

# High School Diploma and Career Education Opportunities

## STEP 1: RESEARCH CAREERS & EDUCATION

Visit <https://finishyourdiploma.org/> to find free educational programs near you.

Visit <https://211sandiego.org/> to search for local educational and career programs, or call 2-1-1 for live help from a community navigator.

Search the Occupational Outlook Handbook to learn about careers, wages, and training:

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Research career information, training, or jobs: <https://www.careeronestop.org/>

Search for jobs and find other career information and resources in California: [CalJOBS.ca.gov](http://CalJOBS.ca.gov)

Visit San Diego Workforce Partnership's website to learn about career and training opportunities and find other information so you can make informed choices:

<https://workforce.org/labor-market-resources/>

## STEP 2: EXPLORE JOB TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES & COLLEGES

**San Diego Continuing Education** – Offers a High School Diploma Program, and GED preparation courses. Also offers Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language classes for free. They provide career training and certificate programs for variable costs. Classes available to California residents age 18 and older.

<http://sdcce.edu/#academic-areas>

Locations:

César E. Chávez Campus  
1901 Main Street  
San Diego, CA 92113  
Phone: 619-388-1910

Educational Cultural Complex  
4343 Ocean View Blvd.  
San Diego, CA 92113  
Phone: 619-388-4956

Mid-City  
3792 Fairmount Ave.  
San Diego, CA 92105  
Phone: 619-388-4500

North City  
8355 Aero Dr.  
San Diego, CA 92123  
Phone: 619-388-1800

San Diego Continuing Education  
at Mesa College  
7350 Armstrong Pl.  
San Diego, CA 92111  
Phone: 619-388-1950

San Diego Continuing  
Education at Miramar  
College  
10440 Black Mountain Rd.  
San Diego, CA 92126

West City  
3249 Fordham St.  
San Diego, CA 92110  
Phone: 619-388-1873

**Mira Costa College Continuing Education** – Offers a tuition free day and night classes for adults to earn their high school diploma. They also offer English as a Second Language classes and some short term vocational classes for free.

<http://www.miracosta.edu/academica/index.html>

Locations:

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Community Learning Center<br>1831 Mission Avenue<br>Oceanside, CA 92058<br>Phone: (760) 795-8710 | Oceanside Campus<br>1 Barnard Drive<br>Oceanside, CA 92056<br>Phone: (760) 757-2121 | San Elijo Campus<br>3333 Manchester Avenue<br>Cardiff, CA 92007<br>Phone: (760) 944-4449 |
|--|---|--|

**Sweetwater Union High School District Adult Education** – Offers free High School Diploma programs, English as a Second Language courses, and Adult Basic Education classes for foundational academic skills to adults 18 years of age or older. They also offer many Career Technical Education Programs at varied costs.

<http://www.sweetwaterschools.org/adult-schools/>

Locations:

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Chula Vista Adult School<br>1034 Fourth Avenue<br>Chula Vista, CA 91911<br>Phone: (619) 796-7000 | Montgomery Adult School<br>3240 Palm Avenue<br>San Diego, CA 92154<br>Phone: (619) 600-3800 | National City Adult School<br>517 Mile of Cars Way<br>National City, CA 91950<br>Phone: (619) 336-9400 |
|--|---|--|

San Ysidro Adult School  
4220 Otay Mesa Road  
San Ysidro, CA 92173  
Phone: (619) 428-7200

**Vista Unified School District** – Offers morning, evening, and online classes for obtaining a high school diploma and classes to prepare for an equivalency exam like the GED or HiSET to adults age 18 or older for free in English and Spanish. They also offer classes to improve basic academic skills and English as a Second Language classes. Career Technical Education courses are available, fees vary.

<https://www.vistaadultschool.org/>

Location:

Sunset Campus  
510 Sunset Dr.  
Vista CA 92081  
Phone: (760) 758-7122

**San Marcos Adult School** – Offers a high school diploma program three evenings during the week and through an independent study option. Courses also offered to help prepare students to take the GED equivalency test. Career technical education, adult basic education, and English as a Second Language classes available.

[https://twinoakshigh.smusd.org/programs/san\\_marcos\\_adult\\_school](https://twinoakshigh.smusd.org/programs/san_marcos_adult_school)

Location:

158 Cassou Rd.  
San Marcos, CA 92069  
Phone: (760) 290-2555

**Ramona Adult School** – Offers a high school diploma program and GED test preparation classes for free. They also offer career technical education courses, fees vary.

<https://www.ramonausd.net/ramona-adult-school-16b6f199>

Location:

720 Ninth St.  
Ramona, CA 92065  
Phone: (760) 787-2000

**Escondido Adult School** – Offers a high school diploma program, GED and HiSET test preparation classes, and English as a Second Language classes for free. They also offer career technical education courses, fees vary.

<https://www.escondidoadultschool.org/>

Location:

220 W. Crest St.  
Escondido, CA 92025  
Phone: (760) 737-8000

**Poway Adult School** – Offers a high school diploma program, GED and HiSET test preparation classes, and English as a Second Language classes for free. They also offer career technical education courses, fees vary.

<https://www.powayusd.com/en-US/Departments/CareerTechnicalAdultEd/PAS/Home>

Location:

PUSD Twin Peaks Center  
13626 Twin Peaks Road  
Poway, CA 92064  
Phone: (858) 668-4024

**Grossmont Adult Education** – Offers High School Diploma classes, GED/HiSET preparation classes, and English as a Second Language classes for free to adults 18 years of age or older. They also offer Career Training programs, costs vary.

<https://adultschool.guhds.net/>

Locations:

El Cajon Adult Center  
1075 E. Madison Ave.  
El Cajon, CA 92021  
Phone: (619) 401-9750

Foothills Adult Center  
1550 Melody Ln.  
El Cajon, CA 92019  
Phone: (619) 588-3500

Steele Canyon Adult  
Center  
12440 Campo Rd.  
Spring Valley, CA 91978  
Phone: (619) 660-9400

**Palomar College** – Offers Adult Basic Education courses to help adults gain foundational academic skills, as well as English as a Second Language courses to adults for free.

<https://www2.palomar.edu/#academics>

Location:

1140 W. Mission Road, AA-134  
San Marcos, CA 92069  
Phone: (760) 744-1150, ext. 2284

**Urban Corps Charter School** – Offers a free accredited high school diploma program combined with job skills training and paid work-experience in areas related to environmental conservation. Available to students ages 18-26.

<https://www.urbancorpscharter.com/>

Location:

3127 Jefferson Street  
San Diego, CA 92110  
Phone: (619) 235-6884

## HELPFUL RESOURCES

### Financial Aid & Scholarships

- All of the resources listed here are offered for free or at low cost.
- Once you complete your high school degree, you may be eligible for financial aid, grants, or scholarships to pay for career training programs or community college courses.
- Financial aid is funding that you can apply for to help with college expenses (tuition, books, supplies, transportation, housing, etc.).
- This funding is provided by federal and state grants or scholarships awarded by your school or outside organizations.
- You become eligible for financial aid by filling out the federal application for student aid (FAFSA) online. You can learn more about the FAFSA here: [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov)
- Scholarships are need or merit based. Learn more about scholarships here: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/finding-scholarships>

- Grants and scholarships do not have to be paid back.
- Ask about EOPS and programs for first-time students. These programs often provide new students with mentoring, early registration, and other helpful resources.
- San Diego Promise is a grant that makes tuition free for first-time students who enroll full-time at a community college. Read more here:  
<https://www.sdccd.edu/about/departments-and-offices/student-services-department/promise/>

### **How to Request Your High School Transcript**

You may need to provide your high school transcript to the program you choose to earn credit for high school classes you already completed. Contact your previous high school and request an Official Transcript.

## WHY GET A DEGREE?

Check out the average earnings in 2017 for people 25 years of age and older with different levels of education below.

| <b>Earnings by education attainment, 2020</b> |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Typical entry-level education</b>          | <b>Median annual wage, 2020<sup>(1)</sup></b> |
| Doctoral or professional degree               | \$110,160                                     |
| Master's degree                               | \$76,800                                      |
| Bachelor's degree                             | \$78,020                                      |
| Associate's degree                            | \$55,870                                      |
| Postsecondary nondegree award                 | \$41,520                                      |
| Some college, no degree                       | \$37,770                                      |
| High school diploma or equivalent             | \$39,070                                      |
| No formal educational credential              | \$27,510                                      |

*Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey*

In addition to higher earnings, unemployment rates tend to be lower as you get more education (i.e., it's easier to find a job). Once you earn your high school diploma or equivalent, you'll be able to enroll in career training courses and community college.