



Educational Opportunity Centers

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Who is EOC?

- The Educational Opportunity Centers of Pennsylvania provides **FREE** services to encourage and assist adults and high school students who are interested in continuing their education.
- Funded through the U.S. Department of Education, we focus on low-income, first generation students.
- EOC provides financial aid assistance, help completing the FAFSA, the PHEAA, and guidance with college admission and career counseling.

How Can EOC Help You?

- Postsecondary education information and assistance services
- Career exploration and advising using technology and assessment tools
- Financial aid assistance (FAFSA, PHEAA, and scholarship searches)
- Assistance in earning a GED/high school equivalency diploma
- Obtaining education or training to find a job that pays a family sustaining wage
- Unemployment retraining in order to re-enter the workforce
- Referrals to other academic support services

EDUCATION



There is Financial Aid Available for Every Type of Educational Program

| <u>Type of Programs</u> | <u>Length of Programs</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| ☞ Certificate | 4 Months to 1 Year |
| ☞ Apprenticeship | 2 to 3 Years |
| ☞ Associates Degree | 2 Years |
| ☞ Bachelors Degree | 4 Years |
| ☞ Masters Degree | 6 Years |
| ☞ Professional Degree | 7 to 9 Years |
| ☞ Doctoral Degree | 8 to 10+ Years |

Specific types of financial aid are not always available for your specific program. Make sure you check to see what aid is available for you!

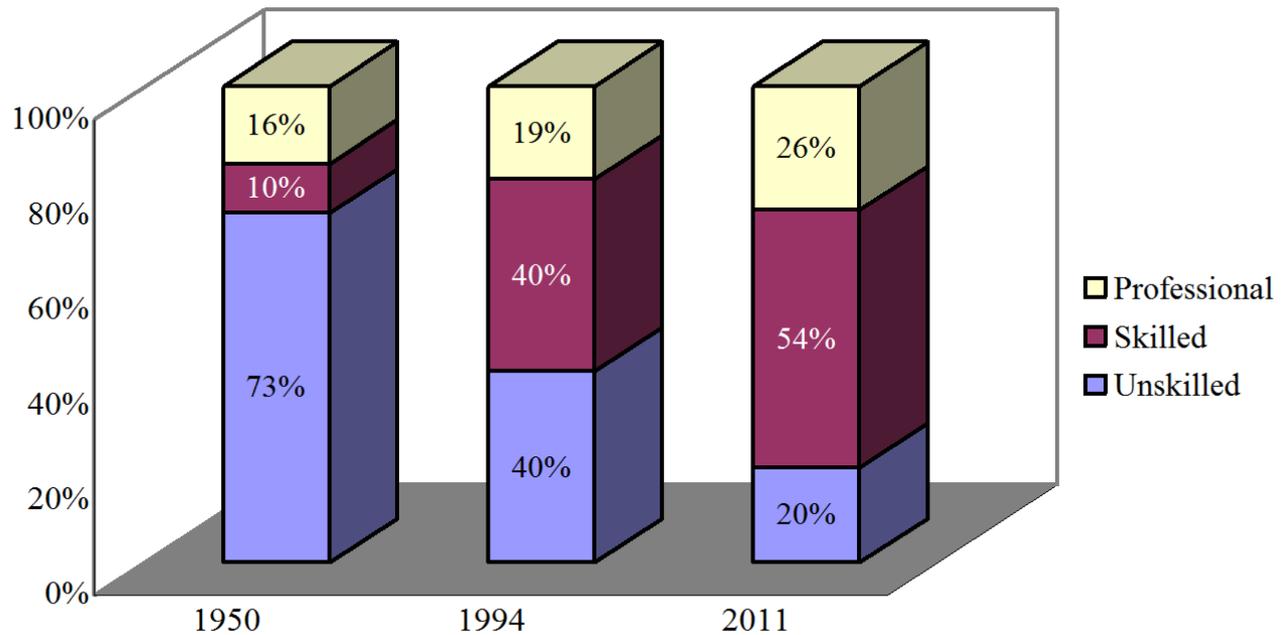
Education...

Not Just a 4 year Commitment!

- Many of the high priority occupations right here in our area are looking for highly skilled and qualified workers which often is equivalent to short-term training or an associate's degree
- There are short-term training options available for little to no out of pocket cost that can get you working in as little as six weeks
- *(Ex. Phlebotomy, CNA/LPN, HVAC-R, Corrections Certificate, Industrial Maintenance, CNC, Welding)*

Economic Realities

- ↳ Unskilled jobs are disappearing; demand for high skills is rising
- ↳ 80% of jobs today require some sort of training beyond High School



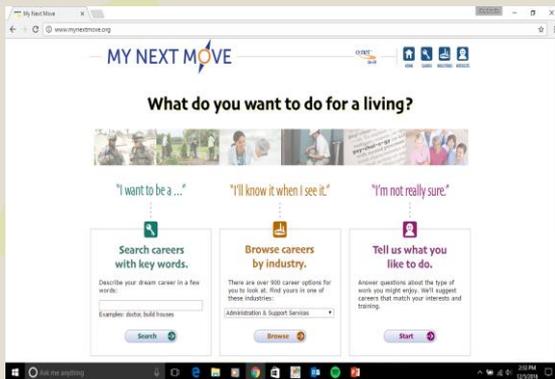
Online Resources:

Mynextmove.org

Educationplanner.org

Onetonline.org

- -Assess your interests, skills and ambitions
- -Understand the education and workforce demands
- -What might you earn?
- -How much will you spend on education and/or training?



FINANCIAL AID



Types of Financial Aid

GIFT AID

- Scholarships and Grants (Does Not Need to be Paid Back)
- Scholarships and Grants are Based Off of Financial Need or Merit

SELF HELP AID

- Loans (Borrowed Money; Must be paid back)
- Work Study (Money Earned by Working a Job on Campus)

OTHER OPTIONS

- Tuition Reimbursement (Employer Sponsors Education)
- Military (Requires Commitment and Meeting Criteria)

Financial Aid Forms

☞ **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)** *(Opens October 1st Every Year)*

☞ Completed Every Year During Enrollment

☞ Required by all schools, PHEAA, and some scholarship organizations

☞ FAFSA.ED.GOV

☞ **STATE GRANT FORM (SGF)** through PHEAA *(Due May 1st Every Year)*

☞ Completed Once

☞ Required for first year students after FAFSA is completed

☞ PHEAA.ORG

☞ ***SOME SCHOOLS REQUIRE (Deadlines Vary)***

☞ **CSS Profile**- Required by some postsecondary schools and scholarship organizations

☞ **Institutional Financial Aid Forms**- Internal school forms

Federal Pell Grant Awards

➔ Pell Grant up to \$6,095

➔ FSEOG..... up to \$4,000 (Based on Campus FAO)

➔ Federal Work Study up to \$3,000 (Based on Campus FAO)

➔ Student must be enrolled at least half-time and meet satisfactory academic progress

State Grant Awards

- ☛ Full-time, in PA.....up to \$4,054 (PT would equal half amount)
- ☛ Out of state..... Up to \$554 in DE, MA, OH, VT, WV, and DC only
- ☛ All other states.... \$0
- ☛ Must be a resident of PA, attend at least half-time in a minimum 2 year program and meet satisfactory academic progress

Federal Stafford Loans

- ☞ **AWARDED to ALL** eligible undergraduate students **REGARDLESS** of Need
- ☞ **5.05%** variable/fixed interest rate with a **1.062%** fee
- ☞ Loan in student's name; no collateral or credit check
- ☞ Student must sign MPN and complete Entrance Counseling (*studentloans.gov*)
- ☞ Available loan amounts increase in subsequent years
- ☞ No payments required while attending school & during a 6-month grace period
- ☞ Must complete all Financial Aid Forms

Based on FAFSA, student loans have a combination of:

- ☞ **Subsidized** = Government pays interest in school and grace status
- ☞ **Unsubsidized** = student is responsible for interest, accrues in school and grace

Scholarship Search Tips

- ➦ Start early and check back often
- ➦ Google your interests; type in “___ scholarship”
- ➦ Don't Pay for information and watch out for scams
- ➦ Criteria varies by school and organization; read the scholarship description
- ➦ Don't be discouraged by essays; write one good essay and provide what is asked
- ➦ Don't discount smaller scholarships; they add up!
- ➦ Don't miss **DEADLINES!**

Scholarship Sites

Fastweb.com

Educationplanner.org

Fastaid.com

Finaid.org

Scholarshipexperts.com

Scholarships.com

Scholarship-page.com

Zinch.com

Dosomething.org/scholarships

Collegeprowler.com

Studentscholarships.org

Bigfuture.collegeboard.org

Collegeanswer.com

Collegenet.com

Chegg.com

Unigo.com

Colleges.niche.com

Meritaid.com

Sacfoundation.com

HIGH PRIORITY OCCUPATIONS



Logistics and Manufacturing HPOs

- ⇨ Operations Manager
- ⇨ Inventory Control Clerk
- ⇨ Material Handler
- ⇨ Logistics Coordinator
- ⇨ Warehouse Manager
- ⇨ Fulfillment Specialist
- ⇨ Supply Technician
- ⇨ Distribution Supervisor
- ⇨ Shipping and Receiving
- ⇨ Gas Tech and Compression Technology
- ⇨ CDL (Class A & B)
- ⇨ CNC Machinist
- ⇨ Building Maintenance
- ⇨ Industrial Maintenance Mechanic
- ⇨ Tool & Die
- ⇨ Welder
- ⇨ PLC
- ⇨ Electrician
- ⇨ Plumber
- ⇨ HVAC-R
- ⇨ Diesel Mechanic

Logistics and Manufacturing Skill Sets

☞ Complex Problem

Solving/Decision Making

☞ Equipment

Selection/Maintenance

☞ Operation

Monitoring/Reporting

☞ Physical Dexterity/Precision

☞ Problem Sensitivity

☞ Proper Control of

Machinery/Equipment

☞ Quality Control Analysis

☞ Quick Reaction Time to Signal
and/or Issues

☞ Troubleshooting/ Repairing

Health Career HPOs

☞ Medical Office Manager

☞ Medical Assistant

☞ Medical Billing & Coding

☞ Medical Transcription

☞ Radiology Technician

☞ Ultrasound Technician

☞ Respiratory Therapist

☞ Surgical Technician

☞ Health Information Technician

☞ Dental Hygienist/Assistant

☞ CAN/Nursing Attendants

☞ LPN

☞ RN

☞ Occupational Therapist Assistant

☞ Physical Therapist Assistant

☞ EMT/Paramedic

☞ Phlebotomist

☞ Pharmacy Technicians

☞ Medical & Clinical Lab
Technicians

☞ Veterinary Technicians

Health Careers Skill Sets

☞ Ability to Assist and Care for
Others

☞ Communication with Supervisors,
Peers, and/or Subordinates

☞ Complex Problem
Solving/Decision Making

☞ Flexibility & Coordination (Time)

☞ Identifying
Problems/Concerns/Irregularities

☞ Patient Monitoring/Reporting

☞ Perceptive of Patient Needs

☞ Problem Sensitivity

☞ Service Oriented

Business Career HPOs

- ⇨ Computer Operators
- ⇨ Customer Service Representatives
- ⇨ Data Entry & File Clerks
- ⇨ Admissions Clerks
- ⇨ Office Managers
- ⇨ Human Resource Assistants
- ⇨ Insurance Claims Clerks
- ⇨ Legal & Medical Secretaries
- ⇨ Help Desk Technician
- ⇨ Budget Analysts
- ⇨ Computer & Information Systems Managers
- ⇨ Computer Programmers
- ⇨ Energy Auditors
- ⇨ Sustainability Specialists
- ⇨ Accountants & Finance Managers
- ⇨ Tax Examiner and Collectors/Revenue Agents
- ⇨ Tax Preparers
- ⇨ Statisticians
- ⇨ Credit Analysts

Business Careers Skill Sets

- ☞ Excellent Written & Oral Expression and Comprehension
- ☞ Good Mathematical Skills & Reasoning
- ☞ Critical Thinking/Complex Decision Making
- ☞ Active Listening

- ☞ Excellent Computer & Programming Skills
- ☞ System Analysis & Evaluation
- ☞ Inductive & Deductive Reasoning
- ☞ Problem Sensitivity
- ☞ Information Ordering

Hot Jobs Research

- 🔗 [Onetonline.org](https://www.onetonline.org) (DLI Tool to Research Salaries-Skill Sets-Education)
- 🔗 [Cwds.state.pa.us](https://cwds.state.pa.us) (Jobs & Training Provider List)
- 🔗 [Jobsinlogistics.com](https://www.jobsinlogistics.com) (“Monster.com for Logistics Jobs”)
- 🔗 [Cdlcareernow.com](https://www.cdldcareernow.com) (Practice Driving Tests-CDL)
- 🔗 [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com) (Put in a Career & Zip Code)
- 🔗 [Ahima.org](https://www.ahima.org) (The American Health Information Managers Association)
- 🔗 [Ecneahec.org](https://www.ecneahec.org) (East Central and Northeast Area Health Education Centers)
- 🔗 [Linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com) (NEPA Networkers Group)
- 🔗 [Scsc.pa.us](https://www.scsc.pa.us) (State Civil Service Careers)

Study/College Assistance Websites

FREE ONLINE CLASSES

www.free-ed.net (Free Online Courses and Learning Resources)

<http://ocw.mit.edu/index/htm> (MIT OpenCourseWare-Free College Level Classes)

www.gcflearnfree.org (Free Online Computer Classes)

www.learningexpresshub.com (College Admission and Entrance Exam Preparation)

TURN YOUR FREE CLASSES INTO CREDIT

<https://clep.collegeboard.org/earn-college-credit/practice>

Final Thoughts

- ☞ Research our future career; find out what education is required, what your future earnings will be, and the growth rate of your career
- ☞ Don't discount any options, including community college/technical schools and attending part time
- ☞ Only attend a school you can reasonably afford and only borrow what is absolutely necessary (expend all your "free" financial aid options before you borrow)
- ☞ Approach education from a consumer standpoint
- ☞ Much depends on you and your choices. Everyone's situation is different. Only YOU know what will work for you!

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➤ FREE Counseling in:

➤ College Admissions

➤ Financial Aid

➤ Career Planning

➤ School Choice

➤ GED Referral

➤ ...And More!

