

TECHNICAL COLLEGE VS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

TECHNICAL COLLEGE VS COMMUNITY COLLEGE REPRESENTS A CRITICAL DECISION POINT FOR MANY STUDENTS SEEKING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION OPTIONS THAT ARE BOTH AFFORDABLE AND CAREER-ORIENTED. THIS COMPARISON EXPLORES THE KEY DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES BETWEEN TECHNICAL COLLEGES AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES, FOCUSING ON ASPECTS SUCH AS PROGRAM OFFERINGS, DURATION OF STUDY, COST, AND CAREER OUTCOMES. UNDERSTANDING THESE DISTINCTIONS CAN HELP PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS MAKE INFORMED CHOICES ALIGNED WITH THEIR EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GOALS. BOTH INSTITUTIONS SERVE UNIQUE ROLES IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION LANDSCAPE, CATERING TO DIVERSE STUDENT POPULATIONS AND WORKFORCE NEEDS. THIS ARTICLE PROVIDES A THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF TECHNICAL COLLEGES VERSUS COMMUNITY COLLEGES, INCLUDING INSIGHTS INTO CURRICULUM FOCUS, TRANSFER OPPORTUNITIES, AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS. THE INFORMATION BELOW WILL GUIDE READERS THROUGH THE ESSENTIAL FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN EVALUATING THESE TWO EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS.

- OVERVIEW OF TECHNICAL COLLEGES AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES
- PROGRAM AND CURRICULUM DIFFERENCES
- COST AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS
- DURATION AND FLEXIBILITY OF PROGRAMS
- CAREER OUTCOMES AND JOB PLACEMENT
- TRANSFER OPPORTUNITIES TO FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS
- CHOOSING THE RIGHT PATH BASED ON INDIVIDUAL GOALS

OVERVIEW OF TECHNICAL COLLEGES AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES

TECHNICAL COLLEGES AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES BOTH PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS SEEKING PRACTICAL SKILLS AND ASSOCIATE DEGREES. HOWEVER, THEY DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY IN THEIR MISSIONS AND EDUCATIONAL APPROACHES. TECHNICAL COLLEGES PRIMARILY FOCUS ON SPECIALIZED TRAINING THAT PREPARES STUDENTS FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT IN SPECIFIC TRADES OR TECHNICAL FIELDS. COMMUNITY COLLEGES, ON THE OTHER HAND, OFFER A BROADER RANGE OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, INCLUDING GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES AND TRANSFER DEGREES AIMED AT FACILITATING CONTINUATION TO FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES. BOTH INSTITUTIONS PLAY VITAL ROLES IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND LIFELONG LEARNING BY SERVING DIVERSE STUDENT POPULATIONS, INCLUDING RECENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, ADULT LEARNERS, AND CAREER CHANGERS.

DEFINING TECHNICAL COLLEGES

TECHNICAL COLLEGES, ALSO KNOWN AS TRADE SCHOOLS OR VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS, EMPHASIZE HANDS-ON TRAINING AND APPLIED LEARNING IN AREAS SUCH AS AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY, WELDING, HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, AND CULINARY ARTS. THESE COLLEGES PROVIDE CERTIFICATES, DIPLOMAS, AND ASSOCIATE DEGREES DESIGNED TO EQUIP STUDENTS WITH THE TECHNICAL SKILLS DEMANDED BY EMPLOYERS. THE PROGRAMS ARE OFTEN STREAMLINED TO FOCUS EXCLUSIVELY ON JOB-READY COMPETENCIES.

DEFINING COMMUNITY COLLEGES

COMMUNITY COLLEGES OFFER A MIX OF ACADEMIC, VOCATIONAL, AND CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS. THEY PROVIDE ASSOCIATE DEGREES IN ARTS (AA), SCIENCES (AS), AND APPLIED SCIENCES (AAS), AS WELL AS CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS.

MANY STUDENTS ENROLL IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO COMPLETE GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS BEFORE TRANSFERRING TO FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES. COMMUNITY COLLEGES ALSO SERVE AS IMPORTANT CENTERS FOR WORKFORCE TRAINING AND PERSONAL ENRICHMENT.

PROGRAM AND CURRICULUM DIFFERENCES

THE CURRICULUM OFFERED AT TECHNICAL COLLEGES VERSUS COMMUNITY COLLEGES REFLECTS THEIR DISTINCT EDUCATIONAL MISSIONS. TECHNICAL COLLEGES CONCENTRATE ON SPECIALIZED, SKILL-BASED TRAINING ALIGNED WITH SPECIFIC INDUSTRIES, WHILE COMMUNITY COLLEGES PROVIDE A MORE COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM THAT INCLUDES BOTH ACADEMIC AND VOCATIONAL COURSES.

SPECIALIZED TRAINING AT TECHNICAL COLLEGES

PROGRAMS AT TECHNICAL COLLEGES ARE TAILORED TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR IMMEDIATE ENTRY INTO THE WORKFORCE. COURSES EMPHASIZE PRACTICAL SKILLS AND INDUSTRY STANDARDS, OFTEN INVOLVING SIMULATIONS, LABS, AND APPRENTICESHIPS. EXAMPLES OF PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- ELECTRICIAN AND HVAC TECHNICIAN TRAINING
- MEDICAL ASSISTING AND DENTAL HYGIENE
- COMPUTER NETWORKING AND CYBERSECURITY
- WELDING AND MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY
- AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR AND DIESEL MECHANICS

BROAD CURRICULUM AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES

COMMUNITY COLLEGES OFFER A WIDER ARRAY OF COURSES, RANGING FROM LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING. THEIR CURRICULA ARE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE FOUNDATIONAL KNOWLEDGE FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS AS WELL AS CAREER-ORIENTED PROGRAMS. COMMON AREAS OF STUDY INCLUDE:

- GENERAL EDUCATION IN ENGLISH, MATH, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
- BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND ACCOUNTING
- HEALTH SCIENCES AND NURSING
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMPUTER SCIENCE
- EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

COST AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

COST IS A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR WHEN COMPARING TECHNICAL COLLEGES AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES. BOTH TYPES OF INSTITUTIONS ARE GENERALLY MORE AFFORDABLE THAN FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES, BUT THERE ARE DIFFERENCES IN TUITION, FEES, AND FINANCIAL AID AVAILABILITY THAT PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS SHOULD CONSIDER.

TUITION AND FEES

TECHNICAL COLLEGES OFTEN HAVE VARIABLE TUITION RATES DEPENDING ON THE PROGRAM DUE TO THE SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR TRAINING. COMMUNITY COLLEGES TEND TO HAVE STANDARDIZED TUITION RATES PER CREDIT HOUR THAT ARE RELATIVELY LOW, ESPECIALLY FOR IN-STATE RESIDENTS. BOTH TYPES OF COLLEGES TYPICALLY OFFER FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS, INCLUDING SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, AND FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

STUDENTS ATTENDING TECHNICAL COLLEGES MAY INCUR ADDITIONAL EXPENSES RELATED TO UNIFORMS, TOOLS, CERTIFICATION EXAMS, AND SUPPLIES SPECIFIC TO THEIR TRADE. COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS MIGHT FACE COSTS RELATED TO TEXTBOOKS AND GENERAL EDUCATION MATERIALS BUT TYPICALLY DO NOT REQUIRE SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT UNLESS ENROLLED IN TECHNICAL PROGRAMS OFFERED THERE.

DURATION AND FLEXIBILITY OF PROGRAMS

PROGRAM LENGTH AND SCHEDULE FLEXIBILITY ARE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR STUDENTS BALANCING EDUCATION WITH WORK OR PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES. TECHNICAL COLLEGES AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES OFFER DIFFERENT TIMELINES AND FORMATS TO ACCOMMODATE DIVERSE NEEDS.

PROGRAM LENGTH AT TECHNICAL COLLEGES

TECHNICAL COLLEGE PROGRAMS ARE OFTEN SHORTER AND MORE INTENSIVE, RANGING FROM A FEW MONTHS TO TWO YEARS. MANY PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED TO BE COMPLETED QUICKLY TO FACILITATE RAPID ENTRY INTO THE WORKFORCE. SOME TECHNICAL COLLEGES OFFER EVENING, WEEKEND, OR PART-TIME OPTIONS TO ACCOMMODATE WORKING STUDENTS.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SCHEDULING AND DURATION

COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROGRAMS USUALLY SPAN TWO YEARS FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREES BUT ALSO OFFER SHORTER CERTIFICATE COURSES. THEIR FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING OPTIONS INCLUDE DAY, EVENING, ONLINE, AND HYBRID CLASSES TO SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH VARIOUS TIME COMMITMENTS. COMMUNITY COLLEGES ALSO PROVIDE CONTINUING EDUCATION AND ADULT LEARNING PROGRAMS THAT VARY IN LENGTH.

CAREER OUTCOMES AND JOB PLACEMENT

ONE OF THE PRIMARY GOALS OF BOTH TECHNICAL COLLEGES AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES IS TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT. HOWEVER, THE NATURE OF CAREER OUTCOMES CAN DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY BETWEEN THE TWO.

JOB PLACEMENT IN TECHNICAL COLLEGES

TECHNICAL COLLEGES EMPHASIZE DIRECT PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT IN SKILLED TRADES AND TECHNICAL PROFESSIONS. THEIR CURRICULA ARE ALIGNED WITH INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS AND EMPLOYER NEEDS, OFTEN RESULTING IN HIGHER JOB PLACEMENT RATES SHORTLY AFTER GRADUATION. MANY TECHNICAL COLLEGES MAINTAIN PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRIES TO FACILITATE APPRENTICESHIPS AND JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FROM COMMUNITY COLLEGES

COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRADUATES HAVE DIVERSE CAREER OPTIONS DEPENDING ON THEIR PROGRAM OF STUDY. GRADUATES OF VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS MAY ENTER FIELDS SIMILAR TO THOSE TARGETED BY TECHNICAL COLLEGES, WHILE THOSE COMPLETING TRANSFER DEGREES OFTEN PURSUE FURTHER EDUCATION. COMMUNITY COLLEGES ALSO PROVIDE CAREER COUNSELING AND JOB PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE TAILORED TO A WIDE RANGE OF INDUSTRIES.

TRANSFER OPPORTUNITIES TO FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

A SIGNIFICANT DISTINCTION BETWEEN COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES LIES IN TRANSFERABILITY OF CREDITS AND PATHWAYS TO BACHELOR'S DEGREES.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFER PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY COLLEGES COMMONLY FACILITATE TRANSFER TO FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES THROUGH ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS AND TRANSFER PROGRAMS. MANY STUDENTS COMPLETE THEIR GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES BEFORE TRANSFERRING TO COMPLETE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE, BENEFITING FROM LOWER TUITION COSTS AND SMALLER CLASS SIZES INITIALLY.

TRANSFERABILITY FROM TECHNICAL COLLEGES

TECHNICAL COLLEGES TRADITIONALLY FOCUS LESS ON TRANSFERABILITY AND MORE ON IMMEDIATE WORKFORCE PREPARATION. WHILE SOME TECHNICAL COLLEGES HAVE BEGUN DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS WITH UNIVERSITIES, CREDIT TRANSFER IS GENERALLY LIMITED. STUDENTS INTERESTED IN PURSUING FOUR-YEAR DEGREES OFTEN MUST EVALUATE TRANSFER OPTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE ENROLLING IN TECHNICAL PROGRAMS.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT PATH BASED ON INDIVIDUAL GOALS

DECIDING BETWEEN A TECHNICAL COLLEGE AND A COMMUNITY COLLEGE DEPENDS LARGELY ON A STUDENT'S CAREER OBJECTIVES, EDUCATIONAL PREFERENCES, AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS. EACH OFFERS UNIQUE ADVANTAGES SUITED TO DIFFERENT LEARNER PROFILES AND OUTCOMES.

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

1. **CAREER FOCUS:** FOR STUDENTS SEEKING DIRECT ENTRY INTO SKILLED TRADES OR TECHNICAL FIELDS, TECHNICAL COLLEGES PROVIDE INTENSIVE, FOCUSED TRAINING.
2. **ACADEMIC FLEXIBILITY:** COMMUNITY COLLEGES OFFER BROADER ACADEMIC OPTIONS, MAKING THEM SUITABLE FOR STUDENTS WHO MAY PURSUE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE LATER.
3. **COST AND TIME:** TECHNICAL COLLEGES MAY OFFER QUICKER COMPLETION TIMES, WHILE COMMUNITY COLLEGES PROVIDE AFFORDABLE TUITION AND FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING.
4. **TRANSFER PLANS:** THOSE INTENDING TO TRANSFER TO FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS SHOULD CONSIDER COMMUNITY COLLEGES FOR SMOOTHER CREDIT TRANSFER.
5. **LEARNING STYLE:** HANDS-ON LEARNERS MAY PREFER THE PRACTICAL APPROACH OF TECHNICAL COLLEGES, WHEREAS COMMUNITY COLLEGES COMBINE THEORY AND PRACTICE.

EVALUATING THESE FACTORS CAN HELP STUDENTS SELECT THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION THAT BEST ALIGNS WITH THEIR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL ASPIRATIONS IN THE ONGOING COMPARISON OF TECHNICAL COLLEGE VS COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE MAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TECHNICAL COLLEGE AND A COMMUNITY COLLEGE?

A TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOCUSES PRIMARILY ON PROVIDING SPECIALIZED TRAINING AND SKILLS FOR SPECIFIC TRADES OR CAREERS, OFTEN LEADING TO CERTIFICATES OR DIPLOMAS, WHILE A COMMUNITY COLLEGE OFFERS A BROADER RANGE OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS INCLUDING ASSOCIATE DEGREES, TRANSFER COURSES TO FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES, AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

WHICH TYPE OF COLLEGE IS BETTER FOR SOMEONE SEEKING QUICK ENTRY INTO THE WORKFORCE, TECHNICAL COLLEGE OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE?

TECHNICAL COLLEGES ARE GENERALLY BETTER FOR INDIVIDUALS SEEKING QUICK ENTRY INTO THE WORKFORCE BECAUSE THEY OFFER FOCUSED, SKILL-BASED PROGRAMS THAT PREPARE STUDENTS FOR SPECIFIC JOBS IN A SHORTER TIME FRAME COMPARED TO THE BROADER ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES.

CAN CREDITS EARNED AT A TECHNICAL COLLEGE BE TRANSFERRED TO A FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITY LIKE THOSE FROM A COMMUNITY COLLEGE?

TYPICALLY, CREDITS EARNED AT TECHNICAL COLLEGES ARE LESS TRANSFERABLE TO FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES COMPARED TO THOSE FROM COMMUNITY COLLEGES, AS TECHNICAL COLLEGES FOCUS ON SPECIALIZED VOCATIONAL TRAINING RATHER THAN GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES REQUIRED FOR BACHELOR'S DEGREES.

ARE TECHNICAL COLLEGES OR COMMUNITY COLLEGES MORE AFFORDABLE?

BOTH TECHNICAL COLLEGES AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES ARE GENERALLY MORE AFFORDABLE THAN FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES, BUT COMMUNITY COLLEGES TEND TO HAVE A WIDER RANGE OF FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS AND LOWER TUITION RATES, MAKING THEM SLIGHTLY MORE AFFORDABLE ON AVERAGE.

DO COMMUNITY COLLEGES OFFER PROGRAMS SIMILAR TO THOSE AT TECHNICAL COLLEGES?

YES, MANY COMMUNITY COLLEGES OFFER VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS SIMILAR TO THOSE AT TECHNICAL COLLEGES, PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH PRACTICAL SKILLS AND CERTIFICATIONS, ALONGSIDE ACADEMIC COURSES AND ASSOCIATE DEGREES.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. *TECHNICAL COLLEGE VS. COMMUNITY COLLEGE: UNDERSTANDING YOUR EDUCATIONAL PATH*

THIS BOOK OFFERS A COMPREHENSIVE COMPARISON BETWEEN TECHNICAL COLLEGES AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES, HELPING STUDENTS AND PARENTS MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION. IT COVERS CURRICULUM DIFFERENCES, CAREER OUTCOMES, COSTS, AND CAMPUS LIFE. READERS WILL GAIN INSIGHTS INTO WHICH TYPE OF INSTITUTION BEST ALIGNS WITH THEIR CAREER GOALS AND LEARNING PREFERENCES.

2. *CHOOSING BETWEEN TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES: A PRACTICAL GUIDE*

DESIGNED FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS, THIS GUIDE BREAKS DOWN THE PROS AND CONS OF TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES. IT INCLUDES PERSONAL ANECDOTES, EXPERT INTERVIEWS, AND DETAILED EXPLANATIONS OF PROGRAM OFFERINGS. THE BOOK ALSO PROVIDES TIPS ON APPLICATION PROCESSES, FINANCIAL AID, AND TRANSFERRING CREDITS.

3. *CAREER-FOCUSED EDUCATION: TECHNICAL COLLEGES VS. COMMUNITY COLLEGES*

THIS BOOK EXPLORES HOW TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE WORKFORCE. IT EXAMINES INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS, HANDS-ON TRAINING, AND JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES. READERS WILL UNDERSTAND HOW EACH INSTITUTION SUPPORTS CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND THE SKILLS NEEDED IN TODAY'S JOB MARKET.

4. *TECHNICAL COLLEGE OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE? NAVIGATING YOUR OPTIONS*

A STRAIGHTFORWARD RESOURCE THAT HELPS STUDENTS EVALUATE THEIR EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS BY COMPARING PROGRAM LENGTHS, TUITION COSTS, AND DEGREE TYPES. THE AUTHOR HIGHLIGHTS THE UNIQUE STRENGTHS OF BOTH TYPES OF COLLEGES AND OFFERS ADVICE ON MAKING THE BEST CHOICE BASED ON INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

5. *THE ULTIMATE COMPARISON: TECHNICAL COLLEGE VS. COMMUNITY COLLEGE*

THIS BOOK PROVIDES AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES, INCLUDING HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND EVOLVING TRENDS IN HIGHER EDUCATION. IT FEATURES CASE STUDIES AND STATISTICAL DATA TO HELP READERS UNDERSTAND OUTCOMES RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT AND FURTHER EDUCATION.

6. *FROM CLASSROOM TO CAREER: TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES EXPLAINED*

FOCUSING ON THE TRANSITION FROM EDUCATION TO EMPLOYMENT, THIS BOOK OUTLINES HOW TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES EQUIP STUDENTS WITH PRACTICAL SKILLS. IT DISCUSSES CERTIFICATIONS, ASSOCIATE DEGREES, AND TRANSFER OPPORTUNITIES, EMPHASIZING HOW EACH PATH SERVES DIFFERENT CAREER TRAJECTORIES.

7. *MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE: TECHNICAL COLLEGE OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE?*

THIS GUIDE ADDRESSES COMMON CONCERNS AND MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES. IT OFFERS CLEAR CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING PROGRAMS, CAMPUS CULTURE, AND LONG-TERM BENEFITS. THE BOOK ALSO INCLUDES CHECKLISTS AND PLANNING TOOLS TO ASSIST STUDENTS IN THEIR DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

8. *TECHNICAL VS. COMMUNITY COLLEGES: A STUDENT'S GUIDE TO SUCCESS*

WRITTEN FROM A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE, THIS BOOK SHARES EXPERIENCES AND ADVICE FROM THOSE WHO ATTENDED BOTH TYPES OF INSTITUTIONS. IT COVERS ACADEMIC CHALLENGES, SOCIAL LIFE, AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS. THE AUTHOR PROVIDES STRATEGIES FOR MAXIMIZING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES REGARDLESS OF THE CHOSEN PATH.

9. *PATHS TO PROSPERITY: UNDERSTANDING TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES*

THIS BOOK HIGHLIGHTS THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS OF TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES ON INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES. IT DISCUSSES HOW THESE INSTITUTIONS CONTRIBUTE TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND LIFELONG LEARNING. READERS WILL LEARN ABOUT THE ROLE EACH COLLEGE TYPE PLAYS IN SUPPORTING DIVERSE STUDENT POPULATIONS AND LOCAL ECONOMIES.

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out-of-state students at the undergraduate and graduate levels, along with the costs for room and board, and the number of meals per week covered by the board charge. Tables give summary national statistics on tuition and required fees for the academic year 1990-91 at postsecondary institutions. Data are also presented on tuition and required fees and room and board charges at individual institutions. These listings are divided into three sections: (1) 4-year institutions (offering a bachelor's degree or higher); (2) 2-year institutions (offering a postsecondary award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years; and (3) public less-than-2-year institutions (offering a postsecondary award of less than 2 academic years). Schools are listed alphabetically by state within each section. Listings for schools in outlying areas, such as Puerto Rico, follow the state listings. At the beginning of each state listing are state averages for the various charges. A glossary presents definitions for 15 key terms. (JB)

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