

# COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE NIGHT **NEWS**

## PLAN YOUR PATH with these resources

**THE BEST CAREERS** are found where your interests, needs and opportunities meet. Here are free-to-you resources to help you discover, explore and build your right-fit plan for college and career:

1. Your College Access Adviser and School Counselor
2. Your school/district's CTE Director
3. Faculty advisers and peers in Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)
4. UtahFutures.org
5. In-Person college tours
6. Career education programs like *Roadtrip Nation* on UEN-TV Channel 9.1

## Understanding your college options

### 1, 2, 4 or More

What does "college" mean to you? If you think it applies to only four year degree programs, you may be surprised to learn the term also refers to formal education marked by a certificate or associate degree.

Why does it matter? The expanded definition can help people see a wider range of options for achieving a rewarding career.

"Despite evidence to the contrary, some people still believe the only path to a good job is through a Bachelor's degree," says Nicole Batt, director of the Utah College Advising Corps. "And while a Bachelor's is still the best fit for many students—including some who stack certificates and associate degrees to get there—Utah has a wealth of in-demand, high-paying jobs that can be obtained with other post-secondary credentials."

Another misperception is that careers that don't require a Bachelor's degree don't require critical thinking or creativity.

"We see just as wide a range of problem-solving skills in trade careers as we do in other fields," says Kim Herrera, School Counseling Program Specialist at the Utah State Board of Education. "With the definition of college to include one, two, and four-year programs, the key is to determine what is the best fit for you and your future."



During a tour of Davis Technical College, a high school student tries his hand at virtual welding.

1 YEAR	2 YEARS	4 OR MORE YEARS
Certificate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business/Marketing</li> <li>• Health Science</li> <li>• Information Technology</li> <li>• Trades</li> </ul>	Apprenticeship Associate's Degree <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AA, AAS</li> <li>• AAT</li> <li>• AOT, AS</li> </ul>	Master (tech) Bachelor+ Master Degree Doctorate Postdoc

[uen.org/americangraduate](http://uen.org/americangraduate)



## Build career success by stacking credentials

A credential is a formally acknowledged level of achievement such as a certificate or college degree. Over the course of your career, you will likely use at least one approach to stacking your credentials:



**Stairs:** Each credential is designed to build to the next.



**Nest:** The eggs represent different, independent credentials united by one common theme: *you*.



**Cake:** When your career is up and running, top it with a certificate to advance even further.

### UTAHFUTURES AMERICAN GRADUATE

is a UEN project to help more Utahns make well-informed decisions about education and career. Part of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's national initiative *American Graduate: Getting to Work* and Utah's career education resource [UtahFutures.org](http://UtahFutures.org), the project has resulted in content, partnerships and community events to support alignment between education and workforce needs.

### THE UTAH COLLEGE ADVISING CORPS (UCAC)

has successfully helped students navigate the process of getting into college for over 10 years. In 2019, the program expanded to place College Access Advisers in a total of 34 Utah schools. As recent college graduates, College Access Advisers enthusiastically connect high school students with current information about college—which is defined as one, two, four or more years of formal education beyond high school. The program is increasing college enrollment and graduation rates and changing the course of intergenerational poverty.

## Paying for College

**Utah wants to invest in you!** Did you know that last year, 38% of CTE scholarship applicants were awarded tuition benefits and other support for college? You can also take tuition-free courses through any college in the Utah System of Technical Colleges while in high school and, in many cases, beyond. Concurrent Enrollment courses are also a great way to earn credits that count toward high school and college completion. And through your school's CTE program, you could complete a certificate that aligns with a high-demand career, meaning you could graduate from high school with a diploma and a well-paying job. Search for scholarships, programs and hot jobs at [UtahFutures.org](http://UtahFutures.org).

This College Knowledge Night is part of *American Graduate: Getting to Work*, made possible by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

