

### EDUCATION RESOURCES



#### DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Dakota State University, located in Madison, South Dakota, specializes in computer technology programs, offering both associate and bachelor degrees and has been on the list of Military Friendly Schools for 5 years. Programs are offered both in the classroom and online. DSU recently announced a new Certification/Apprenticeship Cyber Security Program.

Website: [www.DSU.edu](http://www.DSU.edu)



#### **HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ACADEMY**

*6 Weeks To A Rewarding Career*

#### HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ACADEMY

Heavy Construction Academy (HCA), located in Brentwood, New Hampshire, offers training and certification on almost 50 different types of heavy equipment in six week sessions. Their programs are funded by most VA Benefit Programs, and they help Veterans and Transitioning Service members find gainful employment to provide for their families and their futures.

Website: [www.Operator-Academy.com](http://www.Operator-Academy.com)



#### INDIANA TECH

Indiana Tech's main campus is located in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Along with the main campus, Indiana Tech has several offsite locations to include a location in Louisville, KY; Detroit, MI; and Chicago, IL. Indiana Tech offers flexible scheduling and course completion options for military students.

Website: [www.IndianaTech.edu](http://www.IndianaTech.edu)



#### NPOWER

NPower is a non-profit organization that provides free training in tech fundamentals, advanced certification opportunities, and apprenticeship programs. Their programs include 15-weeks of in-class instruction, 7-weeks paid internships, mentoring from industry professionals, career development workshops, job placement services, and more. NPower offers resume, interviewing, and job search assistance to veterans.

Website: [www.NPower.org](http://www.NPower.org)

### Did You Know?

#### REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

Federal workforce and education funds support the following apprenticeship programs:

1. **Dept. of Education:** Pell Grants and Federal Work Study
2. **Dept. of Labor:** Workforce Investment Act and Workforce Innovation/Opportunity Act
3. **Dept. of Veterans Affairs:** GI Bill and Veterans Affairs Educational Assistance
4. **Dept. of Agriculture:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education and Training Funds
5. **Dept. of Transportation:** Federal Highway Administration On-the-Job-Training (OJT) and Supportive Services Training
6. **Dept. of Housing/Urban Development:** Housing and Urban Development Financial Assistance Programs

[DOL.gov/Apprenticeship](http://DOL.gov/Apprenticeship)

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## TROOPS TO TEACHERS UPDATE

Troops to Teachers was started in 1993 in an effort to assist veterans who wanted to begin new careers in public, charter, and Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. The program offers counseling and referral services, and it also assists in the teacher certification process. Since 1993, TTT has helped more than 20,000 veterans become educators.

Recently, the format of TTT has changed from being a government program operated at the national level to being a government program operated on the state level. States that want to have a program must apply for an education grant and must be partnered with an accredited state university or college. Currently, the program is active in the following states: Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

Anyone interested in teaching in the states without an active program should contact: [Jamie.M.Henderson@navy.mil](mailto:Jamie.M.Henderson@navy.mil)

## CERTIFICATION OR DEGREE: WHICH IS BETTER?

There are many factors in deciding whether you should earn a certification or a degree, and this is especially true for military personnel, whether active or veteran. Many veterans gain civilian employment based on their military training and experience and then find that they are not eligible for promotion within a company because they do not have a degree. Others are hired based on military training and a degree, then find that there is no promotion potential without industry certifications. One safeguard against this is to actively research hiring and promotion standards within the industry. What qualifications are companies seeking? What will it take to be promoted? Meet with people in the industry and ask these questions. The civilian workforce is growing and changing rapidly, so how does one select the best path to travel in preparation for a successful career?

**Here are some critical differences between degrees and certifications.**

### Certification:

- Industry-specific; human resources, medical, information technology, supply-chain management
- Awarded from approved industry agencies
- Require a final comprehensive examination
- Vary in length, with the average time to earn a certification being 12 months, but some can be earned in as little as 6 weeks
- Task specific to industry; human resources, medical, information technology, supply-chain management
- Cost varies by industry/level of certification. Cost of exams is reimbursable through GI Bill benefits.

### Degree:

- General in nature; Associate, Bachelors, Masters
- Awarded from colleges, universities, career/vocational schools
- Examination at the end of each course; Masters degrees generally require a comprehensive examination. PhDs generally require a dissertation.
- Vary in length; Associates (2 yrs), Bachelors (4-5 yrs), Masters (2-3 yrs), PhD (8 yrs)
- Cost varies by institution; \$9,970 for in-state tuition/public school; \$25,620 for out-of-state tuition; \$34,740 for private school tuition

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