



TRADE and TECHNICAL SCHOOLS



Kim Ilvento, STHS College & Career Counselor: kilvento@ltusd.org



What is a Trade School?

Trade Schools, Vocational, Technical, and Career Schools offer Training/licensure/certificate programs that focus on job specific skills needed for their chosen career path.

Trade schools are a valuable option for individuals who want to acquire specific skills quickly and enter the workforce in a specialized field. They offer an alternative to traditional four-year colleges and universities, catering to those who prefer a more practical and career-oriented approach to education.

What Trade Schools Offer

Focused Education: Vocational schools offer programs that are highly focused on a particular trade or profession, such as automotive technology, culinary arts, welding, healthcare, information technology, and more.

Hands-On Training: These schools emphasize practical, hands-on learning experiences. Students often spend a significant portion of their time in workshops or labs, gaining real-world skills.

Shorter Duration: Many vocational programs are shorter in duration compared to traditional college programs. Some can be completed in a matter of months, making them a quicker path to employment.

Specialized Curriculum: The curriculum is tailored to the specific industry or field, covering topics and skills directly related to the chosen career path.

Certifications and Degrees: Vocational schools may offer certificates, diplomas, or degrees, depending on the program. These credentials can help students qualify for entry-level positions or advance in their careers.

Industry-Relevant Instructors: Instructors often have practical experience in the field they teach, ensuring that students learn from professionals who understand the industry.

Job Placement Assistance: Many vocational schools provide job placement assistance and connections with local employers to help graduates find employment after completing their programs.

Varied Career Options: Graduates of vocational schools can pursue careers in a wide range of industries, including healthcare, construction, culinary arts, automotive, information technology, and more.

Trade Schools vs. 4-Year Universities

	TRADE SCHOOLS	4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES
DURATION	Often offer shorter, more streamlined programs, typically ranging from a few months to two years.	Typically require a minimum of four years to complete, with some professions requiring additional years of graduate education.
FOCUS	provide specialized training and hands-on skills directly related to specific careers or trades.	offer a broader and more generalized education, allowing for exploration of various academic disciplines before choosing a major or career.
TUITION	Depends on the program. Usually less than a 4 Year School.	Can be significantly more expensive, over four or more years.
ENTRY INTO WORKFORCE	Often immediate entry into the workforce, securing jobs in their chosen field.	May need to further their education or gain additional experience before entering their desired career path.

Types of Trade Schools

- There are a diverse range of programs that cater to a wide spectrum of interests and career paths from healthcare to skilled trades, culinary arts, technology, and more.
- If you're passionate about nursing, welding, culinary arts, automotive technology, or computer programming, there's a program designed just for you.
- These programs are not one-size-fits-all; they're highly focused and tailored to prepare students for success in their chosen careers.
- Let's take a closer look at specific program options, showcasing the variety of exciting careers that can be pursued through trade and vocational education.

Table of Contents

Click on individual trades/careers to learn more about it!

Engineering/Construction Trades	Medical/Healthcare	Other
<u>Heavy Equipment Operator</u>	<u>Massage Therapist</u>	<u>Auto Technician</u>
<u>Plumber/Pipefitter</u>	<u>Phlebotomist</u>	<u>Cosmetologist (Hair, Nails, Skin)</u>
<u>Electrician</u>	<u>Dental Hygienist</u>	<u>Paralegal</u>
<u>Welder</u>	<u>Veterinary Technologist</u>	<u>Computer Information Tech (IT)</u>
<u>Linesman</u>	<u>Medical/Dental Assistant</u>	<u>Firefighter/EMT/Paramedic</u>
<u>HVAC Technician</u>	<u>Radiologist</u>	<u>Culinary Professional</u>

Auto Technician Schools- Becoming an Auto technician

What do they do? <hr/>	Auto Technicians diagnose, repair, and maintain vehicles. They perform inspections, conduct routine maintenance, and use diagnostic tools to identify and resolve mechanical and electrical issues.
How long are the programs?	Automotive technology programs usually range from 6 months to 2 years, depending on the level of certification or degree pursued.
What careers can this lead to?	Options include becoming an Automotive Service Technician, a Master Mechanic, or specializing in areas like transmission repair, engine diagnostics, or hybrid vehicle technology.
How much money can I make?	Salaries vary based on experience and location. On average, entry-level technicians can earn around \$43,000 to \$50,000 per year, with potential for higher earnings as they gain expertise.
Are there any programs near South Lake Tahoe?	Sacramento: Universal Technical Institute (UTI) , American River College , Carson/Reno: Western Nevada College , Truckee Meadows CC



Computer Information Systems, IT Schools

<p>What do they do?</p> <hr/>	<p>Professionals in Computer Information Systems and IT manage and support computer systems, networks, and software. They are responsible for troubleshooting technical issues, securing data, and ensuring the efficient operation of information technology. Work in Cybersecurity.</p>
<p>How long are the programs?</p>	<p>Computer Information Systems and IT programs can vary widely in duration, from short-term certificates to 2-4 year degree programs.</p>
<p>What are the careers in this field?</p>	<p>Professionals in Computer Information Systems and IT manage and support computer systems, networks, and software. They are responsible for troubleshooting technical issues, securing data, and ensuring the efficient operation of information technology.</p>
<p>How much money can I make?</p>	<p>Salaries in Computer Information Systems and IT vary based on the specific role, experience, and location. Entry-level professionals can earn around \$50,000 to \$70,000 annually, with potential for higher earnings as they gain expertise.</p>
<p>Are there any programs near South Lake Tahoe?</p>	<p>Sacramento Area: Sac City College, MTI, Asher College Tahoe/Carson/Reno: LTCC, WNC, Nevada Tech Academy, TMCC</p>



Cosmetology Schools- Becoming a Cosmetologist

What do they do? <hr/>	Cosmetologists provide a wide range of beauty and personal care services, including hair cutting, styling, coloring, skincare, nail care, and makeup application.
How long are the programs?	Cosmetology programs typically range from 9 months to 2 years, depending on state licensing requirements and specific areas of specialization.
What are the careers in this field?	Graduates can work as Cosmetologists, Hair Stylists, Estheticians, Nail Technicians, or Makeup Artists. Some may choose to specialize in areas such as bridal makeup, hair design, or spa therapy.
How much money can I make?	Cosmetology salaries vary based on factors such as location, experience, and clientele. Average salaries for cosmetologists are between \$35,000 and \$60,000 annually.
Are there any programs near South Lake Tahoe?	Sacramento Area: Paul Mitchell School , Federico Beauty Institute Carson/Reno: Sierra Academy of Style , Milan Institute , Redken Academy



Culinary Schools- Building a Career in the Culinary World

<p>What do they do?</p> <hr/>	<p>Culinary professionals include chefs, sous-chefs, pastry chefs, and line cooks. They prepare and cook a wide range of dishes, create menus, manage kitchen operations, and maintain food safety standards.</p>
<p>How long are the programs?</p>	<p>Culinary and cooking school can take anywhere from a few short months to four years, depending on the chosen length of culinary school.</p>
<p>What are the careers in this field?</p>	<p>Graduates can pursue careers as chefs in restaurants, hotels, resorts, or catering companies. They may specialize in areas such as pastry arts, baking, or culinary management.</p>
<p>How much money can I make?</p>	<p>Culinary salaries vary by location and experience. Entry-level positions like line cooks may start at around \$30,000 to \$40,000 annually, while experienced chefs can earn significantly more, up to \$150,000 a year.</p>
<p>Are there any programs near South Lake Tahoe?</p>	<p>South Lake Tahoe: Lake Tahoe Community College Sacramento Area: Napoli Culinary Academy, Culinary Institute of America Carson/Reno: Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC)</p>



Dental Hygienist Schools- Promoting Oral Health

<p>What do they do?</p> <hr/>	<p>Dental Hygienists work closely with dentists to provide preventive dental care to patients. They clean teeth, take X-rays, assess oral health, and educate patients on proper oral hygiene.</p>
<p>How long are the programs?</p>	<p>Dental Hygiene programs usually take around 2-3 years to complete, resulting in an associate's degree in dental hygiene.</p>
<p>What are the careers in this field?</p>	<p>Graduates can work as Dental Hygienists in dental offices, clinics, and public health settings. They may also specialize in areas such as periodontics or pediatric dentistry.</p>
<p>How much money can I make?</p>	<p>Dental Hygienist salaries vary by location and experience. Entry-level Dental Hygienists can earn around \$60,000 to \$80,000 annually, with potential for higher earnings as they gain expertise.</p>
<p>Are there any programs near South Lake Tahoe?</p>	<p>Sacramento Area: Sac City College, Carrington College Reno: Truckee Meadows CC, Carrington College</p>



Electrician Schools- A Path to a Wired World

<p>What do they do?</p> <hr/>	<p>Electricians install, maintain, and repair electrical systems in homes, buildings, and industrial facilities. They ensure electrical systems are safe, functional, and comply with local codes.</p>
<p>How long are the programs?</p>	<p>Electrician training programs can vary in length. Apprenticeships, which are common in this field, can take around 4-5 years to complete.</p>
<p>What are the careers in this field?</p>	<p>Graduates can work as Electricians, Electrical Technicians, or Electrical Contractors. Some may specialize in areas such as residential wiring, commercial systems, or industrial electrical work.</p>
<p>How much money can I make?</p>	<p>Electrician salaries depend on factors like experience and location. Entry-level electricians can earn around \$40,000 to \$50,000 annually, with the average annual salary in California being \$72,000.</p>
<p>Are there any programs near South Lake Tahoe?</p>	<p>Sacramento Area: UEI School, American River College Carson/Reno: Northern NV Electrical Training Center</p>



Fire, EMT, Paramedic Schools- Becoming a Firefighter, EMT or Paramedic

<p>What do they do?</p> <hr/>	<p>Firefighters respond to fires, accidents, and other emergencies, performing fire suppression, rescue operations, and medical care. Paramedics provide advanced life support, administering medications, and responding to medical emergencies.</p>
<p>How long are the programs?</p>	<p>Training for Firefighters and Paramedics can vary. Firefighter academies may last several months, while paramedic training programs can take around 1-2 years.</p>
<p>What are the careers in this field?</p>	<p>Graduates can work as Firefighters, Paramedics, or Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). They may serve in municipal fire departments, ambulance services, or as part of specialized teams.</p>
<p>How much money can I make?</p>	<p>Salaries for Firefighters and Paramedics vary by location and experience. Salaries typically range from \$35,000 to \$200,000 annually.</p>
<p>Are there any programs near South Lake Tahoe?</p>	<p>Sacramento Area: NCTI, American River College, Sacramento State Tahoe/Carson/Reno: LTCC, TMCC, REMSA Education Training</p>



Heavy Equipment Operator Schools- Building the World's Infrastructure

<p>What do they do?</p> <hr/>	<p>Heavy Equipment Operators work with large machines, including bulldozers, cranes, excavators, and more. They are responsible for operating and maintaining these machines to move earth and materials in construction, excavation, and other industries.</p>
<p>How long are the programs?</p>	<p>Heavy Equipment Operator training programs often take a few weeks to several months, depending on the specific equipment and skills being learned. You must obtain a Commercial Drivers License.</p>
<p>What are the careers in this field?</p>	<p>Graduates can work as Heavy Equipment Operators on construction sites, in road maintenance, mining, and other heavy industries. They may specialize in the operation of specific types of heavy equipment.</p>
<p>How much money can I make?</p>	<p>Heavy Equipment Operator salaries vary by location and experience. Entry-level operators can earn around \$40,000 to \$60,000 annually, with potential for higher earnings as they gain expertise.</p>
<p>Are there any programs near South Lake Tahoe?</p>	<p>Sacramento Area: Butte College, IUOE Stationary Engineers, Local 39 Tahoe/Carson/Reno: Operating Engineers Local 3</p>



HVAC Technician Schools- Becoming an HVAC Technician

<p>What do they do?</p> <hr/>	<p>HVAC Technicians install, maintain, and repair heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. They ensure that systems are energy-efficient, operate safely, and maintain indoor air quality.</p>
<p>How long are the programs?</p>	<p>HVAC programs typically range from 6 months to 2 years, depending on the level of certification or degree sought.</p>
<p>What are the careers in this field?</p>	<p>Career options include becoming an HVAC Technician, HVAC Installer, Refrigeration Technician, or HVAC Engineer. Technicians may specialize in residential or commercial systems.</p>
<p>How much money can I make?</p>	<p>HVAC Technician salaries vary based on experience and location. Entry-level technicians can earn around \$48,000 to \$58,000 annually, with potential for higher earnings as they gain expertise.</p>
<p>Are there any programs near South Lake Tahoe?</p>	<p>Sacramento Area: UEI College, American River College Carson/Reno: Career College of N.Nevada, Truckee Meadows CC</p>



Linesman Training- Powering our communities

<p>What do they do?</p> <hr/>	<p>Linemen work in the power utility industry, installing, maintaining, and repairing electrical power lines. They ensure that communities have reliable access to electricity, and they often work in challenging weather conditions.</p>
<p>How long are the programs?</p>	<p>Lineman training programs often take 2-4 years, depending on the specific skills and certifications being pursued. Apprenticeships can also be obtained with Energy Companies like Liberty Utilities.</p>
<p>What are the careers in this field?</p>	<p>Graduates can work as Linemen for power companies, electric cooperatives, or telecommunications companies. They may specialize in areas like transmission, distribution, or substation work.</p>
<p>How much money can I make?</p>	<p>Lineman salaries vary by location and experience. Entry-level Linemen can earn around \$40,000 to \$60,000 annually, with potential for higher earnings as they gain expertise.</p>
<p>Are there any programs near South Lake Tahoe?</p>	<p>Sacramento Area: Sacramento Power Academy, NW Lineman College Reno: Northern Nevada Electrical Training Center, Cal/NV JATC</p>



Medical/Dental Assistant Schools- Vital Roles in Healthcare

<p>What do they do?</p> <hr/>	<p>Medical and Dental Assistants support healthcare providers by performing clinical and administrative tasks. They may take patient histories, measure vital signs, assist with examinations/procedures, and manage medical records.</p>
<p>How long are the programs?</p>	<p>Medical/Dental Assistant programs often take around 1-2 years to complete, resulting in a diploma or certificate.</p>
<p>What are the careers in this field?</p>	<p>Graduates can work as Medical Assistants in medical/dental offices, clinics, and hospitals. Some may choose to specialize in areas like podiatry or optometry.</p>
<p>How much money can I make?</p>	<p>Medical Assistants' salaries vary by location and experience. Entry-level Medical Assistants can earn around \$30,000 to \$40,000 annually, with potential for higher earnings as they gain expertise.</p>
<p>Are there any programs near South Lake Tahoe?</p>	<p>Sacramento Area: Cosumnes River College, Unitek College, UEI College Tahoe/Carson/Reno: LTCC, School of Dental Assisting, Career College of Northern Nevada, Western Nevada College, Unitek College</p>



Massage Therapy Schools- The Art of Healing Through Touch

<p>What do they do?</p> <hr/>	<p>Massage Therapists use various techniques to manipulate soft tissues and muscles to promote relaxation, alleviate pain, and improve overall well-being. They work with clients to address specific concerns and create a sense of comfort.</p>
<p>How long are the programs?</p>	<p>Massage therapy programs usually take around 6 months to 1 year, leading to a diploma or certificate in massage therapy.</p>
<p>What are the careers in this field?</p>	<p>Graduates can work as Massage Therapists in various settings, including spas, wellness centers, chiropractic offices, and sports teams. Some may specialize in areas like sports massage, deep tissue massage, or prenatal massage.</p>
<p>How much money can I make?</p>	<p>Massage Therapist salaries vary by location and experience. Entry-level Massage Therapists can earn around \$30,000 to \$40,000 annually, with potential for higher earnings as they gain expertise.</p>
<p>Are there any programs near South Lake Tahoe?</p>	<p>Sacramento Area: National Holistic Institute, Fair Oaks Massage School Carson City/Reno: The Bodhi Tree, TMCC, Milan Institute</p>



Paralegal Schools- Legal Support Professionals

<p>What do they do?</p> <hr/>	<p>Paralegals assist lawyers by conducting legal research, drafting legal documents, maintaining case files, and performing administrative tasks. They play a crucial role in the legal process.</p>
<p>How long are the programs?</p>	<p>Paralegal education programs can range from 2-year associate's degree programs to shorter certificate programs, depending on the level of education pursued.</p>
<p>What are the careers in this field?</p>	<p>Graduates can work as Paralegals in law firms, corporate legal departments, government agencies, and other legal settings. They may specialize in areas like criminal law, family law, or corporate law.</p>
<p>How much money can I make?</p>	<p>Paralegal salaries vary by location and experience. Entry-level Paralegals can earn around \$40,000 to \$55,000 annually, with potential for higher earnings as they gain expertise.</p>
<p>Are there any programs near South Lake Tahoe?</p>	<p>Sacramento Area: American River College, MTI College, Sac City College Reno: Truckee Meadows CC, Western Nevada College</p>



Phlebotomy Schools- Navigating the World of Medical Laboratory

<p>What do they do?</p> <hr/>	<p>Phlebotomists are responsible for drawing blood from patients. They collect blood samples for various medical tests, ensuring accuracy, patient comfort, and proper labeling.</p>
<p>How long are the programs?</p>	<p>Phlebotomy training programs often take around 2-4 months to complete, leading to a phlebotomy certificate.</p>
<p>What are the careers in this field?</p>	<p>Graduates can work as Phlebotomists in hospitals, clinics, diagnostic laboratories, and blood banks. They play a crucial role in the healthcare system, assisting in the diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions.</p>
<p>How much money can I make?</p>	<p>Phlebotomist salaries vary by location and experience. Entry-level Phlebotomists can earn around \$30,000 to \$40,000 annually, with potential for higher earnings as they gain expertise.</p>
<p>Are there any programs near South Lake Tahoe?</p>	<p>Sacramento Area: MTI College, Phlebotomy Training Specialists Carson/Reno: Western Nevada College, TMCC, Medical Skills for Life</p>



Plumber and Pipefitter Schools- Building Careers in Plumbing and Piping

<p>What do they do?</p>	<p>Plumbers install and repair plumbing systems, including pipes, fixtures, and water supply systems. Pipefitters install and maintain piping systems used in industrial settings, such as factories and power plants.</p>
<p>How long are the programs?</p>	<p>Apprenticeship programs for Plumbers and Pipefitters generally last 4-5 years, combining on-the-job training with classroom instruction.</p>
<p>What are the careers in this field?</p>	<p>Graduates can work as Plumbers, Pipefitters, or Steamfitters. They may specialize in residential, commercial, or industrial plumbing and piping.</p>
<p>How much money can I make?</p>	<p>Plumbers and Pipefitters earn competitive salaries. Entry-level workers can expect to earn around \$40,000 to \$60,000 annually, with potential for higher earnings as they gain experience.</p>
<p>Are there any programs near South Lake Tahoe?</p>	<p>Sacramento Area: PHCC, UA447 Reno: Northern Nevada Apprenticeship Coordinators Assoc. (NNACA)</p>



Radiology Tech Schools- Unlocking the World of Medical Imaging

<p>What do they do?</p> <hr/>	<p>Radiologic Technologists operate X-ray machines, CT scanners, MRI machines, and other medical imaging equipment. They assist in performing diagnostic imaging procedures and ensure patient safety and comfort.</p>
<p>How long are the programs?</p>	<p>Radiologic technology programs usually take around 2 years to complete, leading to an associate's degree.</p>
<p>What are the careers in this field?</p>	<p>Graduates can work as Radiologic Technologists in hospitals, clinics, diagnostic imaging centers, and physicians' offices. Some may choose to specialize in areas like computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), or mammography.</p>
<p>How much money can I make?</p>	<p>Radiologic Technologist salaries vary by location and experience. Entry-level technologists can earn around \$50,000 to \$60,000 annually, with potential for higher earnings as they gain expertise.</p>

<p>Are there any programs near South Lake Tahoe?</p>	<p>Sacramento Area: Gurnick Academy, Folsom Lake College, SUI Reno: Great Basin College, Truckee Meadows CC</p>
------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



Veterinary Tech Schools- Caring for animals

<p>What do they do?</p> <hr/>	<p>Veterinary Technicians work alongside veterinarians to provide medical care to animals. They assist in surgical procedures, conduct laboratory tests, administer medications, and educate pet owners on animal health.</p>
<p>How long are the programs?</p>	<p>Veterinary Technician programs usually take around 2-3 years, leading to an associate's degree in veterinary technology.</p>
<p>What are the careers in this field?</p>	<p>Graduates can work as Veterinary Technicians in veterinary clinics, animal hospitals, research facilities, and animal shelters. They may specialize in areas like emergency and critical care, dental hygiene, or anesthesia.</p>
<p>How much money can I make?</p>	<p>Veterinary Technician salaries vary by location and experience. Entry-level Veterinary Technicians can earn around \$30,000 to \$40,000 annually, with potential for higher.</p>
<p>Are there any programs near South Lake Tahoe?</p>	<p>Sacramento Area: Cosumnes River College, Carrington College Reno: Truckee Meadows Community College</p>



Welding Schools- Crafting Connections Through Metal

<p>What do they do?</p> <hr/>	<p>Welders use various techniques to join metals and create structures. They work on projects ranging from construction and manufacturing to artistic metalwork.</p>
<p>How long are the programs?</p>	<p>Welding programs can vary in length. Certificate programs may take as little as a few months, while more comprehensive welding programs can span 1-2 years.</p>
<p>What are the careers in this field?</p>	<p>Graduates can work as Welders in industries such as construction, manufacturing, shipbuilding, and art. Some may specialize in areas like underwater welding or pipeline welding.</p>
<p>How much money can I make?</p>	<p>Welder salaries vary by location and experience. Entry-level Welders can earn around \$35,000 to \$45,000 annually, with potential for higher earnings as they gain expertise.</p>
<p>Are there any programs near South Lake Tahoe?</p>	<p>Sacramento Area: UTI, American River College, NCTT, Sierra College Carson/Reno: Western Nevada College, Career College of N.Nevada, Truckee Meadows Community College</p>

