diploma.

You have seven years to use the education award from the date of your completion of service. You can use portions of your award at different times, as long as it is for authorized expenditures and within the specified time period. You could, for example, apply a portion of the award to existing qualified student loans, and save the remainder to pay for authorized college costs a few years down the road.

EXTEND THE 7-YEAR DEADLINE

By law, you have seven years within which to use your AmeriCorps Education Awards. The period begins the date you complete your term of service in AmeriCorps. This time limit may be extended if certain circumstances have prevented the award from being used during this time period. These circumstances can include:

- Performing another term of service in AmeriCorps or the Peace Corps during the seven year period; or
- Being unavoidably prevented from using the award during this period. Examples which may warrant extensions include serious illness or disability, military service, death of a family member, important service records being destroyed or inaccessible by the program. Any period of incarceration as a result of a conviction of a criminal offense will not be considered an unavoidable situation.

You must request the extension in writing before the end of the seven-year period. The request can be either by mail or can be made electronically. A notice will be mailed to all members prior to the end of their seven-year period reminding them of the expiration of their awards. **For further information on how to request this extension, contact the National Service Trust toll-free at 1-800-942-2677.**

USING THE AMERICORPS EDUCATION AWARD

You can use your AmeriCorps Education Award in any of the following ways - or a combination of them.

Repay Qualified Student Loans

The national service legislation defines *qualified student loan* as a loan backed by the federal government under Title IV of the Higher Education Act (except PLUS Loans to parents of students), or under Titles VII or VIII of the Public Health Service Act.

You may also use your AmeriCorps Education Award to repay a student loan made by a state agency, including state institutions of higher education. Education Awards may not be used to repay any other type of loan, even if the loan was obtained for educational purposes. You can use your Award to repay defaulted student loans as long as the loans meet the definition of *qualified student loan*.

Pay Current Educational Expenses at a Qualified School

Current educational expenses, as authorized under 42 U.S.C. § 12604(c), include:

- The "Cost of Attendance" for a degree- or certificate-granting program of study at a qualified school; and
- Educational expenses for non-degree courses offered by qualified schools, such as continuing education courses.

Your school is qualified if it is a Title IV institution of higher education. This includes most colleges and universities, and includes graduate schools and many trade schools as well.

Pay Current Educational Expenses While Participating in an Approved School-to-Work Program

Current educational expenses are those incurred after you became an AmeriCorps member. Current educational expenses are based on:

- The "Cost of Attendance" for a degree or certificate-granting program at a qualified school and
- Educational expenses for non-degree courses, such as continuing education courses offered by qualified schools.

For credit or degree courses, the cost of attendance may include tuition, books and supplies, transportation, room and board, and other expenses. Each school's financial aid office determine a student's cost of attendance based upon standard U.S. Department of Education guidance.

HOW DO YOU GET YOUR AWARD?

My AmeriCorps / AmeriCorps Online Payment System

Accessing and managing your Segal AmeriCorps Education Award has never been easier. My AmeriCorps provides a one-stop shop for AmeriCorps State and National, VISTA and NCCC applicants, members and alumni - presenting a wealth of information and frequently requested forms and services. By registering to use the system, you can check your award balance, access important financial forms and, most importantly, quickly and easily make payments to your educational or financial institution. The system also provides you with the ability to:

- Modify contact information (name, addresses, e-mail address)
- View and print tax statements and forms
- View and print pay statements (as applicable)

Access customized letters certifying your term of service with an AmeriCorps program

LOAN POSTPONEMENTS, INTEREST PAYMENTS, AND FINANCIAL AID

The Corporation is not in a position to provide advice about your income taxes or how you use your education award. However, for a discussion on how the education award may affect other financial aid and income taxes, see (30 pg document from 2001) [The Effective Education Award](#) by National Service Fellow Brandon Rogers.

AmeriCorps members who are earning a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award are uniquely eligible for one type of postponement of the repayment of their qualified student loan called forbearance. During this forbearance based on national service, interest continues to accrue. If you successfully complete your term of service and earn an education award, the National Service Trust will pay all or a portion of the interest that has accrued on your qualified student loans during this period. This accrued interest paid by the Trust, like the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award itself, is subject to income [taxes](#).

ELIGIBILITY FOR POSTPONEMENT

AmeriCorps members enrolled in an AmeriCorps project are eligible for forbearance for most federally-backed student loans. For other types of student loans, ask your loan holder if your AmeriCorps service qualifies you for a deferment or forbearance.

To have repayment of your federal qualified student loans postponed, you must first officially enroll in an AmeriCorps project, which electronically sends enrollment information to the Trust. Then you must request a "forbearance" from your loan holder, by completing the **Forbearance Request for National Service Form** and any additional information or forms that your loan holder may require. Members can obtain the Forbearance Request Form through their program's staff. Complete one form for each of your loan holders. Since there are several types of forbearances and deferments, tell your loan holders that you are requesting loan forbearance based on your AmeriCorps service.

Submit your Forbearance Request for National Service Form (available through your program's staff) and any other information required by your loan holder to the National Service Trust, which we will process and return to your loan holder. We can certify your AmeriCorps status, but only the loan holder can determine your eligibility for forbearance. Contact your loan holder if you have not heard from them within four weeks of submitting your information to the Trust.

INTEREST ACCRUAL PAYMENTS

AmeriCorps members who have earned a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award are eligible to have the Trust pay up to 100% of the interest that accrued on their qualified student loan during their service. To have the Trust pay all or a portion of the interest accrued on your qualified student loans, the Trust must receive verification from your project that you have completed your service and are eligible for an award. You and your lender also must complete the [Interest Accrued During National Service Form](#), which indicates the amount of interest accrued during your service period. Your loan holder sends this completed form to the Trust for payment.

The Trust WILL NOT pay interest on qualified student loans if you fail to complete your term of service. Exceptions will be made only if you fail to complete your term of service for compelling personal circumstances and you have earned a pro-rated award. It is up to your individual program to determine compelling personal circumstances. Examples that might be considered are a serious illness or injury, death of your immediate family member, or early closing of your project.

The Trust will only pay interest on qualified student loans, as described earlier. Ask your loan holder if your student loan qualifies for other kinds of forbearance.

Defaulted Loans

Most student loans that are in default are not eligible for forbearance. If you have loans that have gone into default before you begin your AmeriCorps service, you can attempt to negotiate an arrangement with the loan holder (or collection agency) to bring the loan out of default so forbearance can be granted and interest paid.

You must correctly complete and submit to the National Service Trust the (1) **Forbearance Request for National Service Form** (available through your program's staff) at the start of your service term; and submit to your lender the (2) [Interest Accrued During National Service Form](#) at the end of your service term. Your project director may also make these available to you.

FINANCIAL AID

The Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, the interest the Trust may pay on your deferred qualified student loans, and the living allowance can affect your eligibility for other student financial aid in the following ways:

- Under certain circumstances, your education award, living allowance, and Trust payments on accrued student loans can be excluded from calculations determining your eligibility for student aid based on financial need. This could increase the amount of "need-based" aid for which you are eligible.
- Under different circumstances, using the education award can reduce the amount of other need-based student aid for which you are eligible.

Institutions of higher education may offer special benefits to AmeriCorps alumni, thereby increasing the benefit of the education award.

TAX IMPLICATIONS

Segal AmeriCorps Education Award

The Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, unlike most other forms of scholarships and fellowships, is subject to federal tax in the year the Trust pays the voucher. Living allowances you received during your term of service and any interest the Trust paid on qualified student loans are also subject to income taxes in the years they were paid. When and how much of the education award you redeem may have an impact on your overall income tax responsibility.

If the Trust makes a payment on qualified student loans to your school or lender for the entire amount of a full-time education award in one calendar year, you will be responsible for any income taxes owed in that calendar year on that \$5,350. If you redeem only a portion of your education award in one calendar year, you will be responsible for any taxes owed on that portion.

The interest payments we make on postponed qualified student loans are subject to income taxes in the calendar year in which the Trust makes the payments to the lender.

The Trust **DOES NOT** deduct taxes from your education award or interest payments. After the calendar year in which we paid your education award or interest payments, we send you a Form 1099 to be used in preparing your income tax return. The total sum of interest payments and the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award are listed together on the 1099 form.

Living Allowance

You are responsible for any income taxes owed on any AmeriCorps living allowances you receive. The living allowance amount received in a calendar year is subject to income taxes for that calendar year. For example, if you receive half of your \$10,000 living allowance in 2009 and half in year 2010, the \$5,000 received in 2009 is subject to 2009 income taxes, and the \$5,000 received in 2010 is subject to 2010 income taxes.

Tax Relief

While you are responsible for taxes on your education award and other AmeriCorps benefits, you may be eligible for other tax relief through the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997. Issues about income taxes are very complicated. The important point to remember is that you should consider the tax consequences of any decisions you make about when and how to use your education award. Contact a tax professional or the [Internal Revenue Service](#) for details

Frequently Asked Questions

What can the education award be used for?

You can use your education award in the following ways, or a combination of them:

- to repay qualified existing or future student loans;
- to pay all or part of the current education expenses to attend a qualified institution of higher education (including certain vocational programs); or
- to pay expenses while participating in an approved school-to-work program.

How much are education awards for?

See page 1 of this document for the terms/scholarship amount. If you serve at least 15 percent of your term and leave for compelling personal circumstances (as determined by your project director), you may be eligible for a prorated award based on the number of service hours you complete.

How many education awards can you receive?

Beginning in 2010-2011 you should be able to serve multiple terms not to exceed the equivalent of two FT awards.

- For members who began service on or after Oct. 1, 2009 and are age 55 and older upon enrollment may, upon successful completion of a term of service, transfer the education award to a child, grandchild or foster child. *(To be included in a proposed rule, anticipated November 2009)*
- The Trust does not make payments to anyone else other than qualified schools and loan holders. See your financial aid counselor for information on how they handle disbursements and reimbursements.

If you withdraw from the school at which you have used the education award, the school may be required to refund the Trust. If any refund is owed, it is credited to your education award "account," and is subject to the seven-year time limit. For general information on how withdrawing from school may affect your student financial aid, go to U.S. Department of Education's [Student Guidebook](#).

Under certain circumstances, you can use the education award to study outside the U.S. Contact the **National Service Trust** at 1-800-942-2677 for further information.

You have seven years to use the education award from the date of your completion of service. You can divide up your award and use portions of it at different times, as long as it is for authorized expenditures within the specified time period. You could, for example, apply a portion of it to existing qualified student loans, and save the remainder to pay for authorized college costs a few years down the road.

Which colleges and universities are "qualified institutions"?

You can use your education award at most institutions of higher education (including graduate and professional programs), as well as some vocational schools. An institution is considered qualified for the education award if it is a Title IV school, which means it has an agreement with the U.S. Department of Education making its students eligible for at least one of the federally backed forms of financial assistance (such as Pell Grants, Perkins Loans, Stafford Loans, National Direct Loans, and Federal Consolidated Loans). To make sure the institution you want to attend is qualified, check with the financial aid office to make sure the school is a Title IV institution before you make specific plans. However, there are some exceptions to the rule so check with your school, if they are not Title IV, they may accept the ed award.

Can I defer student loans during my service with AmeriCorps?

You may qualify for postponement, or forbearance, of the repayment of your loans during your service. The education award will help you pay off qualified student loans when you're finished. Contact your lender for more specific information or to confirm your loan status during AmeriCorps service.

Are there any loan forgiveness programs or repayment plans that I might qualify for as an AmeriCorps member?

On September 27, 2007, President Bush signed the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 ("CCRAA") into law. In addition to other amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1965, the CCRAA created two new federal programs: a new Public Service Loan Forgiveness program and a new Income-Based Repayment plan (IBR) for the repayment of federal loans. The new Income-Based Repayment plan helps to make repaying education loans more affordable for low-income borrowers, such as an AmeriCorps member living on a stipend; AmeriCorps service is also recognized as equivalent to a public service job for the purposes of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

What types of loans can the education award repay?

Most postsecondary loans that are backed by the federal government are qualified for repayment with an AmeriCorps education award. Also, loans that are made by state agencies, including state colleges and universities are now qualified. Your lender should be able to tell you if your loan is qualified. Qualified loans include Stafford Loans; Perkins Loans; William D. Ford Direct Loans Federal Consolidated Loans; Supplemental Loans for Students; Primary Care Loans; Nursing Student Loans; Health Education Assistance Loans; Loans issued to AmeriCorps members by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education.

What are "current educational expenses"?

Current educational expenses are expenses that were incurred after you became an AmeriCorps member. Current educational expenses are based on:

The "cost of attendance" for a degree or certificate-granting program at a qualified school and educational expenses for non-degree courses, such as continuing education courses offered by qualified schools.

For credit or degree courses, the cost of attendance may include tuition, books and supplies, transportation, room and board, and other expenses. Each school's financial aid office determines a student's cost of attendance based upon standard U.S. Department of Education guidance.

Can I use the Ed Award to purchase a computer?

Possibly. Ask your school's financial aid office. While many schools allow students to do this, it is at the discretion of the financial aid office. You can use your ed award to pay for expenses contained within the school's predetermined Cost of Attendance. Some schools will allow you to increase your Cost of Attendance in a given year to help pay for supplies and equipment, such as a computer. Your best bet: simply ask what their policy is.

Are there Institutions that Match the Education Award?

Go to http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/benefits/ed_award_match.asp for the full list and map. Click on "view the list" in the box that contains the map.

When can you use your education award?

You can use your education award any time after you receive your voucher -- up to seven years after the date you end your service. You can apply for an extension if:

- you are unable to use the award for some reason during that time; or
- you perform another term of service in an approved program.

To be considered for an extension, you must apply before the end of the seven year period.

Can I give my education award to someone else?

Over the past few years, there has been talk of changing how the education award is processed so that a member who earns one can give it to someone else (for example, a child or a person in need). At present, it does not appear the rules will change in the foreseeable future. The simple answer is no.

Is the education award taxable?

Yes. You will be taxed on your education award in the year you use it. For example, if you use all or part of your award for college in the fall of 2010, when you file your 2010 taxes, you must pay taxes on the portion of the award you used.

However, you may be able to take advantage of the Hope Scholarship Credit or the Lifelong Learning Credit. Those credits may provide you with significant tax relief. Both the Department of Education and the Internal Revenue Service have information on these tax provisions.

The Corporation for National and Community Service does not withhold taxes from the award. By the end of January the Corporation will send a 1099 Form to all AmeriCorps members who have made payments from their education awards and for whom interest payments have been made during the previous year. The 1099 Form does not need to be included in your tax return, but it reflects the amount that the National Service Trust reports to the IRS as taxable miscellaneous income.

Looking for your W-2?

AmeriCorps*State and National members will receive their W-2 from the Program or Corps in which you served.

AmeriCorps*VISTA and AmeriCorps*NCCC members will receive their W-2 from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Who do I contact with questions about my Award?

Please contact the National Service Trust at **800 942 2677** or **202 606 7511** . The Trust is staffed by live operators from 8:00-6:00 EST.

For duplicate vouchers, and report a change of address, you can e-mail the Trust at edaward-voucher@cns.gov.

Sample College Listing

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). They offer Bachelor of Science degrees, Associate degrees and certificates. Here are some of the fields of interest offered:

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degrees focus on applied technology including automotive technology management; aviation maintenance technology; building automation technology; computer-aided product design; computer information technology (concentrations in IT security specialist, network specialist, technical support specialist, and Web and applications development); construction management; culinary arts technology; dental hygiene (concentrations in health policy and administration and special population care); electronics engineering technology; environmental technology management; graphic communications management; graphic design; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) technology; legal assistant/paralegal studies; manufacturing engineering technology; nursing; physician assistant studies; residential construction technology and management; technology management; and welding and fabrication engineering technology.

Associate degrees (A.A.S., A.A.A., A.A., or A.S.) include advertising art; automotive service sales and marketing; automotive technology (including Ford and Toyota industry-sponsored majors); aviation technology; baking and pastry arts; building construction technology; building construction technology (masonry emphasis); collision repair technology; computer information systems (emphases in Cisco technology, information technology technician, network technology, technical support technology, and Web and applications technology); culinary arts technology; dental hygiene; diesel technology (including a Mack Trucks industry-sponsored major); electric power generation technology; electrical technology; electromechanical maintenance technology; electronics technology (emphases in Cisco systems, communications/fiber optics, computer-automation maintenance, electronics engineering technology, industrial process control, and semiconductor processing technology); environmental technology; floral design/interior plantscape; forest technology; graphic communications technology; health arts; health information technology; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) technology; heavy construction equipment technology (emphases in Caterpillar industry-sponsored, operator, or technician); hospitality management; human services; individual studies; landscape/nursery technology; landscape/nursery technology (turfgrass management emphasis); legal assistant (paralegal) studies; mass media communication; nursing; occupational therapy assistant; office information technology (emphases in medical office information, specialized office information, or Web design); paramedic technology; physical fitness specialist; toolmaking technology; and welding technology.

Certificate majors are offered in automotive service technician, aviation maintenance technician, cabinetmaking and millwork, collision repair technician, computer applications technology, construction carpentry, diesel technician, electrical occupations, machinist general, plumbing, practical nursing, and welding.

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, fashion model, pilot, entertainer, truck driver, or professional chef, you can search for schools that offer those types of courses! Check these websites for your area of interest. You can also "Google" a type of school for additional listings. Once you've found the right school, check U.S. Department of Education Title IV Schools at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/FOTWWebApp/FSLookupServlet> to make sure it is a Title IV school (so you can use the voucher) and find the school code.

To find a school by subject/course, check the following websites:

www.petersons.com

- Ø Education Search
- Ø Colleges & Universities
- Ø General Search
- Ø Keyword Search – enter the subject you want to study (i.e. automotive) -click Results
A list of schools offering that subject will appear- click on one for detailed information.

www.collegeboard.com

- Ø College Quick finder
- Ø Advanced Search
- Ø Choose the type of search you want (i.e. Majors & Academics)
- Ø Next to #1 enter the subject you want to study (i.e. pilot) and click "go".
- Ø Next to #2 they may offer more specific majors in that field. You can highlight one or two of those majors and then click "add to list" or you can choose click "add all" and search for schools that offer each of those specific majors.
- Ø As you scroll down you will see other search options that you can choose to better find a school that suits your needs. You can continue to narrow your college search by choosing some of these options, or if you just want to search by the subject go to the end of the page and click "see results".
- Ø A list of schools that provide courses for the subject you entered will then appear. Click on a school for detailed information.

www.collegeview.com

- Ø College Search
- Ø Pick the type of search you want – for example, if you want to search by subject click "Areas of Study"
- Ø Next there will be a listing of subjects to choose from – click one
- Ø There will then be a listing of specific majors within that area of study – click the major or majors you want to study and hit "add." Once you have chosen all of the majors within that area of study go to the bottom and click "search now"
- Ø A list of schools that provide courses for the subject you entered will then appear- click on a school for detailed information.

Although we have given you specific steps to search by subject, take time to look around on these sites because they offer a lot of valuable resources, and other search options for anyone getting acquainted with the college search. Good luck!

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN A PARTIAL LISTING OF TITLE IV INSTITUTIONS FOR NON-TRADITIONAL USES OF THE AMERICORPS EDUCATION AWARD

Please Note: Salaries listed in this publication are industry national average starting salaries in Los Angeles, California, so these will vary across the United States. We were only able to list salaries for a few of the career options mentioned in this publication.

We've only scratched the surface on the curriculum and career options and only listed a random sampling of schools. Check the Title IV listings and other websites provided in this document for schools in your area and what they have to offer.

Resources

About the Education Award

http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/benefits/index.asp

U.S. Department of Education Title IV Schools

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/FOTWebApp/FSLookupServlet>

Schools that Match the Ed Award

http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/benefits/ed_award_match.asp

To search schools by subject, try these websites

www.petersons.com
www.collegeboard.com
www.collegeview.com

For more information about AmeriCorps contact the Corporation for National and Community Service

1-888-507-5962 or www.americorps.gov

THE ARTS: ACTING/THEATER DESIGN & STAGECRAFT/ FILMAKING/COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Program Terms

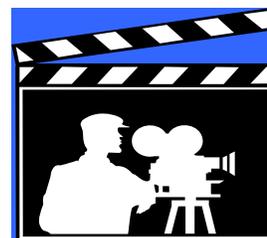
- ♦ Range from a six-week intensive Shakespeare program to a full two-year conservatory program
- ♦ AADA programs range from a 6-week summer program to a two or three year professional training program.

Curriculum

- ♦ Conservatory program includes every fundamental aspect of acting
- ♦ Learn different techniques of acting, improvisation, voice and speech control and stage combat

Career Options

- ♦ Theatre companies from NY to Hollywood
- ♦ Television Industry
- ♦ Movie Industry



Starting annual salary	
Actor/Performer	\$ 41,000
Videographer	\$ 38,000
Set Designer	\$ 34,000

Sample Schools

Allan Hancock College - Santa Maria, CA
www.hancockcollege.edu

American Academy of Dramatic Arts (AADA) - NY and Hollywood
www.aada.org

Brevard Community College - Cocoa, FL (Photography)
www.brevard.cc.fl.us

Brooks Institute of Photography - Santa Barbara, CA
888-394-3456 (also video and filmmaking)

Central Lakes College - Brainerd, MN (theater design)
www.clcmn.edu

College of Santa Fe - NM
www.csf.edu

BEAUTY/COSMETOLOGY

Program Terms

- ♦ Most certification programs last for less than a year.

Curriculum

- ♦ Prepare students for successful completion of the State Board Licensing Examination which is required for the practice of cosmetology.
- ♦ Students learn creative hair styling, hair design, and application of cosmetics to the skin, hair, and scalp.

Career Options

- ♦ Manicurist
- ♦ Skincare specialist
- ♦ Electrolysis technician
- ♦ Hair stylist
- ♦ Make-up artist

Starting annual salary	
Cosmetologist	\$ 19,500
Hairdresser	\$ 25,537
Manicurist	\$ 22,643

Sample Schools

Brevard Community College - FL
www.brevard.cc.fl.us

Empire Beauty Schools
(32 campuses in PA, NJ, GA & MD)
www.empirebeauty.com

Manchester Beauty College - Fresno, CA
(559) 224-4242

Minnesota School of Cosmetology - Oakdale
www.trade-schools.net/minnesota-school-of-cosmetology/default.asp

Model College of Hair Design - Saint Cloud, MN
www.Modelcollegeofhairdesign.com



AUTOMOTIVE/MECHANICS



Program Terms:

- ♦ Range from seven months for certification programs to approximately two years for the degree programs
- ♦ Basic 45-week automotive technology program to a full 57-week race car mechanic program at the NASCAR Technical Institute

Curriculum:

- ♦ Programs in Automotive Technology, Diesel Technology, Autotronics Technology, Collision Repair and for Automotive Service Technicians.
- ♦ Prepare for employment with automobile dealerships, fleet operators, automotive specialty shops, mass merchandisers, and independent retailers.
- ♦ Learn operational theory, diagnostic procedures, and industry accepted methods of service and repair of current automotive systems

Career Options:

- ♦ Certificate holders: Automotive apprentices or general line technicians
- ♦ Diploma or Degree holders: Engine specialists or shop foremen
- ♦ NASCAR pit crew

Starting annual salary

Winston Cup Team Mechanic (entry level)	\$ 24,000
Automotive Maintenance Repairer	\$ 36,000
Diesel Engine Mechanic	\$ 35,000



Sample Schools

Albuquerque Technical-Vocational Institute - NM
www.tvi.edu

Arizona Automotive Institute
www.azautoinst.com

Automotive Training Center - PA
www.autotraining.com

**Community College of Allegheny County
Pittsburgh, PA**
412-237-2511

Denver Automotive & Diesel College - CO
www.dadc.com

My goal was to be a certified auto mechanic. In 16 months of service, I earned two education awards, completed basic and advanced auto mechanics courses, and mentored with the mechanics at the local Chevrolet dealership. I left the Corps in February 2005 for a full-time position with the dealership. The following summer, I entered the Community College of Allegheny County to pursue an associate's degree in auto mechanics. The cost of my education is being paid, in full, by my employer.

Justin Eppley
Pennsylvania Conservation Corps
Justin's crewleader, Floyd Blough, said, "If anyone has ever used our program to ... better their life and to advance and start a career, it's Justin."

BUILDING, CARPENTRY, CONSTRUCTION, ELECTRICAL

Program Terms

- ♦ Academic and technical programs are offered.

Curriculum

- ♦ No information available.

Career Options

- ♦ Carpenter
- ♦ Construction worker for homes or commercial buildings
- ♦ Brick and Stone Mason
- ♦ Electrician or HVAC Mechanic

Starting annual salary

Carpenter	\$ 43,000
Drywall Installer	\$ 35,000
Electrician	\$ 44,000
HVAC Mechanic	\$ 47,000



“I plan to use my Ameri-Corps Education Award for carpentry classes.”

Nick Rios
American YouthWorks

Sample School

Allan Hancock College - Santa Maria, CA
www.hancockcollege.edu

Brevard Community College - Cocoa, FL
www.brevard.cc.fl.us

Community College of Denver - CO
(303) 556-2430 or (303)-556-2600

State University of New York College of Technology at Delhi
(607) 746-4558 enroll@delhi.edu



COMPUTERS/COMPUTER ARTS



Program Terms

- ♦ Range from single courses to degreed programs, depending on the subject.

Curriculum

- ♦ Classes give students a career-focused education that teaches the skills employers demand and offer hands-on practical experience with real world applications, and many offer job-placement assistance.
- ♦ Students can enroll in computer-based technology programs that prepare graduates for high-tech career opportunities. Classes include computer-aided design/architectural drafting, computer network engineering, com-

puter network management, e-business management, game art and design, graphic design and multimedia, information systems security, visual communications, and Web design and multimedia, to name a few.

Career Options

- ♦ Web Design
- ♦ Game Design
- ♦ Graphic Design
- ♦ Information System Security

Starting annual salary

Multimedia/Computer Graphics	\$ 35,000
Web Design	\$ 38,000
Computer Game Applications	\$ 45,000
E Business Management	\$ 53,000

Sample Schools

Community College of Allegheny County– Pittsburgh, PA
412-237-2511

Westwood College

www.westwood.edu

Operates seventeen campuses, with locations in Anaheim, Inland Empire (Upland), Long Beach, and Los Angeles, California; Atlanta, Georgia; Chicago Loop, DuPage, O’Hare Airport, and River Oaks, Illinois; Denver North and Denver South, Colorado; Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston, Texas; and the Washington, D.C., area.



“I am currently attending San Jose City College and working on my AA degree for web design. I completed one 1700 hour AmeriCorps term and I am currently working on my second. The scholarship has helped me enormously to go to college and pay for college fees: books, class registration and other school needs. I am thankful to the AmeriCorps Ed Awards Program because with that financial assistance and my desire to go to college this was possible to achieve. Without the award it would be very unlikely that I could be attending college.”

Andrew Villafuerte
San Jose Conservation Corps

CULINARY ARTS

Program Terms

- ◆ Associate degree programs typically run for about 12 to 15 months and career options include working as gourmet chef and variety of jobs in the hospitality and culinary industry.

Curriculum

- ◆ Intensive courses for Baking and Pastry Arts certification
- ◆ Associate of Occupational Studies degree in Culinary Arts
- ◆ Externship programs to complement the academic program to gain real-world cooking experience by training in some of the most prestigious restaurants and hotels in the country

Career Options

- ◆ Chef (sous chef, pastry chef, or other at restaurants, hotels, resorts, spas, schools)
- ◆ Baker
- ◆ Restaurateur
- ◆ Caterer

Starting annual salary	
Baker	\$ 26,000
Cook	\$ 31,000
Chef - Sous	\$ 36,500
Pastry Chef	\$ 53,000

Sample Schools

California Culinary Academy - CA

www.baychef.com

Quality College of Culinary Careers - Fresno, CA

www.qualityschool.com

Scottsdale Culinary Institute - AZ

www.scichefs.com

The Culinary Institute of America - NY

www.ciachef.edu



DANCE

Program Terms

- ♦ Range from the six-week summer intensive program to the three-year professional program.

Curriculum

- ♦ Courses include training in different types of dance, such as tap, ballet, jazz, modern, African, Irish step dance and swing.
- ♦ Other academic courses include dance history and music theory.
- ♦ U of MN employs local dance artists with national and international reputations to teach the students. Students give many local performances throughout the year.

Career Options

- ♦ Dance companies
- ♦ On and Off Broadway shows
- ♦ Back-up dancers for singers
- ♦ Choreographer
- ♦ Dance teacher
- ♦ Music videos
- ♦ Movies and Television

Starting annual salary	
Choreographer	\$ 45,000
Dance Instructor	\$ 33,000



Sample Schools

Dance Theatre of Harlem - NY

www.dancetheatreofharlem.com

Towson University - Towson, MD

www.discover.towson.edu

University of Minnesota - Twin Cities Campus

(800) 752-1000

Emergency Medical Technician (Basic Training)

Program Terms

- ♦ Typically four months (120 hours) of classroom and field training plus in-hospital observation and training - for EMT.

Curriculum

- ♦ Training in emergency medical care with an ambulance service.
- ♦ Anatomy, physiology and treatment of medical illnesses and traumatic injuries frequently encountered in pre-hospital settings.
- ♦ Covers patient assessment, stabilization, treatment and transport.
- ♦ Assistance in preparing for the EMT state-certification exam.
- ♦ Certificate program prepares students for safe, dependable, and prompt performance of a firefighter's tasks during emergencies and in the fire station. Students learn the about the organization and operations of fire service, proper use of fire equipment, tactics and strategies of fire fighting, specialized job skills, and management techniques.

Career Options

- ♦ Emergency Medical Technician with an ambulance service
- ♦ Firefighter
- ♦ Paramedic

Starting annual salary	
Emergency Medical Technician	\$ 27,000
Firefighter	\$ 35,000
Ambulance Driver	\$ 24,000

Sample Schools

Many community and technical colleges offer EMT courses. Check with local colleges for course availability.

Central Lakes College - Brainerd, MN
www.clcmn.edu

Erie Community College – Buffalo, NY
www.sunyerie.edu

Merritt College – CA
www.merritt.edu

Modesto Junior College - CA (firefighting)
www.mjc.edu

Yakima Valley Community College - WA (firefighting)
www.ycvc.edu



Massage Therapy



Program Terms

- ♦ Range from nine to sixteen months, depending on the amount of coursework for a Diploma in Professional Massage Therapy.

Curriculum

- ♦ Courses include massage techniques from all around the world, lessons in human anatomy and physiology, acupuncture, and uses of alternative medicine.

Career Options

- ♦ Work for a professional sports team
- ♦ Work at a Hotel or Spa
- ♦ Own your own business

Starting annual salary

Massage Therapist \$ 30,000-40,000
(\$45 to \$65/hr for private practice)

Sample Schools

Apollo College - Phoenix & Tucson, AZ

www.apollocollege.edu

Ashmead College School of Massage - Seattle, WA

www.ashmeadcollege.edu-career.org/

Cincinnati State Technical & Community College - OH

www.cincinnatiastate.edu

Florida Career College - Miami

www.careercollege.edu

Lakeside School of Massage Therapy - Madison & Milwaukee, WI

www.lakesideschoolmassage.org

New York Institute of Massage - Buffalo

www.nyinstituteofmassage.com

MORTUARY SCIENCE

Program Terms

- ♦ Range from an accelerated one year Associate Degree program to a three and a half year Degree program.

Curriculum

- ♦ Academic courses include embalming theory, cremation fundamentals, restorative art and funeral planning.

Career Options

- ♦ Medical examiner's office
- ♦ Hospital morgue
- ♦ Funeral home

Starting annual salary

Medical Assistant	\$ 27,000
Morgue Attendant	\$ 28,000
Embalmer	\$ 34,000
Funeral Manager	\$ 42,000

Sample Schools

The Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science - OH

www.ccms.edu

Mesa Community College - AZ

www.mc.maricopa.edu

San Francisco College of Mortuary Science - CA

www.sfcms.org



NATURAL RESOURCES, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY



Program Terms

- ◆ Many programs are only two years.

Curriculum

- ◆ Develop skills and knowledge in animal/plant science and I.D., mechanics, communications, public relations, and computations specific to become a park ranger.
- ◆ Survey of natural resources, their importance to society and ecological principles of resource conservation; identification, conservation, and use of renewable and non-renewable resources.
- ◆ Forestry as an industry and basic skills in forest production and ecology, including fire protection, cruising, scaling, tree planting, nursery practices, harvesting, forest engineering, use of forest land for recreational purposes

Career Options

- ◆ Work in various Federal agencies i.e. National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service or in State Parks and other agencies around the country

Starting annual salary	
Forester	\$ 46,000
Park Ranger	\$ 40,000
Park Naturalist	\$ 36,000

Sample School

Central Oregon Community College - Bend

www.cocc.edu

Dixie State College of Utah - St. George

www.dixie.edu

Fort Peck Community College - Poplar, MT

www.fpcc.edu

Modesto Junior College - CA

www.mjc.edu

Truck Driving Schools

Program Terms

- ◆ Typically three to four weeks of Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Training or a Class B - Straight Truck course.

Curriculum

- ◆ No information available.

Career Options

- ◆ Trucking company
- ◆ Freelance trucker
- ◆ Manufacturing company
- ◆ Retail stores



Starting annual salary	
Truck Driver	\$ 31,000
Truck Driver (tractor-trailer)	\$ 37,000

Sample Schools

Alexandria Technical College - Alexandria, MN
www.alextech.org

Diesel Institute of America - Baltimore, MD
www.dieselinstitute.com

Hamrick Truck Driving School - Medina, OH
www.hamricktruck.com

HDS Truck Driving Institute - Tucson, AZ
www.hdsdrivers.com

Waynesburg College - PA
www.waynesburg.edu

WELDING SCHOOLS



Program Terms

♦ Range from a three month structural welding course to a fourteen month Associate of Occupational Studies in Welding Technology degree program.

Curriculum

♦ No information available.

Career Options

- ♦ Construction company
- ♦ Utility company
- ♦ Automotive industry
- ♦ Sculptor

Starting annual salary	
Welder II	\$ 37,000
Pipe Fitter	\$ 42,000

“You learn new skills: sign making, sandblasting, and roofing. You learn team work and personal responsibility. After a while the supervisor gets so he can trust you, knowing that you will get the job done to the best of your ability. My grant will be used for M-Tec Kirtland for welding and fabricating. My future goals are to work as an apprentice in the field.”

Brad Varda
Michigan Conservation Corps

Sample Schools

ICT School of Welding - PA
www.ictschoolofwelding.com

Hobart Institute of Welding Technology - OH
www.welding.org

New Castle School of Trades - Pulaski, PA
(800) 837-8299

