

Skill Development/Acquisition:

Acquired skills are talents and expertise often obtained through various education models.

- **Trade school:** A vocational or technical school that provides specialized educational and hands-on instruction that focuses on one specific career trade (e.g., electrician, plumber, hairdresser).
- **Certificate program:** A program that focuses on developing specific career skills. Shorter, less expensive programs than obtaining a degree through a college/university. (e.g., Medical coding, IT, pastoral ministry, firefighter, flight attendant).
- **Other:** Some career paths appear to fall under both categories (trade school or certificate program), and a few careers have their own specific training schools or programs, such as flight school for pilots, police academy for police officers, and culinary school for chefs/pastry chefs.

On-the-Job Training/Learning:

Training and teaching of skills, knowledge, and competencies that one is given while doing a job and getting paid.

- **Entry-level position:** A job designed for an individual starting a new job that requires little to no experience. (e.g., Sales associate, food service, receptionist).
- **Entrepreneur:** A person who creates their own business and is responsible for learning and building their enterprise. (e.g., Construction, manufacturing, food service/food truck).
- **Apprenticeship:** A program or paid position in which one learns a trade by working under a certified expert. (e.g., Healthcare, cybersecurity, telecommunications) Keep in mind that an apprenticeship often pairs with a trade school and/or certificate program (e.g., Electrician, plumber, HVAC).
- **Military:** A person who joins the armed forces and enters Basic Training (e.g., Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines).

Self-Exploration/Discovery/Growth:

This refers to the process of examining and understanding the thoughts, feelings, and motivations to promote growth and clarity regarding the development and making choices about one's future.

- **Gap year:** Yearlong break, usually between high school and college or other pursuits.
- **Mission work:** Service/assistance provided to communities in need by an individual or group, often related to a religious sector. It can include offering humanitarian aid and spreading religious messages.
- **Volunteering:** When an individual freely gives their time and service to an organization.
- **Caregiver/caretaker:** One who takes care of a family member or loved one, oftentimes without pay.
- **Content creator:** An individual who develops and shares various forms of social media content, such as an Instagram/TikTok influencer, blogger, and YouTuber.