



**The
CorpsNetwork**

Strengthening America through
service and conservation

“How can the Education Award help me Obtain Credentials of Value in the Labor Market?”

Non-Traditional Uses of the AmeriCorps Ed Award can lead to Meaningful Employment

Fifth Edition - June 2011



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 27,000 members from 80 Corps across the country have enrolled in the Education Awards Program.

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A term in AmeriCorps goes by quickly but the skills and abilities gained last a lifetime. This publication is designed to aid program staff and Corpsmembers as they “begin with the end in mind.” A term of service provides the opportunity to explore options, identify areas of interest and meet individuals who are engaged in these areas – all the while making a substantial investment in communities and the environment. We encourage users to consider the time engaged in service as on “on ramp” to education, training and careers. We wish you well!



“I’m hoping to use my award to get certified as a Wilderness EMT through a course at the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS).”

- Susan Pienta, Maine Conservation Corps – AmeriCorps, DEP Watershed Management Division

The photo was during Susan’s 1st term of service with the California Conservation Corps while she was surveying for invasive species in Wilderness Areas.

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 your AmeriCorps term of service, you are eligible to receive an AmeriCorps Education Award. You can use your AmeriCorps Education Award to pay education costs at qualified institutions of higher education, for educational training, or to repay qualified student loans. You can access the award in full and part, and can take up to seven years after your term of service has ended to claim the award.

If you successfully complete a term of service in VISTA, you are eligible to receive either an AmeriCorps Education Award or an end-of-service stipend of \$1,200. The AmeriCorps Education Award option is subject to available education trust allocations to AmeriCorps*VISTA. You must select the AmeriCorps Education Award option prior to the start of service. Only AmeriCorps VISTA alumni who choose the stipend and have student loans may be eligible for up to 15% cancellation on certain types of loans. To determine what student loans may be eligible for cancellation and to receive forms, contact the U.S. Department of Education at 1-800-433-3243. *AmeriCorps VISTA members who choose the education award may not claim a partial cancellation.*

Information on the Education Award can be found on the AmeriCorps website at:
http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/benefits/index.asp

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.

Award Limitations - The maximum number of terms that you can serve are four for AmeriCorps State and National; three for VISTAs and two for NCCC. Full-time, half-time, reduced half-time, quarter time, and minimum time terms of service each count as one term of service.

- Generally, if you are released for cause before completing your term of service and do not receive an education award, that term of service counts as one of your terms.
- The Trust does not make payments to anyone 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 award's original expiration date (seven years from the date the award was earned). For general information on how withdrawing from school may affect your student financial aid, ask your financial aid counselor or refer to the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid Handbook.
- Under certain circumstances, you can use the education award to study outside the U.S. Contact the

National Service Trust/AmeriCorps Hotline 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.

Amount of the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award

One of the important changes to the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award under the Serve America Act is how the value of the award is determined. Beginning with terms of service that are supported with 2010 funds, the amount of a full-time education award will be equivalent to the maximum value of the Pell Grant for the award year in which the term of service was funded. Because AmeriCorps State and National programs are funded on a different schedule than VISTA and NCCC, VISTA and NCCC members will be eligible for the new amount sooner than AmeriCorps State and National members.

- Because the AmeriCorps State and National education award amount is dependent upon the year in which the Corporation approved the program’s positions, members must contact their program to ascertain the education amount for which they are eligible.
- All VISTA and NCCC members who enrolled between October 1, 2009 and September 30, 2010 will be eligible for awards based on a full-time award amount of \$5,350.
- All VISTA and NCCC members who enroll between October 1, 2010 and September 30, 2011 will be eligible to receive awards based on the maximum value of the Pell Grant this year - \$5,550.

For All Members: You can check with your program or project sponsor to confirm the value of the award for which you are eligible.

- Because the maximum value of the Pell Grant can change every year, the amount of a full-time award can change in the future. However, once a member earns an award, the value of that award will not increase.
- For all programs, award amounts for part-time terms of service vary based upon the length of the required term of service.
- Payments made from Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards are considered taxable income in the year that the Corporation makes the payment to the school or loan holder.
- A member serving in a full-time term of service is required to complete the service within 12 months.

Service Term	Minimum # of Hours	Ed Award (Scholarship Amount)	Ed Award (Scholarship Amount) Beginning 2010-2011	Ed Award (Scholarship Amount) Beginning 2011-2012
Full-time	1700	\$4,725.00	\$5,350	\$5,550
Half-time/Part-Time	900	\$2,362.50	\$2,675	\$2,775
Reduced Half-time	675	\$1,800.00	\$2,038	\$2,114
Quarter-time	450	\$1,250.00	\$1,415	\$1,468
Minimum-time	300	\$1,000.00	\$1,132	\$1,175

Can You Extend The 7-Year Deadline?

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 later. To be considered for an extension, a member must apply for an extension before the end of the seven year period. Contact the National Service Trust at 800-942-2677 for further information.

A member may use the education award up to seven years after his or her last day of service. A member may apply for an extension if:

- he or she is unable to use the award for some reason during that time that is outside of his or her control such as a serious illness; or
- he or she enrolls in another term of service in an approved program.

Options for Using Your 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 at a qualified school.
- Educational expenses for non-degree courses such as continuing education courses offered by qualified schools.

You can use your Ed Award at Title IV schools (including graduate and professional programs), as well as qualified vocational schools. A Title IV school has an agreement with the U.S. Dept. of Education making its students eligible for at least one of the federally backed forms of financial assistance (such as Pell Grants, Perkins, Stafford, National Direct, or Federal Consolidated Loans).

Your education award can also be used at a program of education approved by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Beginning with terms of service that started on or after October 1, 2009, you may also use your award to pay expenses incurred in enrolling in an educational institution or training establishment that is approved under the GI Bill.

A school may be fully accredited and offer quality graduate degrees, but unless it is a school that participates with the U.S. Department of Education in Title IV financial assistance, the education award, by law, cannot be used there. It is not possible to determine whether a school is Title IV merely by the name of the school. Most two- and four-year institutions in the United States are Title IV schools. Thousands of technical and trade schools are Title IV as well. Art schools, beauty schools, and truck driving schools may be Title IV. To become a Title IV school, an institution has to meet certain requirements and obtain a Title IV Program Participation Agreement with the U.S. Department of Education.

To Find Out If a School Is Qualified To Find Out If a School Is Qualified

- Ask the financial aid office if the school is a Title IV institution.
- Learn if students who attend the school are eligible to use Pell Grants, Perkins Loans, or Stafford Loans to attend the school. If students are eligible for these loans, it is a Title IV school. These loans are examples of some of the most common types of Title IV assistance.

Call the toll-free number at the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid Information Center between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time), Monday through Friday. That number is 1-800-433-3243. You also can conduct an online search at the Department of Education's Web site at www.ed.gov.

What are Qualified Expenses to Attend School – Besides Tuition, What can it Cover?

For a full-time student, qualified expenses can include tuition and fees, an allowance for books, room and board, transportation, and other expenses. It is important to note that every Title IV school determines the cost of attendance for its students. This is not an amount determined by the member or by the Trust. The cost of attendance should be used by the school to calculate the amount for which the student is eligible to use the education award.

The Ed Award can be used for that portion of the cost of attendance that has not already been covered by other sources of financial assistance.

National Service Trust & How to Access Your Award

The National Service Trust is an account in the U.S. Treasury from which the Corporation makes payments to education and financial institutions on behalf of AmeriCorps participants who have successfully completed a term of service in an approved AmeriCorps national service position. The Office of the National Service Trust, frequently referred to as the Trust, is the department within the Corporation that manages all functions related to the AmeriCorps Education 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

The Trust prefers that members use My AmeriCorps and only mails paper vouchers if the member has not registered to use My AmeriCorps.

If you have questions about your award please contact the **National Service Hotline** at 1-800-942-2677. The Hotline is staffed by customer service representatives from 8:00-8:00 EST. Changes of address may be reported in the My AmeriCorps portal, or by visiting <http://www.nationalservice.gov/questions/app/ask>.

LOAN POSTPONEMENTS, INTEREST PAYMENTS, AND FINANCIAL AID

CNCS is not in a position to provide advice about your income taxes or how you use your ed award. However, for a discussion on how the ed award may affect other financial aid and income taxes, see [The Effective Education Award](#) by National Service Fellow Brandon Rogers. Below is an excerpt from his document which can be found at: <http://nationalserviceresources.org/the-effective-education-award>

“However, due to complex regulations, a lack of adequate guidance, and inexperience among AmeriCorps members in applying for federal financial aid, usage of the Education Award can result in unintended consequences. In fact, AmeriCorps members have likely lost several million dollars in Pell Grants, and other need based financial aid programs, due to confusion over how to report the Education Award on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the form used by the Department of Education to determine how much need based financial aid a student can receive.

Therefore, though this guide will offer advice on how to help members maximize the value of the Education Award, its real worth is in explaining the relationship of the Education Award to the relevant policies that govern college student financial aid. Being informed in this regard, and knowing where to turn for answers, will serve as a valuable asset in ensuring that AmeriCorps lives up to ideal of ensuring educational opportunity.”

Forbearance

Individuals who are serving in a term of service in an approved AmeriCorps or Silver Scholar position may be eligible to postpone the repayment of their qualified student loans through an action called loan forbearance. While your loan is in forbearance during your term of service, interest continues to accrue. However, If you successfully complete your term of service the National Service Trust will pay all or a portion of the interest that accrued on your qualified student loans during your service period.

You can request to postpone the repayment of your qualified student loans during your service period. You can easily and quickly request the forbearance on-line through My AmeriCorps. After you finish your term of service, you will be responsible for repaying your loan according to the terms of the loan.

Eligibility for Forbearance

Individuals in approved AmeriCorps or Silver Scholar positions are eligible for forbearance for most federally-guaranteed student loans. If your loan holder tells you that your student loan does not qualify for forbearance based upon your national service, ask if your service qualifies you for some other type of forbearance or for a deferment.

The Corporation cannot approve or disapprove forbearance requests; it can only verify that you are in an approved national service position. Only the loan holder can determine your loan's eligibility for forbearance. If your loan is in default, it may not be eligible for forbearance. However, if you have loans that had gone into default before you began your national 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 can be paid.

Is forbearance available for members serving in a term without an education award?

Yes. Members who have received the value of two full-time education awards are eligible for forbearance during their service terms and to have their accrued interest paid after successfully completing their service.

How to Apply for Forbearance

After you have enrolled in an AmeriCorps project, you can go into your account in My AmeriCorps. In your home page, click on the "Create Forbearance" link at the top of the page to bring up the page to request forbearance. Follow the instructions. You will select your current term of service and identify the holder of your student loan. When you click on "submit", a request will be sent electronically to your loan company. This request will verify your involvement in AmeriCorps and request that your qualified loans be put in forbearance during your service period.

Your loan holder will notify you when they have acted upon your request. You should contact your loan holder if you have not heard from them within four weeks of submitting your information online.

If your loan company has not registered in My AmeriCorps, they will not be on the list of institutions in the system. You should click on the institution "Not Found" link and follow the directions.

Can I pay my student loan(s) during your term of service?

A member may be eligible for forbearance from the loan holder for a qualified student loan(s). During a period of forbearance, the member will not have to make payments, although interest continues to accumulate on the loan(s). If loan(s) are in forbearance, CNCS will pay all or a portion of the interest that accrues on qualified student loan(s) during the term of service. This amount is in addition to the Segal Education Award.

Interest Payments

Individuals who have successfully completed a term of service in AmeriCorps or Silver Scholars are eligible to have the Trust pay as much as 100% of the interest that accrued on their qualified student loan during their service. The portion that the Trust will pay is determined by the type of service (full or part-time) and the length of your service period. The Trust will only pay interest on qualified student loans, as described in the web page "Using your Segal AmeriCorps Education Award."

The Trust will not pay interest 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. An interest payment can only be made after you have completed your service and have earned an award.

Interest payments are in addition to your education award; they are not deducted from your education award amount. Interest payments are based upon the interest that accrued only during the time you were serving in the AmeriCorps program.

Remember that interest payments, as well as payments made from your education award account, are considered by the IRS to be taxable income in the year in which a payment is made.

How to Apply for an Interest Payment

After completing your service and receiving notification of your award, you can go into your account in My AmeriCorps. On your home page, click on "Create Interest Accrual" at the top of the page to bring up the page to request the payment. Follow the instructions. You will select the appropriate term of service and type of loan and identify the holder of your student loan. When you click on "submit", a notice will be sent electronically to your loan company. A record of your request will appear in your account home page.

This notice will verify your involvement in national service and request that the loan holder provide AmeriCorps with the amount of interest that accrued between your start date and end date of your service period. The loan company will provide additional information, then certify & submit the information electronically to AmeriCorps.

When the interest payment has been made, it will show up in your account. It should also show up in your account statement that the loan company provides to you.

If your loan company has not registered in My AmeriCorps, they will not be on the list of institutions in the system. You should click on the institution "Not Found" link and follow the directions. These payment requests may need to be processed manually through paper forms and take several weeks to complete.

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 payment is made. 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 the entire amount. 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. Interest that is paid on qualified students loans is also subject to income taxes in the year it is paid. For example, if a member uses all or part of the education award for college in the fall of 2010, that member must pay taxes on the portion of the award used when he or she files 2010 taxes.

The Trust **DOES NOT** deduct taxes from your education award or interest payments. If your education award and interest payments total more than \$600.00 in a calendar year, in January of the following year, the Corporation will 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 payments 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 a portion living allowance in 2009 and the rest in year 2010, the portion received in 2009 is subject to 2009 income taxes, and the portion received in 2010 is subject to 2010 income taxes.

After the calendar year in which you earned any living allowance, your AmeriCorps project will send you a W-2 form indicating the amount of the allowance you earned in that year. Most AmeriCorps VISTA and AmeriCorps NCCC members receive their W-2 forms from the Corporation.

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.

IRS Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education explains tax benefits that may be available to members who are using education awards to pay for current educational expenses or to repay qualified student loans.

Other Useful Information about the Ed Award

Term Limitations

1. How many terms of service may a member serve?

A member may serve up to four terms of service in AmeriCorps State and National regardless of type of term. However, a member may only receive the value of two full-time education awards.

2. Do terms served prior to the effective date of the rule count towards the four-term limit for AmeriCorps State and National?

Yes. Any term an individual has served in AmeriCorps State and National in the past will count towards the four-term limit.

3. Have the term limits for VISTA and NCCC changed as well?

No, the Final Rule only increased the term limit for AmeriCorps State and National. The term limits are as follows:

AmeriCorps State and National – 4 terms

VISTA – 3 terms

NCCC – 2 terms

4. What is the effective date of the new four-term limit?

The effective date of the four-term limit is August 20, 2010.

Education Award Amount

1. What is the maximum amount of an education award that can be earned?

Terms of service that were approved using 2009 funds (or earlier funds) will receive an award based on a full-time award amount of \$4,725.

Beginning with terms of service that are supported with 2010 funds, the maximum education award value will be equivalent to the maximum value of the Pell Grant for the award year for which the national service position was approved. For terms of service supported with 2010 funds, this amount will be \$5,350. For terms of service supported with 2011 funds, this amount will be \$5,550. Because approval of national service positions is managed differently for VISTA and NCCC members than for AmeriCorps State and National members, VISTA and NCCC members will be eligible for the new amount sooner than AmeriCorps State and National members. To confirm the award amount for which you are eligible, call your program or project sponsor.

2. Will the amount of the award change?

The amount of the full-time Segal AmeriCorps Education Award is based on the maximum amount of the Pell grant for the award year in which the Corporation approved the national service position. The amount of the award a member may receive by completing a term in an approved national service position will change to correspond to the value of the Pell Grant, and may change every year. However, once an award is earned the value does not change to reflect changes in the value of the Pell Grant, and awards earned in prior years will not increase in value.

Education Award Value

1. Do education awards received prior to the effective date of the rule count toward the maximum value of education awards an individual may receive?

Yes. The national service laws, as amended by the Serve America Act, do not differentiate between awards received prior to the effective date and those received subsequent to the effective date. All awards earned in the past will have a value attributed to them for the purposes of this section. Thus, under the proposed rule, if an individual has received two full-time education awards in the past, that individual is not eligible to receive another education award.

2. May a program use funds from the Corporation for member support costs (living allowance, health care) for a member who has already received the value of two full-time education awards?

Yes. A program may use funds from the Corporation for member support costs for a member who has already received the value of two full-time education awards if the member has not yet served four terms total. A program may not use funds from the Corporation for member support costs for a member who has already served the maximum number of terms for that stream of service.

3. Does the new rule on calculating the value of an education award apply to VISTA and NCCC as well as AmeriCorps State and National?

Yes. No individual can receive more than the value of two full-time education awards regardless of the stream of service. Note: Learn and Serve America Summer of Service education awards are not included when calculating the aggregate value of education awards received.

4. May an individual who has already received the aggregate value of two education awards receive a stipend for service in VISTA?

Yes. The individual may serve a third term in VISTA and accept the cash stipend upon successful completion.

5. What happens if a member is not eligible to receive the entire award offered for a term of service, based on the value of awards previously awarded?

To ensure that no individual receives more than the value of 2 full-time education awards, an individual who, based upon the aggregate value of education awards previously received, is not eligible to receive the entire award amount offered for a term of service, will instead receive the portion of the education award that he or she is eligible to receive. The award will be reduced to correspond to the remaining value of the education award for which the individual is eligible. The amount of the award in this case is determined using this formula:

$$\frac{(2 \text{ minus the aggregate value of education awards previously received})}{X} \times (\text{the amount of a full-time education award in the year the position is approved})$$

For example, a member has received a half-time education award and a full-time education award. The aggregate value of these awards is 1.5. The member may receive an education award of .5 X the amount of a full-time education award in the year the member's position is approved.

6. What happens if an individual who isn't eligible to receive the full value of an education award (based on the aggregate value of awards received for prior terms) leaves for compelling personal circumstances?

An individual must successfully complete his or her term of service in order to receive the education award the individual is eligible to receive. An individual who is only approved to receive a reduced education award based on the value of education awards previously awarded, and who leaves early for compelling personal circumstances, will receive a corresponding portion of the reduced amount.

For example, a member enrolls in a term of service offering an award amount of \$5,350, but is only eligible to receive an award of \$3,000 based on the aggregate value of education awards the member previously received. If this member exits the term for compelling personal circumstances after serving 50% of the term, the member will receive \$1,500, or 50% of \$3,000 (the value of the education award amount for which the individual was approved).

7. If an individual is only eligible to receive a reduced education award based on the value of education awards previously awarded, may that individual enroll in VISTA and receive the value of the education award remaining and also receive a partial post-service stipend corresponding to the remainder of the term?

No. An individual may not receive both an education award and a post-service stipend for the same term of service.

Rulemaking and the My AmeriCorps Portal

1. When will members be able to enroll for a third or fourth term without award, or for a an education award that is reduced based on aggregate value of education awards received in the portal?

Members can now enroll for a third or fourth terms without award or for a discounted education award.

2. May an individual transfer an education award by creating a payment request through the My AmeriCorps portal and submitting the request to the recipient's institution for certification?

No. A transfer cannot be made using the payment request process. The transfer offer is made by creating a Request for Transfer to an eligible recipient. The recipient must accept the transfer offer for the transfer to be completed. Once the transfer is successfully completed, the recipient is able to use the transferred award balance to make a payment to a qualified institution.

3. Will the portal show programs the value of education awards that a member has already earned when a program enrolls the member for a subsequent term?

No, the portal will not show the value of awards an individual has already received. Individuals are able to see the value of the education awards that they have earned and the value that is remaining to them. Additionally, if the value of the award offered for a term of service exceeds the value for which an individual is eligible (based upon the value of awards previously received), the portal will not allow the enrollment to occur. Instead, the individual will receive an e-mail requesting acknowledgement that they will receive a reduced amount based on aggregate value earned for their service. Once confirmation is received from the individual, the program will be able to proceed with enrollment.

Other

1. Where can a member find their W-2 form or 1099 form for tax purposes?

W-2s are used to report to the IRS that portion of the living allowance or stipend that is taxable. It is not used for reporting on the amount of the education award used.

AmeriCorps State and National members receive their W-2 from the program where they served.

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

Form 1099 MISC is used to report to the IRS any education award payment made in excess of \$600.00 on behalf of an individual during the year.

Duplicate W-2 and 1099 forms are available within My AmeriCorps. For corrected forms, members should contact the National Service Hotline at 1-800-942-2677.

2. Do any schools match the AmeriCorps Education Award?

Many institutions offer to match the Ed Award or make available to VISTA alumni other financial aid benefits, such as scholarships, tuition waivers, and in-state tuition. Attending one of these institutions can increase the value of your education award. To view the list of institutions that offer these benefits, go to:

<http://www.lifetimeofservice.org/?education>. If your schools of interest are not listed, ask these schools to consider matching the AmeriCorps Education Award or offering special opportunities to former AmeriCorps VISTA members.

3. I am currently participating in AmeriCorps and have a question about my Education Award. Who should I contact?

For general questions about the Education Award and student loan deferment, contact National Service Trust at 1-800-942-2677. Live operators are available from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm EST, Monday-Friday.

If you have successfully completed your AmeriCorps service, you can view your [AmeriCorps Education Award account balance](#) and activity online.

To request a copy of your AmeriCorps Education Award voucher or report a change of address, you can visit <http://www.nationalservice.gov/questions/app/ask>.

For general information on student financial assistance, you may contact your high school guidance counselor, the financial aid officer at the post-secondary institution you plan to attend, the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243), or consult the [Student Guide](#) issued by the U.S. Department of Education.

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 (BS) degrees may parallel or build upon the two-year majors, or they may stand as their own unique majors. While the associate's degrees primarily emphasize practical applications, the baccalaureate core and individual curriculums offer a broader educational experience by adding advanced practical applications, liberal arts study, systematic problem solving, cultural diversity, senior-year projects, and interdisciplinary courses that develop appreciation for the relationships between science, technology, and society. PCT offers Distance Learning - Degree-completion programs exist for students who have attained a two-year associate's degree in selected program areas. And, students may complete a bachelor's degree online in Applied Health Studies; Automotive Technology Management; Dental Hygiene: Health Policy and Administration Concentration; Health Information Management; Nursing (also offered via traditional classroom setting); Technology Management; and Web Design and Multimedia. Courses include Business & Computer Technologies; Accounting; Construction & Design Technologies which includes HVAC, Sustainable Design, Construction Management; Nursing; Culinary Arts; Industrial & Engineering Technologies which includes Computer Aided Product Design, Electronics and Computer Engineering Technology, Welding and Fabrication Engineering Technology; Transportation Technology including Automotive Technology Management and Aviation Maintenance Technology.

Associate degree majors help students prepare for employment or serve as the basis for additional education. Associate's degree majors require a minimum of 60 credits and are founded on a core curriculum that supports and complements the discipline-specific courses.

The **Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.)** degree offers students the opportunity to gain the technical and occupational skills needed for employment. Many four-year colleges accept all or a substantial portion of A.A.S. degree credits as part of a bachelor's degree.

The **Associate of Arts (A.A.)** degree is designed to parallel the first two years of a liberal arts education at a four-year college.

The **Associate of Applied Arts (A.A.A.)** degree is offered in Advertising Art and Mass Media Communication. These majors offer students the opportunity to gain the technical and professional skills needed for employment and to prepare for transfer to a four-year college.

Courses include Accounting; Business Management; Legal Assistant-Paralegal; Construction & Design Technologies, HVAC, Electrical Technology; Renewable Energy Technologies, Health Sciences; Culinary Arts; Hospitality Management; Industrial Engineering; Electronics and Computer Engineering; Machine Tool Technology; Welding Technology; Advertising Art; Early Childhood Education; Human Services; Mass Media Communication; Studio Arts; Natural Resource Management; Forest Technology; Landscape/Horticulture Technology; Automotive Technology; Collision Repair, Aviation Technology.

Certificates in Special Field of Study - These majors are occupational in nature and heavily skills oriented. They are not primarily for transfer, but in certain cases can be transferred to some colleges. Certificate majors vary in length and include a core curriculum in communication and math, but do not exceed two years of course work.

Courses include Health Information Coding; Nurse-Health Care Paralegal; Construction & Design; Electrical; Building Maintenance; Basic Construction; Plumbing; Paramedic; Practical Nursing; Automotive Service Technician; Aviation Maintenance Technician; Collision Repair Technician.

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, pilot, fashion model, forest ranger, truck driver, or professional chef, you can search for schools that offer those types of courses. Once you've found the right school, check U.S. Department of Education Title IV Schools at <https://fafsa.ed.gov> to make sure it is a Title IV school (so you can use the voucher) and find the school code. Below are a few websites to help you in your search.

www.collegereview.com - a source for information about career colleges, vocational schools and online degrees. This site aims to provide the most comprehensive, educational and entertaining experience for helping you further your education and career. The following information is from their homepage.



Jenna Brager, Conservation Corps North Bay, is currently the Farm Coordinator at the IVC Organic Farm and Garden, but began as a CCNB Corpsmember, earning an education award in the 2009-10 season. She is currently using her ed award to earn an Artisan Cheesemaking Certificate at College of Marin. The classes focus on local, sustainable and small-scale cheese production, and teach all stages of the process, from dairy to plate.

"It's a program I probably wouldn't begin otherwise (without the education award) because it's relatively expensive. I love getting to learn about new aspects of local farming and food systems, so this certificate program was a perfect fit."

What is the importance of an education?

It's important because in every culture an educated, skilled work force is what makes individuals, businesses, and societies grow and prosper. Knowledgeable individuals with the ability to develop, follow through, and execute a plan are what build cities and governments. Formal education provides the fundamentals where we learn to research, comprehend, to analyze reason and make decisions. Receiving information and learning to think and reason creates knowledge that can be applied and shared. Colleges provide a basis for knowledge that allows an individual to become a vital asset to the community and labor market. Pursuing and obtaining a degree, gives an individual proof of the type and level of knowledge gained.

How does an education benefit me?

An education improves your value in the marketplace by leading to better paying jobs and can be a factor in job promotions. Employers want people who are knowledgeable and educated working for them. They look for prospective employees with college degrees. A college degree is many times a requirement to even qualify to apply for a job. A degree gets a foot in the door to career opportunities. It attracts better jobs and better pay. Well educated job seekers have an advantage in today's competitive market. Furthering one's education can significantly improve the outlook of his or her future. Those holding a degree may have access to better employment opportunities, greater pay, and better benefits. However, there are so many schools offering degree programs that it may be hard to choose. While reading reviews can be quite helpful in deciding, not all of these reviews are created equally. That's why finding a reliable school review service can be so important.

Information

Some online college reviews may offer only basic services. This can include vague information such as tuition, location, and other general information. Although these facts may be of high importance, there are other factors to consider. We pride ourselves on gathering resources that can address these concerns and more. Providing prospective students with an insight into college life at the school of choice is our business.

Resources

To include the most informative reviews, various resources are sought. Simply presenting information found on web pages of the learning institution is not an option. Focusing on entertaining, yet factual reviews is what makes this service unique. Building a comprehensive and well respected college review service to assist those searching for the right school is the ultimate priority.

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

We've only scratched the surface on curriculum and career options in this publication. The first few pages below concentrate on a variety of courses at a few select schools followed by career options and a random sampling of schools in those specific areas. With apprenticeships in the building trades and energy efficiency a major focus at many Corps right now, we have found a couple of schools offering courses in these areas. 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.nationalservice.gov/for_organizations/highered/ed_award.asp

U.S. Department of Education Title IV Schools

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

Schools that Match the Ed Award

http://www.nationalservice.gov/for_organizations/highered/ed_award_ways.asp

To search schools by subject, try these websites

www.collegereview.com

<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

www.petersons.com

www.collegeboard.org

www.collegeview.com

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

<http://www.americorps.gov/> or <http://www.nationalservice.gov>

Maricopa Community Colleges – AZ (Phoenix, Mesa, Scottsdale, Glendale and other locations) www.gc.maricopa.edu

Advanced Emergency Medical Technology (Paramedic)

The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Advanced Emergency Medical Technology (Paramedic) is designed to provide advanced techniques of emergency care, stabilization, and immobilization of victims of illness and injury. The techniques of emergency care include but are not limited to assessment, detailed physical examination, recognition and documentation of signs and symptoms of illness and injury, critical thinking and diagnosis intervention, and the evaluation of the interventions.

Advanced Professional Culinary Arts

The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Advanced Professional Culinary Arts provides a comprehensive, hands-on course of study. It is designed to enhance and refine the skills of graduates from basic culinary arts certificate programs and to provide skills to advance the careers of current employees in the culinary industry.

Advanced Web Designer

The Certificate of Completion (CCL) in Advanced Web Designer is designed to give students a set of skills that would allow them to develop comprehensive and interactive Web sites and e-commerce. Completing the program will prepare students for such positions as web technician, web designer, web marketing or e-commerce manager.

Air Conditioning

An automotive technician is responsible for diagnosing, servicing, testing, and repairing complex, highly technical air conditioning systems. Good reading, mathematical, and writing skills are necessary for working in the service industry. The development of good problem solving skills is a must to perform the diagnostic procedures necessary in industry.

Air Conditioning and Electrical Accessories

Students can obtain a Certificate of Completion by successfully completing the following courses with grade of "C" or better. This course grouping should prepare the students to enter the automotive air conditioning/ electrical service areas of the industry.

Air Conditioning/Refrigeration/Facilities

The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Air Conditioning/Refrigeration/Facilities program is designed to provide training in the areas of heating, ventilation, refrigeration and air conditioning (HVAC&R) systems, electricity, electronic controls and instrumentation, hydronics, electro-mechanical devices, and general repair. Students will acquire skills necessary to assess and solve problems quickly in emergency situations, based upon an understanding of regulatory guidelines. The program provides students an opportunity to develop written and verbal communication skills through general education courses. Upon program completion, Air Conditioning/Refrigeration/Facilities technicians are employable in the semi-conductor and health industries. Graduates can also find employment in the refrigeration industry as HVAC&R technicians or building services technicians.

Airline Operations: Initial Flight Attendant

The Certificate of Completion (CCL) in Airline Operations: Initial Flight Attendant program provides training for airline flight attendants. In-flight training procedures are covered for the Airbus A319/320 aircraft as well as transition training for the Boeing 737 and 757. Courses also cover emergency medical procedures, security procedures, and general operations as well as Federal Aviation Administration rules and regulations.

Airline Operations: Passenger Services

The Certificate of Completion in Airline Operations: Passenger Services is designed to provide students with training in airline ticketing and passenger services. Courses cover all facets of airline passenger services including ticketing, fares, payments, baggage, and standby procedures. Rules and regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration are emphasized.

Audio Production Technologies

The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Audio Production Technologies program offers students an opportunity to receive training on industry-standard equipment by instructors with real-world experience and professional resumes. Students learn the concepts and theory associated with recording arts technologies while applying them in lab settings appropriate to their skill levels. Students completing the degree in Audio Production Technologies will gain the knowledge base, competency, and confidence they need to enter the commercial music marketplace.

Auto Body Basic Metal Repair & Refinishing

Auto body repair technicians possess the skills required to return a collision-damaged vehicle to its pre-accident condition. Among these skills are metalworking, welding, plastic repair, shaping and forming fillers, removing and replacing bolt-on panels, prepping, and painting the vehicles.

Automotive Technology

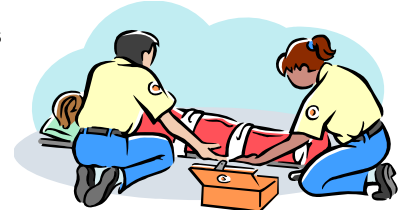
The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Automotive Technology program is designed to prepare students for employment as automotive technicians (mechanics). Instruction is given in both the theoretical and practical aspects of automotive operation, maintenance and service. Instruction includes directed systems (both conventional and electronic), brakes, air conditioning, automotive electricity, tune-up and emission control, suspension, and steering systems. Modern laboratory facilities, fully equipped with the latest equipment, provide students with excellent opportunities for pre-employment experience. The program is Master Certified in Automotive Service Excellence by National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation.

Baker

Graduates of the Culinary Arts program work in a wide variety of industries preparing meals and food for others. During the Baker courses, you will learn to prepare breads, rolls, cookies, cakes, pies, tarts, pastries, or other baked goods. You will use and maintain a wide variety of kitchen utensils and equipment while preparing food, including scales, blenders, mixers, and ovens.

Basic Emergency Medical Technology

The Certificate of Completion (CCL) in Basic Emergency Medical Technology includes techniques of emergency care, stabilization, and immobilization of victims of illness and injury. Recognition and documentation of signs and symptoms of illness and injury, intervention, and evaluation of the intervention are integrated into the program. Techniques for assessment, administration of oxygen, use of specific immobilization devices, and preparation for transportation are other areas of the program.



Building Safety and Construction Technology

The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Building Safety and Construction Technology is designed to prepare students for positions as building inspectors for local municipalities and construction companies. The building inspector's work involves face-to-face relationships with building contractors, trades people, architects, engineers, homeowners, and other members of the general public. A thorough knowledge of building codes and construction methods accompanied by good communication and judgment skills is emphasized throughout the program. A Certificate of Completion (CCL) is also available.

Carpentry Worker

Graduates holding a Carpentry Worker Certificate have entry level skills in basic residential framing and the fundamentals of hanging, taping, and texturing drywall.

Computer Graphic Design

This degree program is for students specializing in Computer Graphic Design. It aids in the development of skills in graphic design and layout using the computer and serves to reinforce art principles. This program provides for the development of personal interests, prepares individuals for employment and enables those already employed in this field to upgrade skills. Occupations include illustrator, layout, paste-up, free-lance, video graphics, product designer, animator, photo-retoucher, art director, advertising designer, and others. Students desiring more intensive preparation may take courses beyond the 64 credit minimum requirement. This program is not designed for four-year transfers.

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Computer Hardware and Network Support

The Certificate of Completion (CCL) in Computer Hardware and Network Support is designed to prepare students for entry-level network technician jobs and to help prepare them for multiple industry certification examinations. As computer and telecommunications technologies become more complex, customer service/technical support is becoming increasingly important. Companies desire to hire highly qualified and motivated individuals in this expanding field.

Computer Information Systems

The Computer Information Systems program provides training for various entry-level positions in computer systems. Career opportunities include LAN administrator, systems analyst, computer programmer, computer operator, computer hardware and software salesperson. This is a two-year career program that leads to an Associate in Applied Science in Computer Information Systems. Certificates of Completion in Computer Information Systems, Web Design and Development, Computer Hardware and Network Support, Database Development and Software Development are also offered.

Construction Management

The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Construction Management degree prepares construction industry people to assume leadership and middle management positions with construction companies, architectural and engineering firms, and land developers. The program emphasizes hands-on skills in construction estimating, scheduling, communicating, supervising and managing construction personnel, equipment, and documents. Completers are prepared for entry-level positions as estimators, project managers, construction superintendents, and job-site administrators. A Certificate of Completion (CCL) is also available.

Construction Trades - Mechanical Trades: Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning

The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Construction Trades - Mechanical Trades: HVAC program is designed to provide knowledge and skills in the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) trade. Course work includes basic principles of HVAC, trade calculations and science. Students will gain competence in piping, soldering and brazing procedures. Topics covered will include: air distribution, venting and sizing of materials, use of measurement instruments, equipment, and devices, compressors and pumps. Heating with gas-fired equipment and furnaces will be covered. Students will apply common techniques in testing, troubleshooting and maintenance practices. Additional related training will include basic electricity as it relates to the HVAC trade.

Construction Trades - Mechanical Trades: Pipefitting

The Certificate of Completion (CCL) in Construction Trades - Mechanical Trades: Pipefitting program is designed to provide knowledge and skills in the residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional pipefitting trade. Course work includes safety, material selection, basic and advanced pipefitting calculations and principles of science. Students will also be competent in sources and treatment of public, private, and individual gas, water, heating, waste, and specialized pipefitting systems, cross connection protection, pipe identification, and blueprint reading. Course work also includes rigging, basic and advanced fabrication, pipe cutting, valves and specialized piping systems, cross connection protection, pipe identification, blueprint reading and pipefitting code. Additional related training will include basic electricity and troubleshooting.

Construction Trades - Mechanical Trades: Plumbing

The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Construction Trades - Mechanical Trades: Plumbing program is designed to provide knowledge and skills in the residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional plumbing trade. Course work includes safety, material selection, installation of plumbing systems, basic and advanced plumbing calculations and principles of science. Students will also be competent in sources and treatment of public, private, and individual gas, water, heating, waste, and specialized piping systems, cross connection protection, pipe identification, blueprint reading and plumbing code. Additional related training will include basic electricity and troubleshooting related to the plumbing trade. The program is designed to provide the student with the required classroom trade related training. The classroom training is supplemented with required on-the-job training that then leads the student to obtain the Journeyman Certificate. Two certificates are presented, one by the Arizona Department of Commerce, and the second by the US Department of Labor. The student is then recognized as having achieved "master status" in the plumbing trade.



Construction Trades with Introduction to HVAC

Graduates holding this certificate are prepared to work in the fields of carpentry, plumbing, or electrical as apprentices.

Construction Trades: Bricklaying and Tiling

The Certificate of Completion (CCL) in Construction Trades: Bricklaying and Tiling program is designed to provide apprentice bricklayers with trade-related classroom training as required by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship Training, and the State of Arizona, Apprenticeship Division. This program consists of courses in trade calculations, safety, tools, bricklaying and masonry techniques; residential, light construction, and heavy commercial blueprint reading; estimating and formal bidding. Completion of this certificate documents the student has successfully completed to Journeyman status in the Bricklaying Trade.

Construction Trades: Carpentry

The Certificate of Completion (CCL) in Construction Trades: Carpentry program is designed to provide knowledge and skills in the carpentry trade. These include concrete formwork, framing, exterior finish, interior finish and interior system. Students complete a minimum number of self-selected modules in each area to complement their work site activities.

Construction Trades: Heat and Frost Insulation

The Certificate of Completion (CCL) in Construction Trades: Heat and Frost Insulation program is designed to provide apprentice insulators with trade related classroom training as required by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship Training, and the State of Arizona, Apprenticeship Division. It is a program consisting of courses in trade calculations, safety, piping insulation skills, fabrication, shop layout, and pattern making, supervision, blueprints and firestopping.

Construction Trades: Painting and Drywalling

The Certificate of Completion (CCL) program in Construction Trades: Painting and Drywalling is designed to provide knowledge and skills in the painting and drywalling trade. Course work includes courses in painting and drywalling. Specifically, the courses train apprentices to paint from ladders and scaffolds, prepare and paint various types of surfaces, and handle all types of painting equipment. Upon completion of this program, apprentices are considered to be journeymen in the painting trade.

Construction Trades: Plastering and Cement Masonry

The Certificate of Completion (CCL) in Construction Trades: Plastering/Cement Masonry program is designed to provide apprentices with journeyman level skills in the plastering/cement masonry trade. The program is designed to provide knowledge of the working characteristics of various cement and concrete mixes, skills in the application of plaster, cement or acrylic finish products to the interior and exterior walls and ceilings; apply finish to exposed concrete surfaces of commercial and industrial projects.

Culinary Arts

The Culinary Arts program is designed to train students who wish to become professional chefs. It offers the option of a Certificate of Completion (CCL) or an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in Culinary Arts. The program requires 35 hours per week in direct class participation. Students must enroll concurrently in all courses in a block regardless of previously completed coursework. Students rotate through all areas of food preparation at lunch and also at dinner. A casual lunch dining room is operated in the first semester and a formal dining room is operated in the evening by the second semester students, providing practical work experience to enhance the lab experience.

Culinary Studies

The Certificate of Completion (CCL) in Culinary Studies is designed to teach basic cooking principles and techniques in a state-of-the-art setting. Emphasis is on skills needed for employment in a commercial food operation where food is prepared and served in volume. Instruction includes principles of professional cooking and baking, volume food production, food sanitation and safety, purchasing, menu planning, customer service, and basic nutrition concepts. An Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree is also available.

Database Development

The Certificate of Completion (CCL) in Database Development prepares students to design and implement the infrastructure for business solutions using database and programming tools. The Certificate focuses on administrative tasks and building database applications using programming skills such as data collection, query techniques and database creation.

Digital Arts: Web Design

The Certificate of Completion (CCL) in Digital Arts: Web Design prepares students to work as web page designers and media-rich content producers for commercial, educational, Internet and intranet sites. The program emphasizes principles of art, and develops knowledge and skills required to solve design and compositional problems with graphics, streaming video and audio media, and virtual reality models. The program is designed for both those seeking to enter a career in web page design and those already working in the field who wish to advance and update their knowledge and skills.

Electrician Worker

Upon completion of this course series the graduate will have basic knowledge of electricity, hand tool usage, installation practices, and NEC code standards. The successful graduate will also be able to perform his work in a diligent and workman-like manner as indicated by industry standards.

Electrician Worker with Introduction to HVAC

Workers with this training typically will be called upon to assemble, install, test, and maintain electrical or electronic wiring, equipment, appliances, apparatus, and fixtures, using hand tools and power tools. Additionally, they may be expected to diagnose malfunctioning systems, apparatus, and components, using test equipment and hand tools, to locate the cause of a breakdown and correct the problem. The refrigeration component of their training enables them to install and repair industrial and commercial refrigerating systems under the guidance of an HVAC specialist.

Emergency Communications and Deployment

Tactical methods of communication, interview, interrogation, assessment, and deployment. Communication devices include radio, telephone, computer-aided dispatch; mobile digital transmitter. Highlights of human anatomy, physiology disease profiles, and approach to interventions in life-threatening situations. Persuasive delivery of pre-arrival instructions, most dispatch communications basic life support techniques for all age groups. Communication with law enforcement on all levels within the community and the state. Contribution to research, quality assurance and prevention. Education and training to help students function as an emergency dispatch professional.



Emergency Management

The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Emergency Management provides the student with knowledge and skills required to conduct a comprehensive emergency management program. The program prepares students to manage fire department operations, hazardous materials incidents, tactics, strategy, and safety of firefighting activities, and customer service in the public sector. The student will be prepared for positions such as Emergency Manager, Emergency Management Planner, Emergency Operations Coordinator, Environmental Compliance Planner, and Emergency Management Specialist, working in state, local, federal, and international governments, business and industry, military installations, and health care facilities.

Environmental and Natural Resource Stewardship

The Academic Certificate (AC) in Environmental and Natural Resources Stewardship program develops knowledge and understanding of the environmental and natural resource issues, problems, and policies through the study of selected courses. Students will examine the ethical theories and moral principles of global environmental issues, explore methods of inquiry, and the human impact on ecosystems and human policy related to natural resources.

Fire Academy

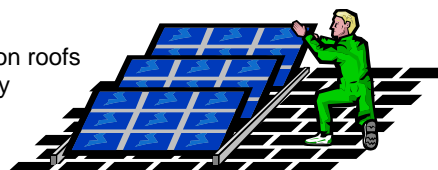
This program is designed to prepare a student for a career in the fire service. Emphasized in the curriculum are the practical firefighting & medical operations and procedures necessary for emergency operation. This fire academy offers the firefighter/firefighter candidate the necessary course of instruction & training to efficiently and effectively perform modern firefighting duties. The program is designed to be a two-semester academy. All credits are applicable to a degree in fire science. At the completion of the program and with the satisfactory passing of the necessary state exams, state certification in Firefighter I & II is granted and EMT certification also.

Fire Officer Leadership

The Certificate of Completion (CCL) in Fire Officer Leadership program can be used by professional firefighters for promotions and salary advancement within the Fire Services. The program will provide courses for experienced professional firefighters who desire to learn advanced fireground tactics and strategy, building construction, practical incident command, supervisory training of personnel, and human resource management.

Green Builder: Solar Photovoltaic Installer

Solar Photovoltaic Installers are essential to bringing solar energy to homes and businesses. They assemble, install, or maintain solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on roofs or other structures in compliance with site assessment and schematics. They may also perform minor electrical work such as current checks. As the demand for solar energy is rising rapidly, many skilled installers are in demand to meet the needs of the green technology movement.



Green Builder: Solar Thermal Technician

Solar Thermal Installers and Technicians are key in expanding the use of solar-powered water heaters in homes and businesses. These workers install or repair solar energy systems designed to collect, store, and circulate solar-heated water for residential, commercial, or industrial use. As more people realize the benefits of solar energy, growth potential in this career will continue to expand.

Information Technology: Programming and Systems Analysis

The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in Information Technology: Programming and Systems Analysis focuses on the analysis, design, and programming skills necessary for entry-level computer programming support positions. A Certificate of Completion (CCL) is also available.

Motion Picture/Television Production

The Motion Picture/Television Production Program is designed for students who plan to enter the field of motion pictures and/or television production. Successful completion of this program will qualify students for the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree. Students will receive hands-on practical training in a fine arts learning environment and may select one or more of several specialization tracks within the Associate in Applied Science degree. Certificates of Completion in Film Production, Editing, Broadcast Production, Screenwriting, and Film Analysis and Criticism are also available.

Music Business

The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Music Business program is an innovative curriculum designed to prepare students for today's music industry. The certificate and degree with a music business emphasis are designed for both the performing musician and the business student with limited performing experience. This program combines a flexible curriculum with an emphasis in business and marketing, along with music industry related courses and experiences.

Plumbing Worker

Graduates holding a Plumbing Worker Certificate will have entry level skills in DWV systems, rough-in, and top-out, and the use of associated hand tools.

Secondary Basic Emergency Medical Technology

Phoenix College, in cooperation with the Phoenix Union High School District, has developed a partnership to provide college-level curriculum for potentially two years of training of high school students in Basic Emergency Medical Technology. The program provides opportunities for high school students, rather than for the traditional working adults, to provide remediation and enhance mastery and exposure to the public and private sector as potential employees. Students would receive frequent course completion results to augment sense of achievement. Courses would be integrated with mandated high school competencies and curricula.

Workforce Development and Community Re-Entry

The Workforce Development and Community Re-Entry program is designed to provide incarcerated persons with the skills needed to effectively transition from incarceration to the community. Courses in the program will focus on job readiness, job preparation, and job retention skills as well as family reunification, personal and social skill development, and substance abuse education. The program includes a Certificate of Completion (CCL) in Workforce Development and Community Re-Entry and an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Workforce Development and Community Re-Entry, as well as various other Certificate of Completions in the areas of Culinary Arts, Carpentry, Graphic Arts, Automotive Technology, Horticulture, Landscape Technology, Welding, Furniture Construction/Refinishing, and Electrical.

Red Rocks Community College - Lakewood CO

www.rccc.edu

American Sign Language (ASL)

Carpentry

Hand and Power Tools
Wall Framing
Roof Framing
Roofing Materials & Methods
Windows and Exterior Doors
Construction Framing & Safety
Thermal/Moisture Methods/Mat
Sp T: Building Green
Sp T: Passive Solar Panels

Construction technology

Blueprint Reading
Project Management
Problem Solv/Dec-Making Const Super
Plan/Schedule for Const Super
Accident Prev/Loss Control
Sp T: Basic Field Engineering



Electricity

Blueprint Reading
Project Management
Problem Solv/Dec-Making Const Super
Plan/Schedule for Const Super
Accident Prev/Loss Control
Sp T: Basic Field Engineering
Electrical Installations I
Electrical Safety Requirements

Electrical Principles and Appl
National Electrical Code II
DC Circuit Fundamentals
AC Circuit Fundamentals
Instruments & Measurements
IECC Energy Conservation Code
Electrical Estimating/Costing
Industrial Electrical Controls
IND Instrumentn & Controls I
Electric Motors

Computer networking technology

Computer Technician II: A
Networking I: Network
Networking II: Network
Network Security Fundamentals
MS Server Active Direct Config
MS Network Infrastruct Config
Windows Config: Windows 7 3
Manage MS Windows Svr Environ 4

Construction Framing & Safety

Thermal/Moisture Methods/Mat
Sp T: Building Green
Sp T: Passive Solar Panels

Emergency Management and Planning

Emergency Management
Emergency Planning
Emerg Op Center & Comm
Leadership and Influence
Effective Communication
Business Emergency Management
Public Information Officer

Emergency medical services

First Responder
EMT Basic

Palomar College - 1140 West Mission Road, San Marcos, California 92069-1487

<http://www.palomar.edu>

Apprenticeship Training

Carpentry, Drywall/Lather, Electrician, Inside Wireman, Residential Wireman/Plasterer, Sound and Communication Systems Installer AA Degree or Certificate of Achievement.

Computer Science

Networking, web technology.

Culinary Arts

Culinary – culinary essentials, Baking menu planning and purchasing catering and event planning
Prepares students for employment and career opportunities in various areas of the foodservice industry. The focus is on food preparation and production skills, with supporting coursework in nutrition, food sanitation and safety, menu planning, purchasing and inventory control, kitchen management and employee supervision. Practical hands-on lab activities in a commercial kitchen environment and directed workplace learning opportunities prepare students for foodservice positions in resorts, casinos, and fine dining establishments. Students will need to possess a current San Diego County Food Handler Card to participate in kitchen/lab activities.

Culinary Skills

With a focus on basic food preparation and production skills, nutrition, and food safety and sanitation, the program prepares students for various entry-level positions in the foodservice industry. Practical hands-on lab activities in a modern commercial kitchen environment provide opportunities for students to master the skills required for employment. Students will need to possess a current San Diego County Food Handler Card to participate in required kitchen/lab activities.

Patisserie and Baking

With a focus on commercial baking and pastry making, the program prepares students for entry-level positions in bakeries, restaurants, resorts and casino operations. Practical hands-on lab activities in a modern commercial kitchen environment provide opportunities for students to master the skills required for employment.



Automotive Technology

Associate in Arts Degrees or Certificates of Achievement in:

- Auto Chassis and Drive Lines
- Auto Collision Repair
- Electronic Tune Up and Computer Control Systems
- Mechanics - General

American Sign Language (ASL)

Associate in Arts Degrees or Certificates of Achievement in:

- American Sign Language/English Interpreter Training Program

Cabinet and Furniture Technology

Associate in Arts Degrees or Certificates of Achievement in:

- Cabinetmaking and Furniture Design
- Cabinetmaking and Millwork
- Furniture Making

Computer Science and Information

Systems - Web Technology (CSWB)
CSIS - Information Technology, and CSIS - Networking

Certificates of Proficiency -

- Web Developer with Emphasis in Java/Open Source
- Web Developer with Emphasis in Windows
- Web Server Administrator with Emphasis in Linux
- Web Server Administrator with Emphasis in Windows

Radio and Television/Communications

Associate in Arts Degrees

- Digital Video
- Radio and Television

Certificates of Achievement

- Digital Video
- Entertainment Technology
- Radio and Television

Certificates of Proficiency

- Broadcast Journalism
- Digital Media

Alexandria Technical and Community College – Alexandria, MN

www.alextech.edu

Administrative and Office Management

Administrative Assistant, Administrative Office Management, Administrative Support Career Options, Business Administration AS, Legal Administrative Assistant, Legal Secretary, Medical Administrative Specialist, Medical Coding Specialist, Medical Transcriptionist/Editor, Paralegal

Art, Design, and Media

Business Web Strategist, Communication Art and Design, Interior Design

Computer Sciences

Computer & Voice Networking, Computer Information Systems AS, Web Development & Management

Health and Professional Services

Child Development, Child Development AS, Health & Fitness Specialist, Human Services Practitioner, Medical Administrative Specialist, Medical Coding Specialist, Medical Laboratory Technician, Medical Transcriptionist/Editor, Nursing, Phlebotomy Technician, Practical Nursing

Manufacturing, Construction, and Industrial Technology

Carpentry, Concrete Mason, Construction Site Supervisor, Energy Technical Specialist, Machine Tool Technology, Mechanical Drafting, Design & Engineering Technology, Mechatronics, Welding Technology

Transportation and Mechanics

Diesel Mechanics, Marine & Small Engine Mechanic, Motorcycle Mechanics, Truck Driving

Glennville State College Glennville WV

www.glennville.edu

Forestry

Forest Measurements
Silviculture/Vegetation Management
Timber Harvesting Techniques
Fire Protection

Computer Assisted Mapping
Forest Ecology
GIS Applications
Community Service
Invasive Species Research
Tundra Ecology

Natural Resource Management

The Arts: Acting/Theater Design & Stagecraft/Filmmaking/Commercial Photography

Sample Schools:

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

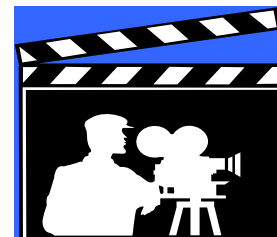
American Academy of Dramatic Arts (AADA) - NY and Hollywood www.aada.org

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

Sample Schools:

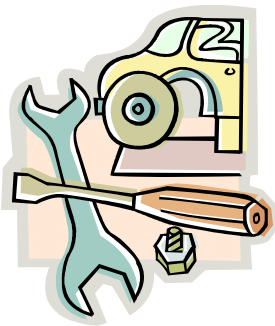
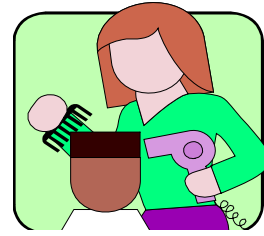
Brevard Community College - FL www.brevard.cc.fl.us

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

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

Building, Carpentry, Construction, Electrical

Sample Schools:

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

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.



Culinary Arts

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



Emergency Medical Technician (Basic Training)

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.ycvv.edu

Massage Therapy

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.cincinnati.state.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



Natural Resources, Conservation and Forestry

Sample Schools:

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

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

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

