

# Why Invest in your education?

When it comes to spending your time and money, *nothing will pay off more than an investment in your education*. A great education will help you acquire the knowledge and skills you need to succeed in a career of your choice. Choose a career path that interests you and one that values your unique skills and talents. Then choose the right educational opportunity to get you started. Remember, that in today's rapidly changing workplace, you will need to be a lifelong learner to keep pace and stay current.

## EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

### APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships prepare a person for a trade. You take classes, but most of the training is on-the-job. Depending on the trade, it takes from two to four years to complete an apprenticeship. You earn a good hourly wage during the training. California Community Colleges offer many apprenticeship programs.

### CERTIFICATES

Certificate programs award you a certificate of completion rather than a degree when you finish the requirements. This training is specific and will qualify you for specialized jobs. Most certificate programs are six months to a year. You can enroll in a certificate program through your local California Community College.

### ASSOCIATE DEGREES

Associate Degrees are two-year degrees that require 60 college credits. You take classes in a specific field of interest as well as general education courses. You can take courses at a Community College that count for both an Associate Degree and toward a Bachelor Degree if you transfer to a four-year college or university.

### BACHELOR DEGREES

Bachelor Degrees are four-year degrees that require about 120 college credits. You must complete about 2 years of general education requirements that include basic subjects like English, history and math, and an additional 2 years of classes in your major area of study. A college or university awards Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BS) degrees.

### MASTER DEGREES

Master Degrees require study beyond a Bachelor Degree. Usually one to two years of specialized study, and an examination and/or a thesis is required to earn this graduate degree. A college or university awards Master of Arts (MA) and Master of Science (MS) degrees.

### ADVANCED DEGREES

Advanced Professional Degrees include many degrees (such as a Doctorate or Ph.D.) you may want to earn once you complete a four-year degree. Professions such as a lawyer, doctor, or veterinarian generally take 3 to 8 years of additional education and training after you earn a Bachelor Degree.

### MILITARY SERVICE

Military Service is an option you may choose after high school graduation. Each of the armed services has different enlistment opportunities and challenges. The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and the Coast Guard are the five main branches of military service.



An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.

— Benjamin Franklin