

# College & Career with CKD

## Community College

Community colleges (also known as junior colleges) are schools that provide two-year programs that can be used as a pathway to a four-year college or university. Community colleges often cost less than a standard college or university. Community colleges have training programs for all different kinds of jobs. You can also earn an Associate's Degree at a community college. It takes between two and four years to earn an Associate's Degree. Associate's Degrees fall between a high school diploma or GED and a bachelor's degree.

To find a community college near you, go to:  
<http://www.aacc.nche.edu/Pages/CCFinder.aspx>



## 4 Year College/University



Traditional colleges and universities have degree programs that usually take four years to complete. When you graduate from a college or university, you get a Bachelor's Degree. You can study all different kinds of things in college. The main subject that you study is called a major. Some majors focus on a certain job, like Nursing. Some majors are more general, like History. Many jobs require a Bachelor's Degree.

Some people go to college right after high school and other people go to college later in life. Some people live on their college campus in a dormitory (or "dorm") and some people live at home while they go to college. Colleges can be either public (owned by the state) or private (owned by an organization or a group of people). Your school guidance counselor can answer questions about college and help you find the school that is right for you. There are more than 50 colleges just in North Carolina!

To learn more about college and how to apply, go to:  
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

To learn more about planning, applying & paying for college in North Carolina, go to:  
<http://www.cfnc.org/>

## Accessibility Resources

Every college has an office that help people with health conditions get the services they need to do their best in school. This office is usually called "Accessibility Services" or "Disability Services." These offices can provide services like extra time to complete tests or assignments, a class schedule that lets you get enough rest to stay healthy, or providing a space for you to take medications in private. With your permission, your doctor can send your medical records to your college to help you get these services.

## Glossary

**Associate's Degree:** A degree that you earn at a community college. An Associate's Degree usually takes between two and four years to complete. Popular Associate's Degrees are web design and entrepreneurship.

**Bachelor's Degree:** A degree that you earn at a four year college or university. There are two different types of Bachelor's Degrees - a Bachelor of Arts (like journalism or education) or a Bachelor of Sciences (like engineering or chemistry).

**GED:** GED stands for General Education Development. To get a GED, you must pass four different tests (literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies). When you pass all four tests you get a GED certificate. This certificate is supposed to be equivalent, or equal, to a high school diploma.



There is more than  
**\$185 BILLION**  
available in  
financial aid to  
help you pay for  
college!!

## Ways to Pay for College

### Grants & Scholarships

**1** This is money that you do not have to pay back. Some grants and scholarships are given based on financial need (depending on the amount of money your parents make). Others are given based on your grades in school or the activities you participate in. Information about scholarships and grants can be found online or from talking talk to your school guidance counselor!

### Education Loans

**2** Loans provide money to pay for college that you have to pay back with interest. This means that you pay back amount of money that you borrowed, plus extra money (called "interest") as a fee for the loan. Loans can come from the government (a federal loan) or from a bank (a private loan). For almost all education loans, you start paying back the money you borrowed when you graduate from school.

### Work-Study & Service Programs

**3** Some jobs on a college campus are specifically for students that need help paying for college and meet certain financial requirements (usually based on the amount of money your parents make). These are called "Work-Study" positions. Service programs, like Americorps or Teach for America, will give you money to pay for college in exchange for working for their organization before or after you graduate.



## Choosing a Career



Do you know what kind of job you want to have when you're an adult? It's okay if you don't! Think about things you like to do or what you like to learn about in school, then think of jobs related to those same skills or topics.

**Need help brainstorming ideas?**  
Check out <http://www.mynextmove.org/>



## Your Career & Your CKD

You might have questions about finding or keeping a job because you have CKD. Needing a certain work schedule or difficulties with the physical parts of your job are both examples of special concerns you might have because of your kidneys. No employer can treat you differently because you have CKD. This is because of a law called the Americans with Disabilities Act (or the "ADA") that protects people with health problems, like CKD.

**Would you like more information about CKD and the workplace?**  
Check out <https://www.kidney.org/atoz/content/working>



## Trade School

Some careers, like being a plumber or a paralegal, do not require a 4 year college degree. Instead, they require a certification from a trade school. Trade schools have programs that provide job-specific education and skills training. These programs generally take between six months and two years to complete. A trade school certification often takes less time and costs less money than getting an associate's degree or a bachelor's degree.

## Voc Rehab

Vocational Rehabilitation (known also as Voc Rehab or VR) provides services to people with chronic health conditions and disabilities to help them get jobs. These services can include training, transportation, or even money to pay for college. There are certain requirements you must meet to receive VR Services. If you have an IEP at school, it is possible that a counselor from VR can start to work with you before you graduate from high school. Talk with your doctor or your social worker about whether or not you would qualify for VR services.

Do you have to tell people at work that you have CKD?

**If your symptoms or treatment get in the way of working, you should let your employer know. Otherwise, it's up to you!**

**If you have questions about college or career planning, talk to your school guidance counselor. If you have an IEP (individualized education program) you can start planning with your team members for life after graduation as early as your freshman year of high school!**