

My 10 Year Plan

Resource Sheet for LEAP



Inventory of Your Passion and Strengths

What are you passionate about? What are your strengths? "Richness" of one's experience does not come from amassing financial wealth, but personal fulfilment of doing something they enjoy and love. It is important to think about your future and ensure that it is aligned with your values, passion and strengths.

No one but yourself can decide your future. How will you make it a meaningful one?

First, write down your passion and strengths, using your recent CliftonStrengths assessment as a guide.

PASSIONS / INTERESTS

STRENGTHS

Identify Possible Jobs and Careers

Now that you have written down your interests, what are some ways that you can apply those towards a job or career?

For example, if you love cars and are detail-oriented, there are a number of ways incorporate your interest of cars into a possible career

- an auto-mechanic,
- in car sales,
- in advertising or sponsorship sales for NASCAR
- in software programming for cars, or
- developing and testing car safety guidelines.

Still need ideas? You can browse the Internet for career types based on your area of interest. Type in Google search "**Jobs with {Interest / Passion!}**"

Identify Future Needs

With an understanding of *possible* careers surrounding your interest, it's a good idea to understand and research what it takes to get to those career goals:

- **What knowledge do you need?** Is it knowledge you gain from shadowing someone (apprenticeship), a self-study or brief school experience (certificate program), or from spending 2+ years in college, whether as an associates degree or up to getting your Doctorate (7+ years).

Sometimes it is good to explore a career at an entry-level first, before investing further in school, to ensure it is a career path you truly see yourself in the future. You can still use your education towards your career even if you change focus!

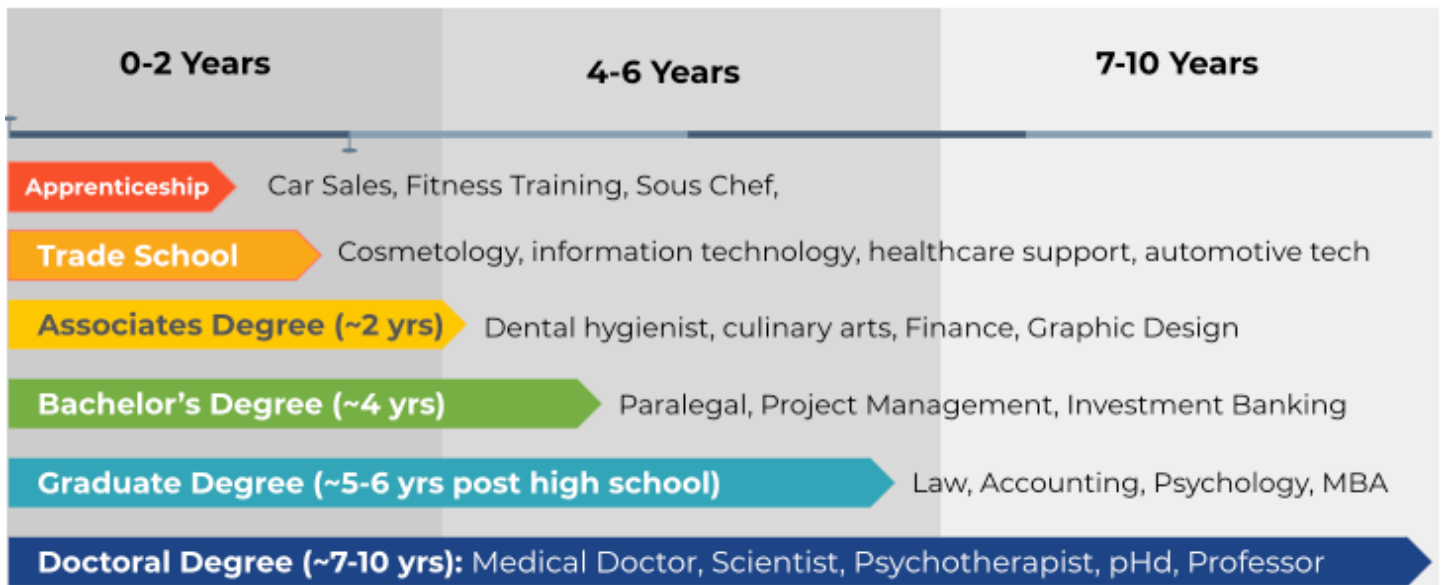
- **What experience is required?** Are there internship, entry-level opportunities that expose you to the career opportunities? What are the building-blocks to that career? In looking at the example above, if someone has chosen software programming for cars, then experience in software development is important, even if it is not directly related to cars. Someone can work their way up to more specific development with experience.
- **Are there mentors or role models?** It is great to be able to network and identify mentors or role models in the field of interest. They can be a great resource for helping guide you in your early career development. They can give ideas, feedback, and share connections to keep you on the path. If you do not know of anyone personally, consider reading books or biographies of notable people in that field. Learn what they did and apply it to your development.

- How much will it cost? What kind of investment will you need?** Understanding the financial obligation for your career interests is important, so that you can make a plan. For post-high school education, there are a number of grants and scholarships available, and while many are based on need, there are a number that are based on merit -- making good grades, demonstrating you are a good student. So "knowing what you know now" you can be sure to have good grades and a good standing in school so that you can be in a good position to get financial assistance.

Now that you have these components identified, it's time to figure out a timeline!

Putting together a Timeline

The illustration below shows a timeline of 0-10 years after high school, ordered by types of education required from an apprenticeship to a doctoral degree. After each item are examples of different careers that may fall into each education category. There is a table of each to give you a snapshot of the commitment, cost, types of jobs, and approximate salary range that you may expect.



Apprenticeship

While working, the apprentice is taught the skills of the trade, so they are prepared to be hired. A certificate is awarded after completing the apprenticeship.

Examples: Boilermakers, brick-masons and block-masons, carpenters, electricians, elevator installers and repairers, funeral directors, glaziers, mechanical insulation workers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters, real estate appraisers and assessors, reinforcing iron and rebar workers, sheet metal workers, stonemasons, structural iron and steel workers

Time	Est. Cost	Est. Salary
------	-----------	-------------

The shortest apprenticeship is 1 year, the longest is about 6 years. Most last about 4 years.

They pay you! Though the pay usually starts at minimum wage, it increases over time.

Average is \$32,000

Website: <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2013/summer/art01.pdf>

Certificates

Certificates are recommended for those desiring to get training for a specific job without studying for a degree.

Examples: Business/office management, transportation and moving material, healthcare, police/protective services, drafting, auto mechanics, healthcare, aviation, food service, agriculture/forestry, computer services, and more!

Time	Est. Cost	Est. Salary
Usually, they take less than a year to complete, but they almost all are designed to finish in less than 2 years.	Around \$5,000 per program	Ranges from around \$23,000 to \$80,000, depending on the job.

Website: <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2012/winter/art01.pdf>

Trade School (Also known as vocational or technical school)

Hands-on training that leads to a specific job

Examples: Truck driving, culinary arts, cosmetology, medical assisting

Time	Est. Cost	Est. Salary
2 years or less	\$5,000-\$15,000 for total program	Average is \$40,000

Website:

<https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2015/article/pdf/career-planning-for-high-schoolers.pdf>

Associate's Degree

These programs are often available at community public colleges. These degrees are also found at 2 and 4 year colleges. It may be a good start if a student is unsure of what they want to study because they can still choose to further their education.

Examples: Dental hygienist, funeral services manager, respiratory therapist, veterinary technician

Time	Est. Cost	Est. Salary
2 years	About \$3,570 per year for public school colleges	Average is \$46,124

Website: <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2002/winter/art01.pdf>

Bachelor's Degree

Attained by going through a 4-year college education. A major is typically chosen from what the student was interested in high school and their career ambitions. The student can then either work upon graduation or continue furthering their education with a Masters, Ph.D., MD, or JD. An internship or two is usually required as part of the degree to ensure hands-on experience and training.

Examples: Engineering, computer science, business/accounting, communications, math, education, humanities and social sciences

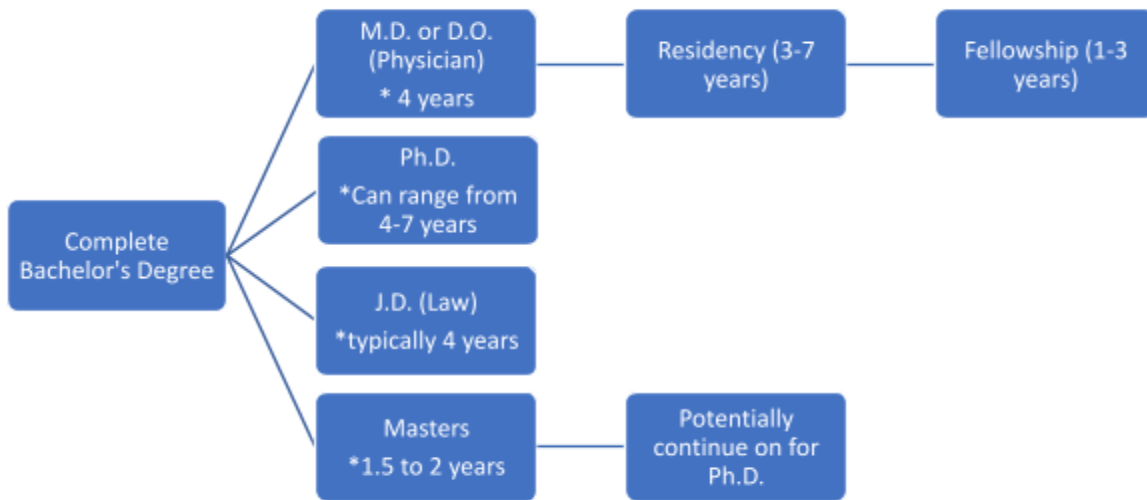
Time	Est. Cost	Est. Salary
4 years	Private school tuition: about \$36,000. Public school tuition: about \$9,716 for in-state and \$22,000 for out-of-state students. Most students also have to pay for room and board.	Ranges from career. Usually starts around \$40,000

Website:

<https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2015/article/pdf/career-planning-for-high-schoolers.pdf>

Post-College

What if you want to further your education after receiving your Bachelor's Degree to become a Physician, Lawyer, Professor, or to seek other opportunities?



Your education is an investment. However, there are scholarships available, grant programs, and loans that can help you make your dreams a reality.

- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
 - <https://www.investopedia.com/articles/personal-finance/090815/quick-guide-how-fafsa-loans-work.asp>
- There are programs that help cover costs of schools, and it is recommended that you search for opportunities found in your state. An example for Indiana is the 21st Century Scholar Program, which will cover up to four years based on needs.
 - <https://www.ius.edu/21st-century-scholars/about-21st-century-scholars.php>
- Look for scholarships that are offered by the school you will be attending. Additional scholarships may be found through research.