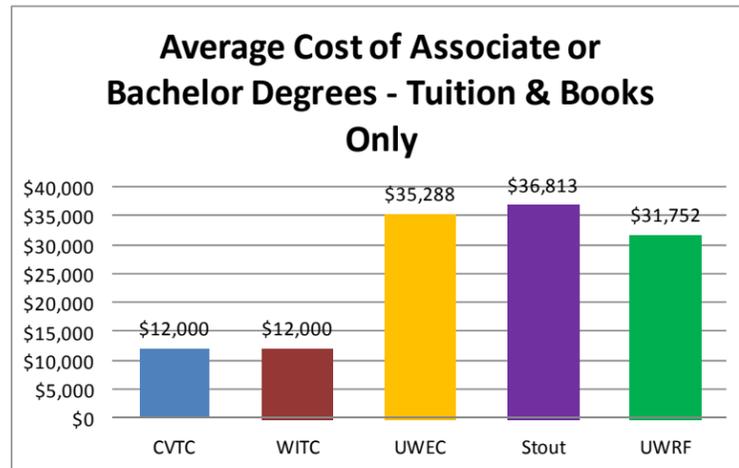


Return on Investment

A post secondary education is a big investment. It is costly, but can have great benefits if planned correctly. Students should not simply be focused on if they can "get in" to a university or technical college. You should instead ask what opportunities the schools can offer you, and at what cost. Charts F and G include comparison information by each school. It is important to note that each specific program and major will yield different results. These are merely averages to begin your search. Some questions to ask are: How much money will I make from my selected program? What does the program cost? Answering these questions will give you an idea if this is a good return on your investment or not.

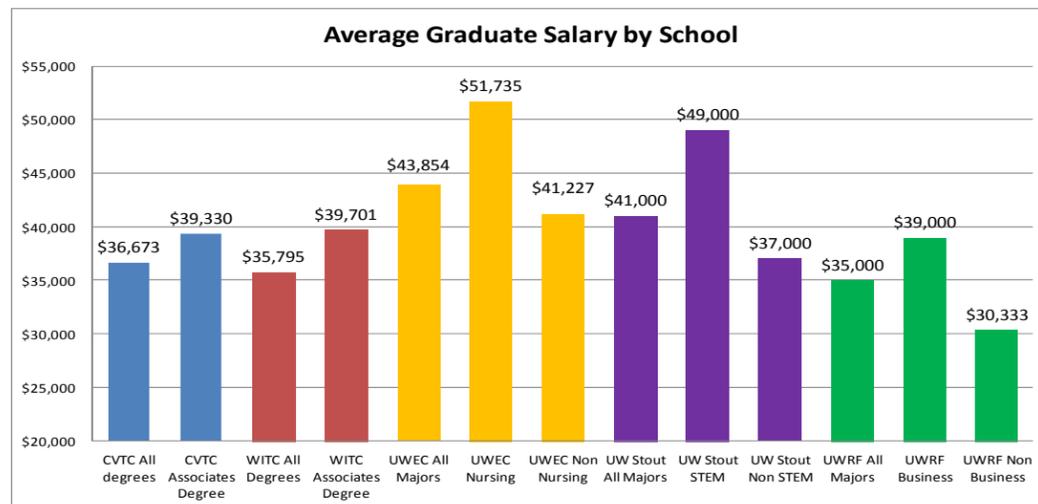
Chart F



General rule of thumb:

You should not take out more in student loans than you expect to make your first year on the job. For example, if you expect a starting salary of \$30,000, your total student loans should not exceed \$30,000. This helps ensure your ability to pay them back comfortably.

Chart G



Elmwood Schools
Counseling Department

Paula Haugle, M.S. - School Counselor
School District of Elmwood
213 S. Scott St.
Elmwood, WI 54740
hauglep@elmwood.k12.wi.us
715-639-2721, ext. 6230

The mission of the Elmwood School Counseling Program is to ensure that all students are equitably provided with assistance in acquiring the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to achieve success as effective students, responsible citizens, productive workers and lifelong learners.

Sources for Employment Rates of Graduates by School:
WITC Graduate Survey Results 2013-14
Stout Annual Employment Report 2013-14 <https://www.uwstout.edu/careers/upload/anrpt.pdf>
UWEC Post Graduation Survey Results 2013-14 <http://www.uwec.edu/Career/gradsurvey/gradsurvey.htm>
UWRF Post Graduation Survey 2013-14 <https://www.uwrf.edu/SurveyResearchCenter/Publications/upload/2013-2014-PostGrad-Report-v2.pdf>
CVTC Graduate Follow Up Report 2013-14 <http://www.cvtc.edu/about-cvtc.aspx>
Post Secondary Graduation Rates Sources:
WI DPI, Gregg Curtis, School Counseling Consultant December 2015



Elmwood High School
Counseling Department

college · career · ready

2016 | 2017

A PRACTICAL POST SECONDARY CONSUMER GUIDE



Top 4 post secondary schools Elmwood graduates choose:

1. CVTC
2. UW Stout
3. UW River Falls
4. UW Eau Claire



Top 4 employment industries in Western Wisconsin.*

1. Manufacturing
2. Health Care
3. Retail
4. Education



The Department of Defense is the largest employer in the United States, with more employees than Exxon, Mobil, Ford, General Motors, and GE combined.

Source: www.military.com

1:2:7

Ratio of education level required by available jobs in the labor market. For every 1 professional degree occupation (masters, doctorate), there is a need for 2 bachelor's degree level occupations and 7 occupations requiring a 1 or 2 year degree.

Source: Gray, K. & Herr, E. (2006). *Other Ways to Win: Creating Alternatives for High School Graduates*. Third Edition.

Making decisions about post secondary options can be daunting. The purpose of this guide is to help students become **savvy post secondary consumers**. When looking at options, it's important to consider the following:

Know Yourself

- What are my likes, dislikes and interests? What career clusters interest me?
- What are my skills and abilities in these areas? What would I be good at?
- Am I a person who enjoys school? Do I prefer hands on learning?

Know Your Options

- What type of training is required for careers of interest?
- What are potential sources for my career training?
- What is the cost of this training? What are the graduate outcomes?
- What is the labor market for my selected career path?

Make a Plan

- What training will you need for your selected career?
- Visit at least 2-3 schools to make a comparison. Ask good questions.
- How will I pay for my education? Is it a good investment?
- What habits, skills, and opportunities now will prepare me for my career?

Carefully considering the answers to these questions will help students make smart career choices - choices that will lead to **completing** training programs while making **sound financial decisions**. This guide will help provide some information to get you started.

*Source: WI Dept. of Workforce Development Area Brief May 2011

POST SECONDARY OPTIONS

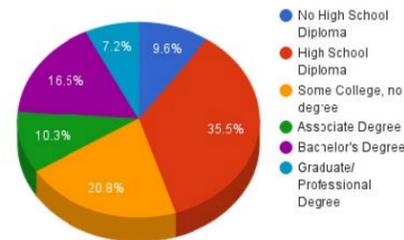
by the Numbers

Where is the need?

A good place to start looking is at labor market data. What types of jobs are in demand for the future? As charts A and B demonstrate, there is a shortage of skilled workers in Western Wisconsin. There is a much greater need for workers with a technical diploma or apprenticeship than with any other level of education. The Employment Projections chart goes into further detail, highlighting projected openings by occupation group and wages.

Chart A

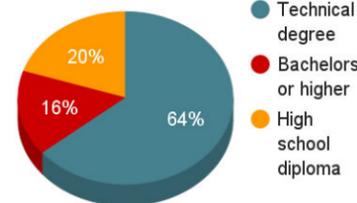
Education Levels for People 25+ in Western WI



Source: Dept. of Workforce Development WI 2015

Chart B

Education Level Needed for Jobs Created 2015-2025



Source: US Dept. of Labor 2015

Employment Projections

West Central Workforce Development Area Occupation Projections, 2012-2022

Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix Counties

Occupation Group	Employment		Change (2012-2022)		Average Annual Openings			Median Annual Wage
	2012	2022	Number	Percent	Due to Growth	Due to Replacement	Total Openings	
All Occupations	179,507	197,498	17,991	10%	1,923	4,243	6,166	\$ 31,988
Management	7,640	8,451	811	11%	82	153	235	\$ 80,633
Business and Financial	5,611	6,233	622	11%	63	115	178	\$ 52,258
Computer and Mathematical	2,143	2,488	345	16%	34	36	70	\$ 58,701
Architecture and Engineering	3,150	3,307	157	5%	20	75	95	\$ 61,622
Life, Physical, and Social Science	863	953	90	10%	9	27	36	\$ 47,598
Community and Social Service	1,815	2,012	197	11%	20	42	62	\$ 44,525
Legal	752	913	161	21%	16	12	28	\$ 51,849
Education, Training, and Library	4,751	5,149	398	8%	40	106	146	\$ 45,573
Arts, Entertainment and Media	1,854	2,029	175	9%	20	46	66	\$ 32,900
Healthcare Practitioners	11,497	13,855	2,358	21%	236	232	468	\$ 56,984
Healthcare Support	5,919	6,771	852	14%	85	112	197	\$ 28,445
Protective Service	2,972	3,234	262	9%	26	93	119	\$ 36,477
Food Preparation and Serving	16,711	18,441	1,730	10%	173	620	793	\$ 18,343
Building & Grounds Maintenance	5,150	5,935	785	15%	78	105	183	\$ 25,637
Personal Care and Service	10,146	12,334	2,188	22%	221	161	382	\$ 21,692
Sales and Related	19,083	20,368	1,285	7%	130	593	723	\$ 22,657
Office and Administrative Support	25,723	27,883	2,160	8%	244	599	843	\$ 30,509
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	1,557	1,470	-87	-6%	1	38	39	\$ 25,373
Construction and Extraction	6,398	7,544	1,146	18%	115	106	221	\$ 43,024
Installation, Maintenance, Repair	7,805	8,427	622	8%	66	180	246	\$ 39,729
Production	24,010	24,280	270	1%	91	486	577	\$ 31,688
Transportation & Material Moving	13,957	15,421	1,464	10%	151	304	455	\$ 29,346

Source: Office of Economic Advisors, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, September 2015

Success Rates by School

Another important factor to consider is your potential success with a training program. The following charts compare the most common institutions of higher education that Elmwood High School students choose to attend. Charts C and D reflect how many people graduate in the specified time from each school. This is an important factor to consider for your own goals. Some questions to ask yourself are: Will I complete a degree at this school? How long will it take?

Chart C

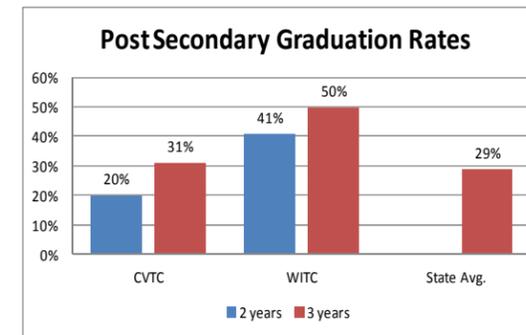


Chart D

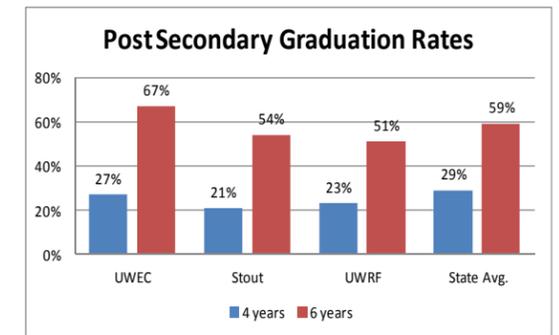


Chart E

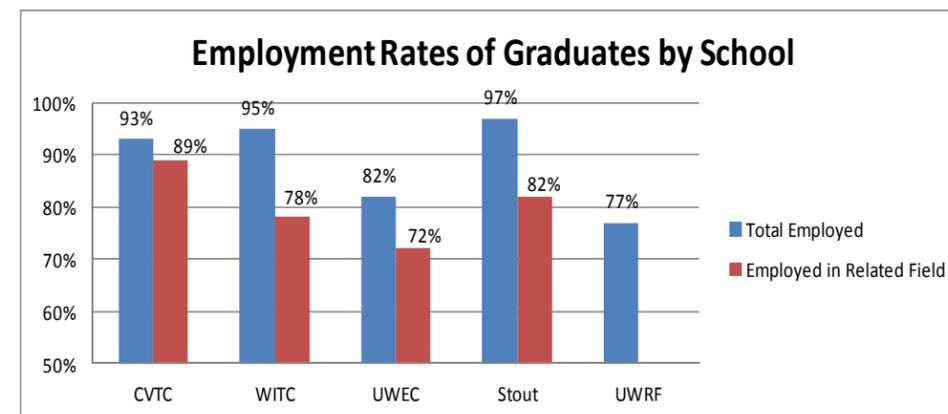


Chart E highlights how many graduates are employed after completing degrees at selected schools. It is helpful to compare how many are employed in their chosen field. A question to ask yourself is: Will I get a job after I graduate?

Paying for School

There are several options when planning how to pay for school. This decision should not be made lightly, as this is a big investment. Most often a combination of the choices in Chart H is the best option. **Savings and investments** are good ways to get a head start on paying for college. **Grants** are need based aid that doesn't need to be paid back. **Scholarships** are usually merit based and are available from local, school, state and national sources. **Loans** must be paid back with interest. **Work study** is when students work, usually on campus, and the money made can go toward tuition. **Apprenticeship** is an often overlooked option. It combines skilled on the job training with classes at a technical college. If the apprenticeship is through a union, the class at the technical college is often paid for. The **military** provides top notch career training for those who serve and is an excellent career choice in itself. However, through many programs, those who serve in the military can have education expenses paid for.

Chart H

