# Educational Terms and Definitions: Middle School Career Investigations

Throughout the Middle School Career Investigations content, you will encounter terms that are important to know and understand. This document provides definitions for various key terms as you set short term and long term career goals.

## Type of Degrees

Jobs require you to obtain a particular degree before starting. The following are the types of degree requirements you may encounter when you begin looking for a job.

* **General Equivalency Development/Diploma (G.E.D.):** By passing this series of four tests, individuals receive certification that they have academic skills equivalent to what they would have received by completing high school.
* **High School Diploma:** This is the degree received after successfully completing four years of high school.
* **Associate Degree:** This two-year degree is offered at community colleges, career colleges, and some four-year colleges. Individuals obtain this degree as a pathway into a four-year college or in preparation to go directly into the workforce.
* **Bachelor’s Degree:** This is a degree from a four-year undergraduate studies program. Students can obtain a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in liberal arts, science, or both, or a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in a science specialization.
* **Master’s Degree:** This is a graduate degree people can obtain after receiving a bachelor’s degree. In programs that typically span two years, a student’s course of study involves mostly taking courses or conducting research. Some examples are Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.), Master of Public Health (M.P.H.), Master of Social Work (M.S.W.), Master of Education (M.Ed.), and Master of Engineering (M.Eng).
* **Doctoral Degree:** This is a graduate degree people can obtain after receiving a master’s degree. Typically, a doctoral program takes three to seven years to complete. It is considered the top/terminal degree someone can earn in a particular area of study. Some examples include Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), Juris Doctor (J.D.), Medical Doctor (M.D.), and Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.).

## Technical Trainings

Technical trainings exist to teach employees job-specific technical skills, like coding and programming, data analysis, project management, social media experience, and technical writing. Various types of schools exist to teach students technical skills in preparation for entering the workforce. These schools go by the following names:

* Career center
* Trade school
* Vocational college
* Vocational school

## Credentialing

Credentialing is the process employees undergo to show they have specific qualifications a job requires. It proves they are acquainted with the field. This term is broad, and can specify an employee’s license, certification, or education. Credentialing is particularly important in the healthcare field.

## Practical Experiences

Practical experiences are meant to give individuals hands-on exposure to a profession. They are valuable in every career. Below are some examples of practical experiences.

* **Mentorship:** An opportunity to build a relationship with a professional you respect and believe can give you guidance regardless of their skillset.
* **Apprenticeship:** A paid opportunity to learn a skill or craft from an expert as well as participate in classroom learning.
* **Internship:** A temporary opportunity to work with an employer and gain work experience; it can be part- or full-time, paid or unpaid, and usually spans from one to six months.
* **On The Job Training:** On the job training is hands-on and provided by an experienced employee or professional trainer to an individual who is actively employed and needs to learn new skills.

## Branches of the United States Military

The purpose of the United States Military is to serve and protect the country’s citizens. People who have careers in the U.S. Military can choose to work in one of several branches, which are included below.

* **Air Force:** Airmen protect air, space, and cyberspace through duties like flying aircraft, supporting flight missions, defending bases, and performing rescue operations.
* **Army:** Soldiers protect land in the United States or conduct missions in other countries.
* **Coast Guard:** Coast Guardsmen perform maritime services that include search and rescue missions, law enforcement, environmental protection, and port security.
* **Marine Corps:** Marines are responsible for land, air, and sea combat in cooperation with the United States Navy.
* **Navy:** Sailors uphold freedom of the seas by preparing for combat, sustaining naval aviation, and conducting missions throughout the world.