

After High School Graduation— Then What?

Think the only options are college or work? Actually you have lots of alternatives after you graduate.

What might influence your decision?

1. You have worked so hard on required academics and extracurricular activities in high school that you need some time to recharge.
2. You took the required classes but never found any subject areas or activities that excited your interest for further learning.
3. You haven't a clue what you want to do next.
4. You and/or your family feel that there isn't the money for you to go directly to college.
5. Your GPA isn't anything great, and your grades are mediocre.
6. You never got around to applying for anything—or maybe you missed the deadlines.
7. You want training that will get you a good job.
8. You really enjoy people and travel.
9. You need to earn money for college.
10. You might admit to being a bit immature.
11. You might be interested in joining the Military.

People often say that this or that person has not yet found himself. But the self is not something that one finds. It is something one creates."

Thomas Szasz,
Hungarian psychiatrist and academic

What are your options?

1. Job Corps
<http://www.jobcorps.gov/home.aspx>
2. Apprenticeship
<http://www.lni.wa.gov/tradeslicensing/apprenticeship/programs/>
3. Certification
<http://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-certifications.aspx>
4. AmeriCorps
<http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameriCorps>
 - a. Search by specific skill area or by area of the country
 - b. Earn a stipend and more than \$5,000.00 toward education or government loan pay-off
5. Gap Year can involve experiential learning, travel, and independence—do one or combine options
 - a. Volunteer
 - Non-profit
 - Religious organization
 - Public or private schools
 - b. Internship (paid or not) in an area in which you have a strong interest
 - Political activity
 - The family business
 - Fitness center
 - c. Travel
 - USA
 - Another country
 - d. Learn a new skill
 - Language immersion
 - Musical instrument
 - Cake decorating
 - e. Explore a dream
 - Write a blog—or more
 - Create a portfolio of your art, music, or other area
6. Get a job to build your resume, accumulate money for next steps
7. College—two year degree or 4 yr. degree
8. Military