

Finding the Right Fit

Updates & Summer Camps

Interview with Hughes

Volunteer

PLAN - IT

STUDENT SERVICES CENTRE



Post Secondary Planning - Finding the Right Fit

Comparing Post-Secondary Programs - Before you even begin to choose your program options and decide which will serve your needs best, you'll need a closer look at what those options are. Choosing a school and choosing a program requires some heavy-duty investigation.

Two-year programs - The two-year programs offered by community colleges are popular with first-year students: more than half of all first-year students start their post-secondary education at community colleges. These two-year programs generally have a more open admissions policy and tuition is about half the cost of a four-year program. But that's not the only appeal.

- The two-year program offers a solid two-year foundation and is a way to cover the basics, take transferable credits, specifically the general education courses, to a four-year [university], earn associate's degrees or certificates.
- They are also less competitive and offer smaller classes with greater accessibility to instructors than four-year programs.
- There's also the convenience factor, since most communities have two-year colleges, students can live at home. That means saving money, and lowering the stress levels that often come with living on your own for the first time.
- A two-year program may be the answer for students who are still undecided about a specific career. Such students should be encouraged to start with a two-year program at a community college, and later transfer to a four-year degree school, if and when they're ready.
- Too many students are dropping out of four-year [universities] when they may have been successful setting shorter term goals that don't seem so overwhelming to complete. Not all two-year programs serve only as stepping stones to four-year transfer programs. For some careers, the successful completion of a two-year program is all that's required to launch you in your chosen field. Several two-year programs qualify graduates for certain well-paying careers.

Four-year programs - A four-year program guides the student through a lifelong source of information and an opportunity for continuous self-enhancement, but that opportunity comes with a price tag. Parents need to look beyond "the sticker price" schools and explore the financial aid options. This money is an investment in the child's future, since he/she will be earning more with a...degree.

University transfer programs - When considering what course of action is best for you, the career choice is critical. Students who begin a two-year program need to investigate the flexibility of additional schooling to complete a four-year program. Many institutions have partnerships to accommodate students who transfer from one institution to another. Students should investigate a thorough, well-researched transfer plan -- right at the start of their educational planning process. Students should research as early as possible any institution and program of interest. Any delays in developing and following an appropriate plan or changes in the plan may have a negative effect on the applicability of transfer credit to the newly selected degree program.

Apprenticeship programs - This option allows students to work while attending classes. It's perfect for students who need a steady income straight out of high school, or for those who simply want to work right away. But don't fool yourself into thinking this is an easy pass into the so-called "real world." Apprenticeship programs are looking for people who have the mechanical and mental abilities to master a skill. Many of these programs also insist students complete coursework, have or are getting a high school diploma, pass an aptitude test, provide proof of physical ability to perform the duties of their chosen trade, and have a driver's licence. Pass all those hurdles and you could be learning and earning sooner than you think. There is a huge demand for more skilled/technical jobs than ever before.

Four-year, two-year, transfers, apprenticeships -- the options can seem overwhelming until you do your research and put things into perspective. In the end, what is important is the quality of educational experience and how well your life has been transformed.

Links

Association of Canadian Community Colleges

Learn more about your options - <http://www.accc.ca/english/>

Apprenticeship and the Red Seal Program

See this site for a complete list of Red Seal trades - <http://www.red-seal.ca/>

"Parents can only give good advice or put them [children] on the right paths, but the final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands."

-- Anne Frank

Post-Secondary Updates

UPDATE IN APPRENTICESHIP - Apprentices Recognized with \$616,000.00 Scholarships.

Need help finding available apprenticeship and industry training seats for your trade, use these 2 resources.

1. Call this toll-free number 1 877 SEAT (7328) **OR GO TO**
2. www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca
 - Click on the technical training registration link.
 - Scroll down to your trade, then click on the link.
 - Scheduled classes for each period of training at each college or technical institute are listed, along with the number of vacant seats still available for each class.

THINKTRADES

Alberta Aboriginal Apprenticeship Project - 'Hire an Alberta Aboriginal Apprentice'
This project assists Aboriginal people of any age to become apprentices.
For more information call 1-866-408-1840.

UPDATE AT U OF C

A new Film Studies program is being offered in the Fall of 2008. The focus of the Bachelor of Arts degree will be on the theory of film and will include topics such as the film festival phenomenon, the Canadian film industry, and film consumption in a digital age. The B.A. is a program in film culture and film history, and the analysis of what films look like and how they play a part in our culture today.

Summer Camps for those Interested in Health Care

ALBERTA HERITAGE FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH - Heritage Youth Research Summer Program HYRS

Are you a Grade 11 high school student in Alberta who loves science?

Attend a six-week program that offers a hands-on research experience; one at the University of Alberta, one at the *University of Calgary*, and one at the *University of Lethbridge*.

University of Alberta: July 2 - August 13

University of Lethbridge: July 4 - August 15

University of Calgary: July 3 - August 14

What students will be doing in the HYRS Program: hands-on work with researchers in wet or dry laboratories, work with other members of researcher's team, work on possible projects in: cardiology, neurology, cell biology, genetics, epidemiology, bioengineering and work in areas on the cutting edge of science not yet in textbooks.

How much does HYRS cost: No charge to HYRS students, HYRS students will be paid by a \$1680 award.

Additional information and application forms can be found @ <http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca/HYRS/faq.php#top>

Check the Students Services webpage for other Summer Camps.

*"Until you value yourself,
you will not value your time.
Until you value your time,
you will not do anything with it."*

-- M. Scott Peck



Coming Summer 2008
SCRUBS SUMMER CAMP

Do You Like To Explore?

Here's a summer camp with a difference. Students aged 14 -16 check out this opportunity to get your hands on some state of the art medical equipment, obtain CPR completion, check out an ambulance & find out about some of the exciting fields in health care, in a fun filled summer camp. Health Care professionals use hands-on activities & training to offer a behind the scenes look at a variety of health care professions - some you may not have thought about!!!

To join us for Summer Camp 2008 check back here for details such as dates, times, location and how to register coming April 2008



INTERVIEWS WITH HUGHES

Carpenter - Doug Hamel is a long time Banff resident who has always been interested in construction and carpentry. He decided several years ago to start an apprenticeship and get his Journeyman's ticket in the trade.

Doug explained that the process starts with acquiring a sponsor who usually is your employer. The employer/company might pay for all or a percentage of the tuition. This is something that has to be worked out.

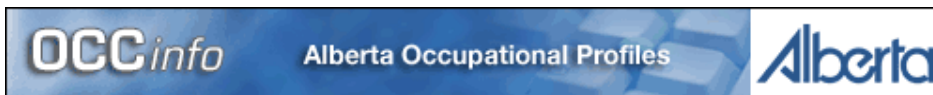
The first year consists of a solid grounding in applied math and hand tool skills. Doug decided successfully to challenge the first year and enter second year. He regrets doing this because of the useful skill acquisition he missed. Also he said the camaraderie that develops right from the apprenticeship onset was somewhat diminished. All in all he completely enjoyed the 3 years and thought it was quite challenging and prepared him to enter the work force as a Journeyman Carpenter.



The Construction trade is an "ever- changing growing giant business". New materials and techniques are constantly being developed and the need to recycle and conserve materials is increasing. The wages are dependant on the area you are living and on the job description. Generally a carpenter can expect starting wages of \$27 to \$35 per hour.

One important concept that Doug realized about the Construction trade is that the carpenter has to be able to read the plans or building drawings and build with the concrete, plumbing and electrical installations in mind. No other trade does this. Another very important prospect that he sees in construction is the opportunity to expand into specialized fields such as stairs, decks, renovations and finishing. Many of these are lucrative and can involve self-employment.

He sees his career in the trade leading to jobs as Project Manager. Most Project Managers are Carpenters. Presently he is doing exactly that as the Manager for a new development on Buffalo St in Banff. "It's all about communication and growing as a person. The construction trade is allowing me to do that".



<http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/>

Carpenters construct, erect and repair buildings and other structures made of wood, wood substitutes, steel and other materials. **NOC Number(s):** 7271 **Minimum Education:** Apprenticeship Trade - Grade 9

Employment Outlook: Employment turnover is above average occupational growth in Alberta.

To register with [Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training](#), apprentices must:

- have at least Alberta Grade 9 education or equivalent, or pass an entrance exam
- find a suitable employer who is willing to hire and train an apprentice. Employers may prefer to hire high school graduates or select apprentices from among current employees.

The term of apprenticeship is four years (four 12 month periods) that include a minimum of 1,360 hours of on-the-job training and eight weeks of technical training each year. High school students can earn credits toward apprenticeship training and a high school diploma at the same time through the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP).

- Applicants who have related training or work experience may be eligible for credit or certification.
- Apprentices are required to provide their own tools.
- Carpenter apprentices may take an interprovincial exam in the final period of their apprenticeship training to earn a Red Seal (certification recognized in most parts of Canada).

Salary section revised JANUARY 2008

According to the [2007 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey](#), Albertans in the Carpenters occupational group working part-time or full-time earned from \$24,400 to \$69,400 a year. The average salary was \$50,600 a year.

Apprentice carpenters earn at least 60 per cent of the journeyperson wage rate in their place of employment in the first year, 70 per cent in the second, 80 per cent in the third and 90 per cent in the fourth.



Volunteering is Career Building

~ Volunteers are not paid -- not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.

~ Unknown

~ Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. ~ Elizabeth Andrew

Why Volunteer?

Volunteering is one of the best investments you can make with your time. The more you give the more you get.

When asked why s/he has chosen to pursue volunteering many potential volunteers find this hard to express.

There are many reasons why someone decides to make time to volunteer. The catalysts can be personal, professional, community or society driven. Motivation trends change and evolve over time.

It is important for individuals, non-profit organizations and volunteer centres to understand what motivates volunteers because this affects the success of the future mutual experience. Motivations determine how, why, when and where volunteers are most fulfilled, and are therefore most effective in their chosen voluntary positions. A positive volunteer experience in turn leads to the success of community services and programs.

Individuals (and groups) volunteer to:

- Experience personal growth, learning and satisfaction
- Pursue professional growth and development
- Create employment skills
- Expand his/her professional network
- Enjoy social interaction / meet new people
- Master a new language
- Learn about a new society, country or community
- Fulfill a sense of empathy / connection with a "cause"
- Be a part of positive change in their community
- Have fun
- Build personal empowerment and self-esteem
- Instill a value of giving and caring
- Complete education or work experience requirements

Volunteering looks good on resumes and helps to get scholarships but mostly volunteering makes *you* feel that you make a difference.

- <http://www.volunteeralberta.ab.ca/>
- <http://www.volunteerbanff.ab.ca>
- <http://www.canmore.ca/living/volunteer-opportunities.html>
- <http://www.gapyearabroad.ca/> Information on where to go, what to do (and also what you shouldn't do) if you are interested in going overseas to Learn, Travel, Volunteer, or study another language.

Plan-It is on the web @ http://www.crps.ab.ca/bchs/bchs_student_services.htm

The Value of an Education - Comparing Salaries

	HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION	BACHELOR'S DEGREE
MONTHLY SALARY	\$2,200	\$3,964
TAXES	-\$330	-\$330
HEALTH INSURANCE	-\$138	-\$138
RENT/MORTGAGE	-\$684	-\$684
UTILITIES*	-\$50	-\$50
CAR LOAN	-\$187	-\$187
CAR INSURANCE	-\$70	-\$70
GAS	-\$125	-\$125
FOOD*	-\$200	-\$200
CLOTHES*	-\$100	-\$100
LEFT OVER	\$316	\$1,419

*SOURCES: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, WWW.PUBDB3.CENSUS.GOV/MACRO/032005

The Career Centre's website has all the latest information for post-secondary, scholarships, careers and summer jobs/programs

www.crsd.ab.ca/bchs/careers