

Local Options for Career Training

Smith Vocational Evening Education

Smith Vocational has a number of evening programs designed to train students for careers. There are training programs in the medical, art, culinary and trades/technology fields. Click [here](#) to learn more about what Smith Vocational has to offer! **Students have the option to begin these programs while still in high school.** Examples of programs include:

Electrical

Medical Assisting

Pharmacy Technician

Servsafe Food Manager

Welding

Plumbing

Bicycle Repair

Culinary Art (this program is currently free)

Franklin County Tech Adult Education (Evenings)

Franklin County Technical High School has [evening training programs](#). These training programs lead directly to jobs or paid apprenticeships. Many of these programs are free!

Carpentry

Electrical

Advanced Manufacturing

Cert. Nurse Assistant

Welding (currently free)

Culinary Arts

Automotive

EMT

Career Technical Initiative @ Pathfinder: The Career Technical Initiative (CTI) is an initiative through the Workforce Skills Cabinet (WSC). It addresses the persistent demand for workers in manufacturing and construction/trades by expanding training capacities for Massachusetts residents. Their goal is to provide high quality, hands-on training that aligns with employer and workforce demands.

Workforce Development Programs through Community College Partnerships

Community colleges offer short term career training programs that prepare students for jobs that are readily available in our community. Classes can run for as little as a few weeks while others provide multiple year training to become a licensed tradesperson. Some of these programs are free.

STCC has a number of [career training programs](#) including pathways to becoming an electrician, plumber, EMT, phlebotomist, realtor, and more. Click [here](#) to learn about the Electrical and Plumbing Training programs.

GCC has [training programs](#) in business, healthcare, manufacturing, and outdoor recreation.

HCC has a number of [online career training programs](#) in technology, art, trades, computer science, and more.

Pre-Apprenticeship Trainings in Building Trades:

UMass Amherst Community Works: a free 11-week pre-apprenticeship program (building trades) serving all of Western Massachusetts. Good if you're interested in entering construction/trades. This training provides career readiness and occupational skills training, with classroom and hands-on learning experience. Participants will gain the knowledge

and skills needed to apply for and be accepted into a state-registered apprenticeship program or transportation-industry employment.

FREE trades training program through home depot. <https://www.pathtopro.com/free-training/>

Job Corps: Free Career training for low income students (or student with a documented disability)

<https://westover.jobcorps.gov/>

Community College Career Training Certificates:

These certificates take around a year to complete. They do not require students to take traditional courses like math, English, or science. Classes in these programs run on a typical college schedule. These are affordable programs and students can get financial aid to help pay for the costs. Use the links below to search for the certificate programs at each college.

[Holyoke Community College](#)

[Greenfield Community College](#)

[Springfield Technical Community College](#)

Apprenticeships with Local Unions

Apprenticeships are training programs for the trades. They incorporate on the job training and classroom experiences. Apprenticeships are a great way to get paid while training for a new career. Click the link below to learn more about apprenticeships and find local opportunities for apprenticeships.

[Apprenticeships](#)

Massachusetts information on Apprenticeship programs: <https://www.mass.gov/information-for-apprentices>

Union Carpenters Training Center: in Milbury and Springfield. They offer a variety of apprenticeship programs here, all free! <https://www.nasctf.org/become-an-apprentice/>

IBEW Local 7- electrical apprenticeships. The first step is to attend an information session:

<https://local7jatc.coursetorm.com/>

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers: The IBEW represents approximately 873,000 active members and retirees who work in a wide variety of fields, including utilities, construction, telecommunications, broadcasting, manufacturing, railroads and government. <https://ibewyes.org/>

Local Trade Schools

Massage Therapy School

Interested in becoming a massage therapist? There is a massage therapy school in Hadley. Classes start multiple times a year. Check out [The Massage School](#).

Tractor-Trailer or Bus Driving Training

There is a local company that trains students to drive tractor-trailers and/or commercial buses. Check them out here:

<http://unitedcdl.com/>

Cosmetology Schools

Cosmetology schools train students in hairdressing, manicuring, and skin care. The two local schools are:

[Digrigoli](#) in West Springfield

[Monarch](#) in Wilbraham

Local Companies Offering Training

Dental Assistant Training:

Our area has a high demand for dental assistants. Many local dentist offices will hire hard-working, reliable recent graduates to work in their office and they will provide the training needed for the graduate to become a dental assistant.

Fire Safety Companies:

The field of fire safety includes jobs in installing fire alarms, sprinklers and fire alarm/extinguisher inspections.

Two local companies that provide on the job training and apprenticeships are:

[Impact Services](#) in Ludlow

[Encore Fire Protection](#) in Holyoke

Palmer Paving Company in Springfield

Palmer Paving is always looking for hardworking graduates to work for their company. New hires learn on the job and have the opportunity to work their way up in the company. Workers for the company also have the option to join the union which provides numerous benefits. See Ms. Scully for more information.

EMR - Emergency Medical Responder Training

Pioneer Valley EMS is a local ambulance company located in Northampton. They provide both emergent and non-emergent transport for Cooley Dickinson Hospital. This program is an entry level position in EMS, that is geared for students interested in becoming an EMT, Paramedic, Fire Fighter, or anything in the medical field including Physician's Assistant or Medical Doctor. Students must be at least 18 years old, have a valid driver's license, and a method of transportation to get to and from work. They provide students with CPR training and the EMR program in which they will receive certificates in both. This is a paid employment opportunity. They help each student enroll in an EMT program within 6 months and we reimburse them for the class once they pass! For more information Contact Charles Hastings at CHastings@PioneerValleyEMS.com or 413.345.8104

National EMS Institute: Our EMT Blended Fast Track program is a 6-week blended learning course. This robust course gives students the unique opportunity of completing the didactic portion of the course online through the use of interactive powerpoints, video checkpoints, exams, and even NREMT exam test prep. Students come to campus one day per week to master their practical skills with our experienced Instructors. There they will learn the tricks of the trade such as back-boarding, patient assessment, and CPR. <https://www.rapidsafety.com/healthcare-training-springfield-fast-track>

EMT academy: is another training program, out of Chicopee. The program will be free to you if you work for National Ambulance after. This is a 4 month program. <https://emtacademy.org/index.php/emt-program/>

Tech Foundry - Free IT Training

[Tech Foundry](#) offers a high-touch competency-based 18-week Information Technology (IT) Support training program. The program delivers an integrated learning experience that combines technical skills, professional development and career

readiness, supported by a team of experienced and committed Tech Foundry staff members. Through this journey, student members will become part of a tight-knit community and have the opportunity to learn in-demand technical skills through a mix of classes, projects and labs in a hybrid (a mix of on-line and in-person meetings) model. Student members also participate in professional development workshops, meet professionals in the field, complete a capstone project, and intern with one of our employer partners. Each participant leaves the Tech Foundry program with the skills and knowledge to land jobs and advance in an IT career. **The program is FREE!**

MassHire Franklin Hampshire Career Center (serves Hampshire County, including Amherst area)

- This center provides employment and training services — for job-seekers and employers — free of charge. masshirefhcareers.org+1
- If you're willing to travel to Greenfield (or access one of their outreach points), this is a statewide-recognized career center that can help you find training or job placement.