



# Educational Opportunity Centers

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# Who is EOC?

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- 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?

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- ➡ 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

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## Type of Programs

- ➡ Certificate
- ➡ Apprenticeship
- ➡ Associates Degree
- ➡ Bachelors Degree
- ➡ Masters Degree
- ➡ Professional Degree
- ➡ Doctoral Degree

## Length of Programs

- 4 Months to 1 Year
- 2 to 3 Years
- 2 Years
- 4 Years
- 6 Years
- 7 to 9 Years
- 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...

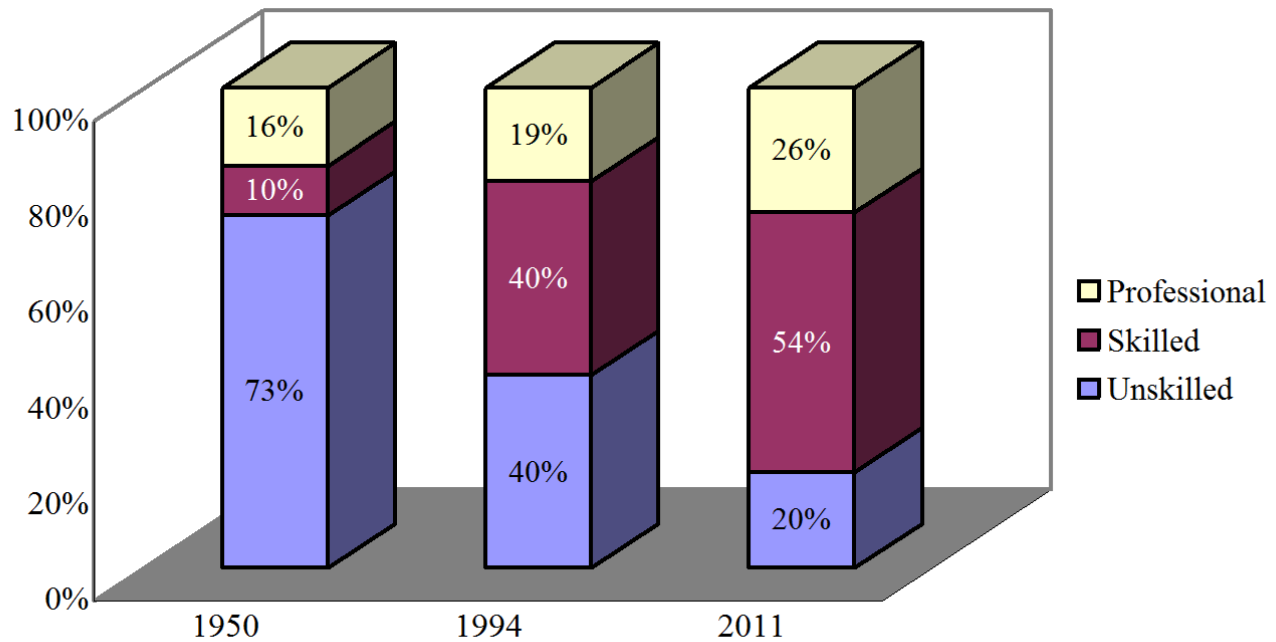
## Not Just a 4 year Commitment!

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- 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



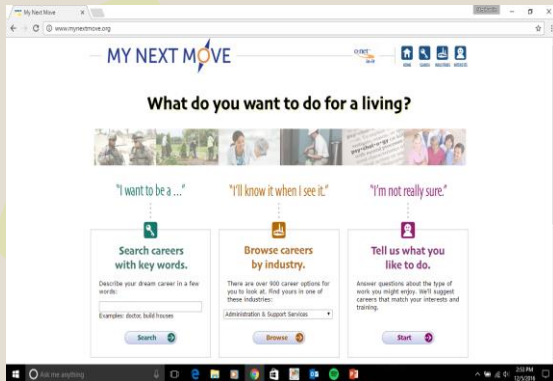
# Online Resources:

*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

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# Types of Financial Aid

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## 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

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➡ **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)** *(Opens October 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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➡ 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

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- 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

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- **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

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# Logistics and Manufacturing HPOs

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- ➡ 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

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→ 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

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➡ 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

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➡ 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

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- ➡ 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

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- ➡ 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

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

# Study/College Assistance Websites

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## FREE ONLINE CLASSES

[www.free-ed.net](http://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](http://www.gcflearnfree.org) (Free Online Computer Classes)

[www.learningexpresshub.com](http://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

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- ➡ 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!

