Alternative Paths for High School Students

**CTE / ROP**

The CTE/ROP program provides students with quality career technical education and workforce preparation. CTE’s primary focus is to prepare students to successfully the 21st century technical workplace and the need to fill high-demand jobs with highly skilled applicants. Check 2017-2018 Master Schedule Central Sierras ROP – El Dorado County. <http://www.eduhsd.k12.ca.us/documents/Departments/Educational%20Services/CTE%20and%20ROP/ROP%20Master%20Schedule%202017-18.pdf>

There are numerous CTE certificates and degrees through the Los Rios Community College. Click [http://www.flc.losrios.edu/academics/career-tech](file:///%5C%5Cshs-academic%5Chome%24%5Cbvargas%5CFolsom%20Lake%20College%5CCareer%20and%20Technical%20Education_files%5Ccheckfile.js%281%29.download) to browse the website for current programs.

**Internships/Apprenticeships**

Begin in high school! Virtual Academy has over 90+ businesses who have been mentors for our students. Students can apply for various internship positions in all different disciplines. Internship is an elective at Virtual Academy for all 10th – 12th graders.

Attend your local community college; this is a good way for you to earn money while learning an important skill in fields like manufacturing, construction, public administration, retail trade, and business. Programs at the community college level students have to be eighteen years of age.

**Private Career and Technical Schools**

Career and Technical Schools offer a variety of programs. Check in the Career Center. Before enrolling, do a cost comparison to see if these programs are offered for considerably less tuition through ROP or Los Rios Community College. [www.flclosrios.edu](http://www.flclosrios.edu)

You should carefully check out the schools by asking several questions:

* Is the school accredited by the numerous accrediting bodies in the United States?
* Have you toured the school? What were your impressions?
* Are the school’s courses current and appropriate for you?
* How long will the training take?
* What is the total cost of the program including tuition, fees, supplies, and books?

**The US Military**

There are more than 4100 different jobs available in 142 occupations within the Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, or Navy. If you join, you will go through between six and thirteen weeks of basic training. You may then go to an advanced training school or be assigned to the field in the United States or around the world. [www.todaysmilitary.com](http://www.todaysmilitary.com/)

**The “Gap Year”**

You can travel to another country to learn a foreign language, teach English, volunteer, or get a job. Or you can explore a work area of interest while saving money for college. The gap year is meant to be filled with new and exciting life experiences, not sitting on the couch playing video games. It provides many students with the opportunity to mature financially, socially and academically and find a clearer idea of what they want to do with their lives. Consider first gaining acceptance to a college or university and then ask for a deferral. [www.gapyear.com](http://www.gapyear.com/)