

Education and Training Needs

Completing Steps 1 and 2 assisted you in self-exploration, and investigating the world of work. Step 3 provides information on where you can go to acquire additional education and/or training experience. In addition, you will find an Exercise 7 titled: “Financial Needs Assessment,” which identifies the amount of money you will need to live comfortably.

Numerous educational and training opportunities are available to young people. Programs range in length, location, cost, size, eligibility requirements, and career focus. Interested students should be resourceful and creative in discovering information. Search the Internet, skim the Yellow Pages, visit career centers, network with family and friends, and seek assistance of school counselors, career counselors, mentors, and teachers.

Much of the following learning information is adapted from the “Getting Ready for Life After High School” guide published by the Los Angeles County Office of Education (<http://www.schoolguides.org>). It will give you many options available in California to pursue more education.

Adult Schools <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ae/ds/>

Many school districts across California operate adult schools offering high quality education in a user-friendly environment. Programs include vocational training, adult high school diploma, GED test preparation and English as a Second Language. The variety of vocational courses differ from district to district.

High School students can enroll to make up credits towards graduation or to enrich their high school program. They must have a written release from their high school counselor and be enrolled in a full six-period day at their home high school. To be eligible, a meeting with the student's high school counselor and their parents is mandatory.

Adult schools offer flexible schedules. Many classes are “open entry” and students can enroll at any time during the school year. The high school diploma program meets all California requirements as well as those of the local district. Included in the program of adult schools is a wide range of “courses for older adults.” Any adult 18 years of age or older can take high interest courses such as upholstery, ceramics, estate planning and may more.

Some examples of popular classes are:

- Medical Assistant
- Optometric Assistant
- Office Technology
- Automotive
- Banking Technology
- Home Construction

