



# Florida Trend's **next**

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Your Future After High School in Florida  
**COLLEGES & TECH SCHOOLS**



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## 5 Questions to Help You Choose Your School

By: Ashley Cisneros



Want personal attention from instructors? Consider a school's student:faculty ratio.

### 1. What do you want to be?

Knowing your career goals can help you identify schools that offer the programs or degrees you need to prepare. Pick a school that offers classes for a couple of majors that you are considering. Then if you change your major, you won't have to transfer to another school. Also, make sure that your credits will transfer if you do change schools.

### 2. What do you like about high school?

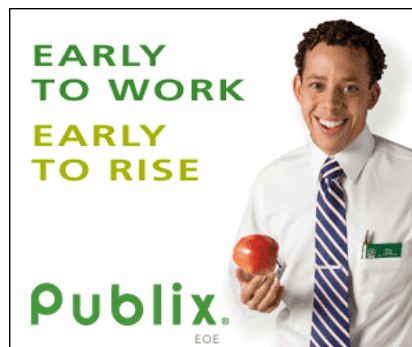
The classroom environment that you like now can give you a hint to the type of class settings you want in your next school. Are you a hands-on type of learner? Consider a career-technical school or a certificate course. Do you like to be active in clubs? Look for schools with student government and active student organizations.

### 3. Where do you want to be?

Close your eyes and picture yourself at your next school. Is it close to home? Are your classes in big lecture halls, or smaller rooms or labs? In a fast-paced, downtown, business area? Think about what, besides classes, goes on at your dream school. Ask your parents and teachers about what they've heard about the school you're considering. Go to [news.google.com](http://news.google.com) and type the school's name into the search box to find recent news articles relating to the school.

### 4. Do you know what your options are?

Get as much information as possible about the schools you are considering. College fairs and websites are great tools for finding out what's available. (Check out the "Get Smart Guide" to view schools by type.) Talk to students who have attended the schools and try to visit



### Here's a run-down of the types of schools you could attend.

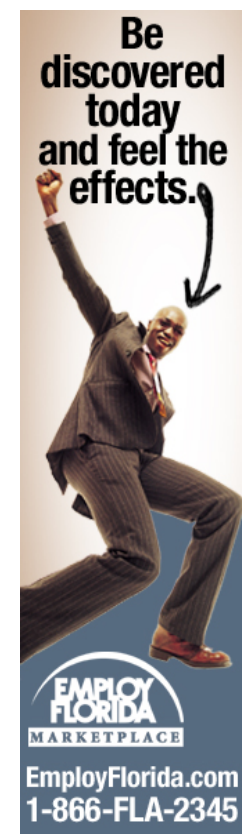
**One-year certification training schools** specialize in teaching the skills that can lead to jobs in areas like computers, massage, construction trades and much more.

**Career-technical or trade schools** These offer a hands-on learning environment that focuses on real-world skills for a particular career. Most



### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- High School Life
- Colleges & Tech Schools
- Scholarships
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the campuses in person. Find out about the admissions requirements and ask yourself if you can meet them.



**5. What can you afford?**

Research the cost of attending the school you're considering and check out financial aid opportunities.

(See [scholarship opportunities](#).)

Consider how some options will be easier on your wallet. A school close to home can mean less money spent on rent, utilities and travel during the holidays.

programs take two years.

**State and community colleges**

After two years, you are prepared to enter the workforce (A.S. degree) or transfer to a four-year institution (A.A. degree). Some of these colleges also offer four-year degrees.

**State universities**

These give students the traditional college experience, a wide range of degree programs and a ton of extra-curricular and social activities.

**Private colleges and universities**

These can be small colleges or big universities. Tuition is usually more expensive because they aren't state funded, but don't forget to look into scholarships just for students attending these schools.



- [ATI Career Training](#)
- [Aveda Institute of Cosmetology](#)
- [Barry University](#)
- [Brevard Community College](#)
- [Broward College](#)
- [Central Florida Community College](#)
- [Central Florida Electrical Joint Apprenticeship & Training Committee](#)
- [Daytona State College](#)
- [Direct Connect to UCF](#)
- [Eckerd College](#)
- [Everest University](#)
- [FACTS.org](#)
- [Florida A & M University](#)
- [Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges](#)
- [Florida Career College](#)
- [Florida Department of Education](#)
- [Florida Gulf Coast University](#)
- [Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences](#)
- [Florida Keys Community College](#)
- [Florida Lottery Bright Futures](#)
- [Florida Southern College](#)
- [Full Sail University](#)
- [Heritage Institute](#)
- [Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida](#)
- [Indian River State College](#)
- [Internat'l Brotherhood of Electrical Workers- Local Union #606](#)
- [Keiser Career College](#)
- [Keiser University](#)
- [Lake-Sumter Community College](#)
- [Manatee Community College](#)
- [Miami Dade College](#)
- [Miami-Dade County Public Schools](#)