

# Pathways to success

A look at options for Ohio high school graduates

Bryan Bullock, assistant editor

Graduating from high school is a major milestone in a young adult's life — the beginning of a new journey with limitless possibilities. What graduates choose to do after high school is up to them, but their diploma is their ticket to a wide range of possibilities. Students who graduate high school not only are more likely to make more money over the course of their lives, but they also have many more career options.

Teenagers can get a jump-start on their future and check out different career paths while they're still in high school. Postsecondary Enrollment Options Programs, career-technical classes and Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) programs can help prepare high-schoolers for college, careers or the military after graduation.

Here are some statistics about the options Ohio students have before and after they earn their high school diploma. ■



**123,000**

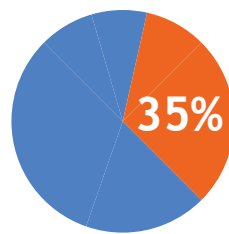
students graduated from Ohio public high schools in school year 2009-10.

Ohio's high school graduation rate was 81% in school year 2009-10, higher than the nation's rate of 78%.

**Nearly 8,000**

students who graduated from an Ohio public high school from 2004 to 2006 earned early college credit.

Those students were 35% more likely to go on to obtain a college degree than high school graduates who did not earn early college credit.



Nearly 50% of students who earned at least 30 early college credits earned a bachelor's degree in three years or fewer.

Median annual earnings for young adults ages 25-34 based on education (2011)



Sources: Ohio Board of Regents; Ohio Department of Education; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; *Forbes* magazine; Dr. Bob Haas, associate dean of Business and IT at Marion Technical College; U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy and Army Reserve.

More than **126,000**

Ohio high school students earned credit in at least one career-tech course in school year 2010-11.

**18%** Of Ohio career-tech high school students obtained a state or industry-recognized certificate or license in school year 2010-11.



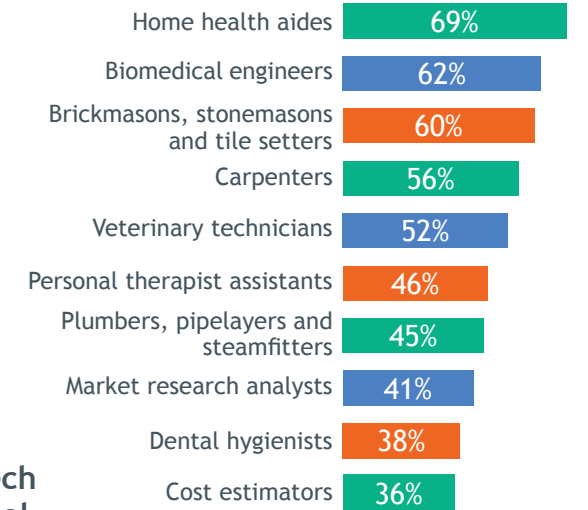
85,000 degrees and 8,000 certificates were awarded at Ohio public colleges and universities in 2012.

More than **281,000**

students are enrolled in Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) programs in public high schools across the U.S., including many in Ohio.

Depending on how long you enlist with the military and the job you choose, you can receive more than **\$50,000** to help pay for college.

Fastest-growing jobs in the U.S. (percentages reflect projected growth from 2010 to 2020)



**23%**

increase in bachelor's degrees in health, making it the fastest-growing degree type in Ohio.

**16%**

decrease in bachelor's degrees in law, more than any other degree type in the state.

Top first-year earnings in Ohio by associate's or bachelor's degree type (2011)

