

Military transition action timeline: 12 months



Getting the right education or training

Whether you decide to return to school full time or part time, or to get vocational training, you have a variety of options. Each type of educational opportunity has different admission requirements and costs. The time commitment required can also vary a lot between a university and an online class.

The following channels provide an opportunity for you to improve your skills and training.

Additional education or training

- **University:** Universities offer four-year degree programs and advanced programs for master's and doctorate degrees. Many also offer shorter specialty/certification courses. Most universities require testing for admission, such as the SAT or GRE. Financial aid varies by school. Some universities have special programs and benefits for veterans.
- **Community colleges:** Most local colleges offer basic required or practical classes repeatedly throughout the year. Admission is generally less strict and costs are lower. Sometimes it makes financial sense to start at a community college and transfer to a university once basic requirements have been fulfilled.
- **Vocational school:** A vocational school, also called a trade school, is a higher-level learning institution that specializes in providing students with the vocational education and technical skills they need in order to perform the tasks of a particular job.
- **Online:** Online education ranges from individual classes to degree programs and is offered at a variety of online universities and training programs. The time requirement for online classes is normally more flexible than the schedule of colleges. Certification programs are often offered online.
- **Skill-building websites:** Certain websites offer training on specific skills. Although not as comprehensive as full semester classes, these websites can help build skills such as Excel or Java.

Personal instruction and self-study

- **Seminars:** Local seminars provide the opportunity to attend a one-day presentation on a specific skill such as Microsoft Office.
- **Self guided e-books:** Self-guided training can be found at most libraries and online. Such materials allow you to move at your own pace while learning a new skill.
- **Reading:** Reading printed and e-books can increase your personal and business vocabulary.

Identify some specific learning opportunities and get started! If you haven't been in school for a while, you may need to rebuild good study habits.