

CAREER BRIEF

(Grades 9-12)

University



You have seen Career Sparks Encounters and learned about jobs you can have when you grow up. Now it's time to learn about how going to a university or college can help you get that dream job.

WHAT IS A UNIVERSITY?

- A university is a school you go to after you finish high school to continue your education.
- Colleges are similar to universities, but are usually smaller.

WHY DO YOU GO TO A UNIVERSITY?

- Many well-paying jobs require a Bachelor's Degree from a university.
- At a university, you choose what particular subject you want to study.
- After you choose what you want to study, you take classes in that subject area.
- The area you choose to study is called your major.
- Examples of majors you can choose to study at a university include: computer science, biology, psychology, history, mathematics, engineering, English, business, nursing (This only shows just a few. There are many more majors to choose from).
- After taking 4-5 years of classes in the subject you want to study, you become an expert and earn a degree in that subject. This is a Bachelor's Degree.
- You can continue your education at a university after your Bachelor's Degree. You would attend a Graduate Program at a university.

Fun Fact: "University" is a shortening of the Latin *universitas magistrorum et scholarium* or "a community of masters and scholars."

EDUCATION AND TRAINING: DEGREES YOU CAN EARN AT A UNIVERSITY

- Bachelor's Degree: After about 4 years of studying a subject at the university level, you receive a Bachelor's Degree.
- Master's Degree: After earning your Bachelor's Degree, you attend typically 2 more years of schooling to specialize in a subject of your choice. After this extra 2 years of study, you earn a Master's Degree.
- Doctoral Degree: To earn a doctoral degree, you attend another 4-6 years of schooling at the university level to specialize in a subject. After your 4-6 years of schooling, you earn a Doctorate. Many doctorate programs have more education you must complete in addition to the 4-6 years.

SKILLS

- Responsibility: must be able to manage your school work, attend classes on time and fulfill school responsibilities on your own.
- Adaptability: must be able to adapt and be flexible as you adjust to a new program and a bigger school campus.
- Self-Motivated: must keep yourself motivated to complete your school work.
- Goal Setting: must be able to set a goal for yourself and work hard to accomplish that goal.

EXPLORING UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

- CollegeBoard.Org: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>
- National Center for Education Statistics: <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do." - Pele