

## Private Institutions and Military Options

### Education

Education is big business. Any business can call their business a college or school. It is up to the consumer to research the credentials of the school they are considering paying money to for a course of study. Fortunately with the internet there are numerous BLOGS where consumers of the services provided by various institutions post both positive and negative comments. Private institutions are expensive. Most will use a student's total financial aid (FAFSA) allotment in the first semester leaving the student no monies for study, especially if they want to transfer to a state funded school.

In addition, if the school is not accredited by a recognized accrediting agency (i.e. the Southern Association on Colleges and Schools (SACS), Commission on Colleges (COC), the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), and the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA)). At the national level the credits from the school will not transfer to any other institution.

### Military

For many students the military provides opportunities for a career and educational benefits that they could not obtain elsewhere. Such benefits include money for college, the pride of belonging, travel, and veteran preference when applying for jobs after service. However, the military is not for everyone, and once the CONTRACT for service is signed there is no turning back. Often the structure of the military proves difficult for enlistees and the time away from family and home is a cause for disillusionment.

**REMEMBER:** Recruiters are salesmen, they have quotas and need to sign-up new recruits.

Several web sites allow students to explore military service options and provide a list of questions to ask recruiters.

[www.military.com](http://www.military.com)

[www.todaysmilitary.com](http://www.todaysmilitary.com)

[www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)

## Is an Apprenticeship Program Right for You?

- Do you like a hands-on approach to learning?
- Do you like math?
- Do you want to get paid while you learn a trade?
- Are you willing to attend classes along with on-the-job training?
- Are you a hard worker?
- Do you have some vocational training and/or on-the-job experience?
- Do you enjoy being a member of a team?

Classroom learning and on-the-job training are both part of being an apprentice. In addition to going right to work in a skilled field, apprentices must attend classes to learn safety measures, theories, and techniques. Programs usually last from one to six years and might include working a 40 hour week and a 4 hour class one night a week. Working under the supervision of a journeyman, an apprentice will usually receive between 6 to 10 dollars an hour. Upon completion of the apprenticeship program one becomes a journeyman.

The majority of apprenticeship programs are in the construction trades. These are the most popular areas:

- Auto mechanic
- Bricklayer
- Painter
- Roofer
- Sheet-Metal worker
- Bricklayer and stone mason
- Tool-and-Die maker
- Cook
- Electrician

Generally one must be 18 years of age or older to apply. A high school diploma or GED and being physically fit are also necessary. Most programs have a limited number of openings so competition is great. If one is interested, an application should be submitted. Based on one's qualifications and interview, applicants may be placed on a waiting list. Sometimes it takes months or years to be placed in a program.

Additional information can be found at [www.doleta.gov/atels\\_bat](http://www.doleta.gov/atels_bat).