



House Commerce and Education Committee

Tom Cheney, Executive Director

February 7, 2025

Vision & Mission

Vision

A highly educated and financially secure citizenry that supports a prosperous state economy and engaged communities.

Mission

Ensure that every Vermonter can see and is able to pursue a career and education pathway that helps them meet their goals.



Values

- Everyone has a right to pursue the career they want.
- Education and training beyond high school is essential.
- Postsecondary education—inclusive of credential types—is a public good.
- Equity is essential.
- Access to information builds social capital.
- We are stronger together.



Work

We believe that meaningful **career and education navigation is critical** to reversing the sharp decline in aspirations and bridging socioeconomic gaps for Vermonters.

To that end, Advance Vermont:

- Ensures that career and education seekers and those who support them have the **information and tools** they need to make informed choices.
- Elevates the importance of **non-degree education** options in building a strong workforce.



State Goal: 70x2025

*“It shall be the goal of the State of Vermont that not less than **70 percent of working age Vermonters will hold a credential of value**, as defined by the State Workforce Development Board, **by the year 2025**” – Act 80 of 2019*



Apprenticeship



Badge



Certificate



Certification



Degree



Diploma



License



Micro-Credential

Act 80 Policy Priorities to Achieve Goal



Promote awareness of career pathways and the value of postsecondary education and training



Expand access to postsecondary education and training to students of all ages



Increase completion of postsecondary education and training programs by ensuring Vermonters have the supports they need to succeed



Maximize partnerships across and within sectors to achieve State workforce development and education goals

Vermont's Current Attainment Rate (2023 Figures)



Source: Lumina Foundation 2025 Stronger Nation Report



An Urgent Need



2.7 jobs for every
Vermonters
looking for work

**78% of “most
promising” jobs**
require a
credential



People with credentials are...



More likely to have financial stability



More likely to vote



More likely to have healthy families



More likely to be engaged in the community



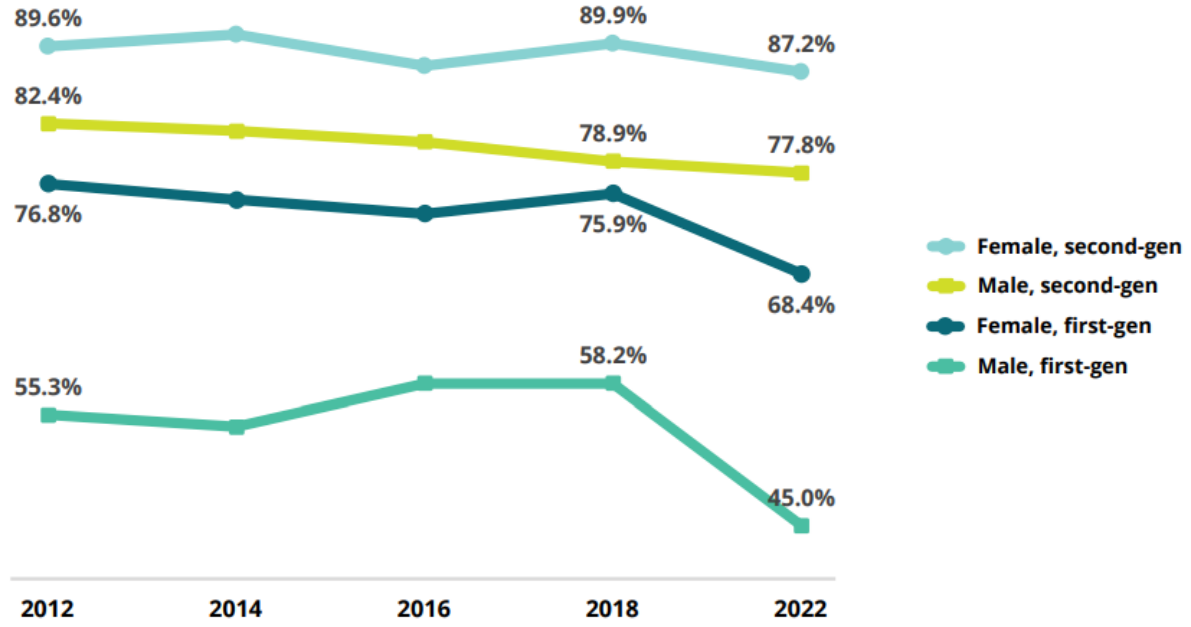
Less likely to be food insecure



Less likely to experience homelessness

Huge disparities in aspirations; all are falling

Figure 4. Aspiration rate by gender and parents' educational attainment



Source: VSAC 2023

College enrollment following graduation is sliding

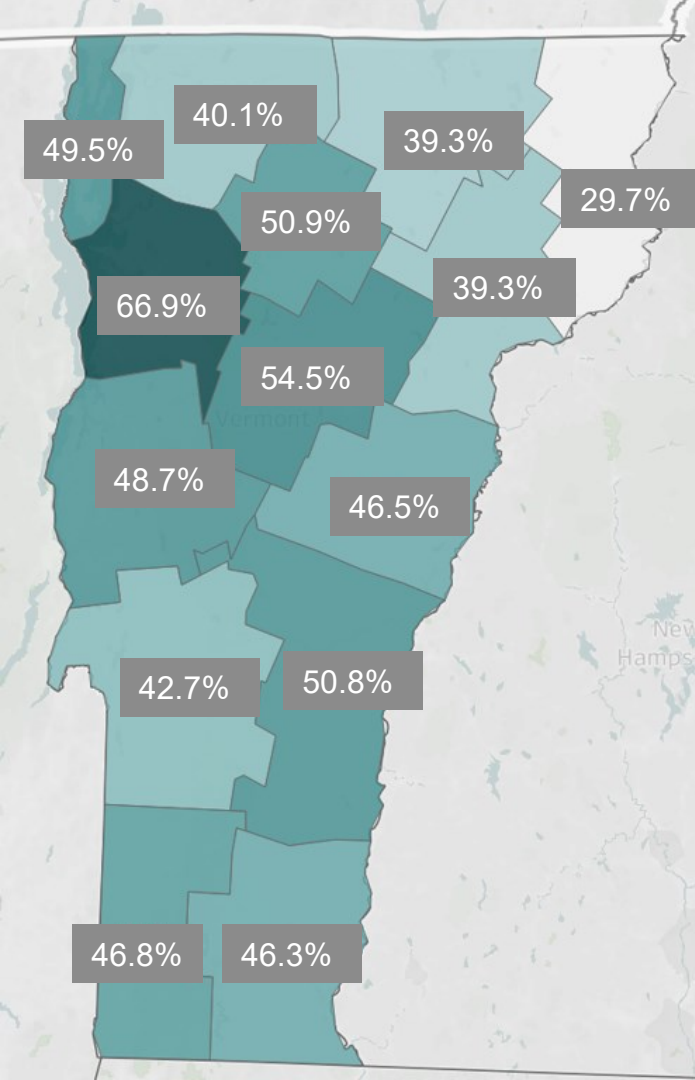
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
NESSC	66.1%	66.5%	59.6%	59.4%	57.7%
CT	66.2%	66.7%	62.7%	61.9%	62.2%
ME	58.0%	59.6%	55.2%	52.7%	54.3%
MA	69.2%	69.1%	62.0%	61.0%	60.5%
NH	57.5%	59.1%	57.8%	54.2%	54.6%
RI	66.1%	66.7%	61.3%	62.1%	61.7%
VT	52.6%	51.2%	48.9%	48.7%	45.3%

Source: New England Secondary School Consortium Common Data Project 2023 Annual Report

County Attainment

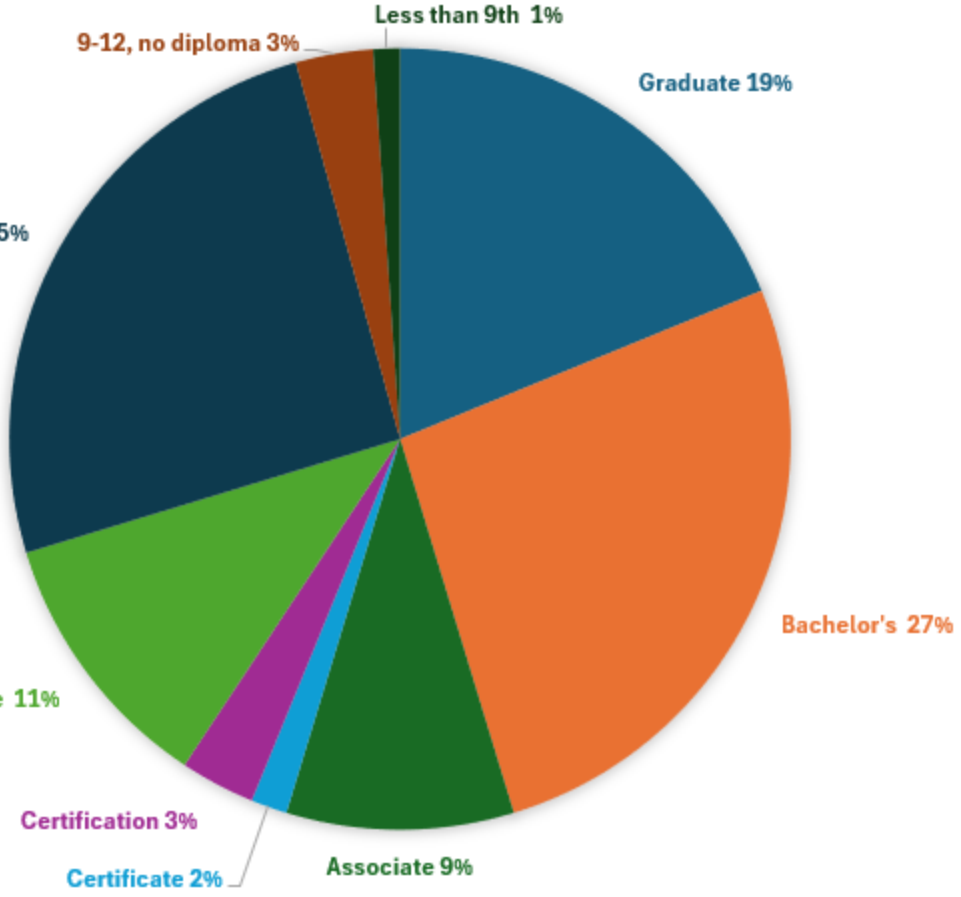
The median attainment rate of working age Vermonters who live outside of Chittenden County is 46.5%.

Source: Lumina Foundation 2024 Stronger Nation Report



Education Level

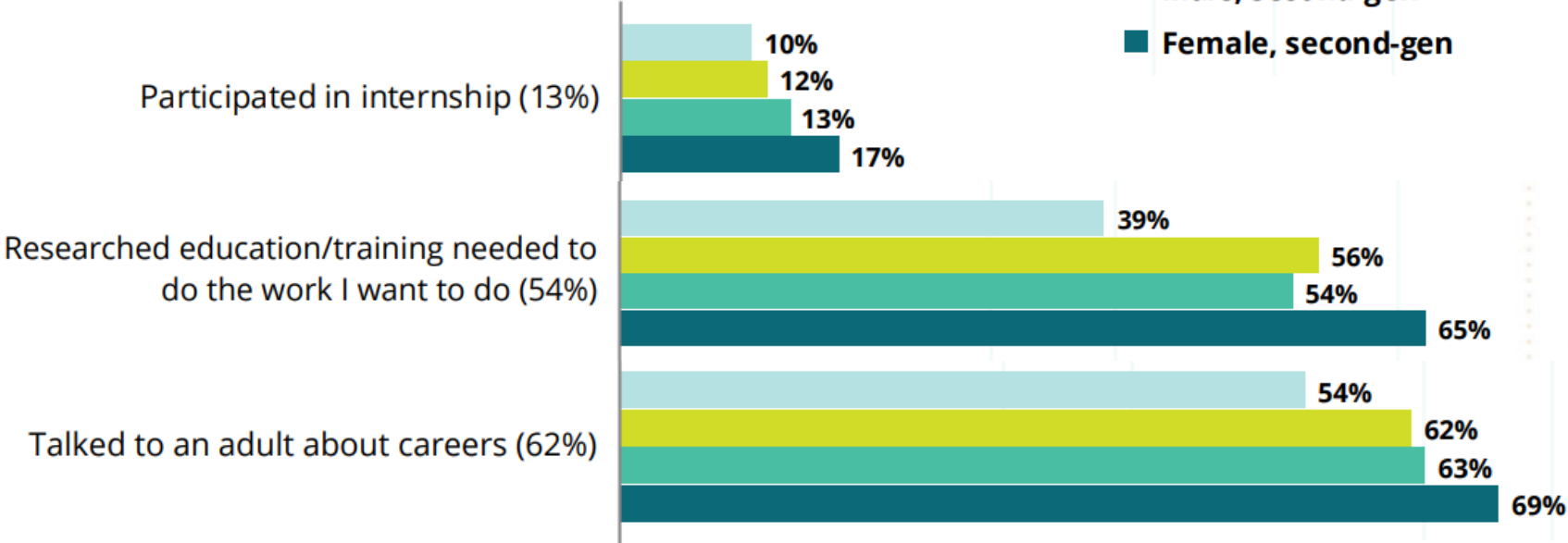
Major growth opportunity for non-degree options



Source: Lumina Foundation 2024 Stronger Nation Report

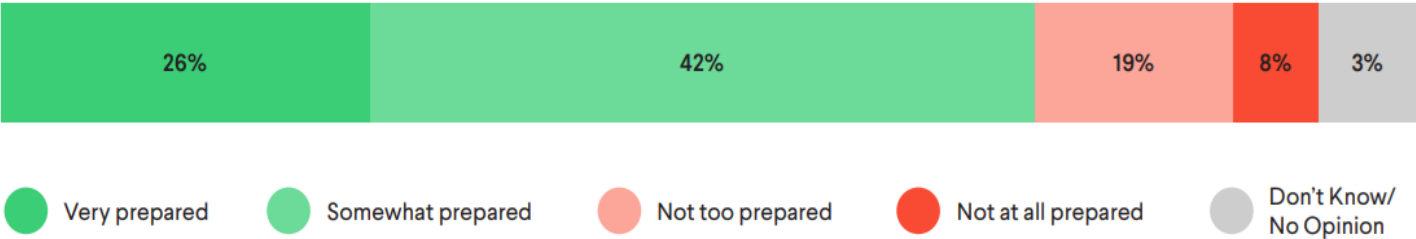
Career/ed exploration limited

- Male, first-gen
- Female, first-gen
- Male, second-gen
- Female, second-gen



Parent perceptions

To the best of your knowledge, how prepared are your child(ren) for their post-high school education and career transition?

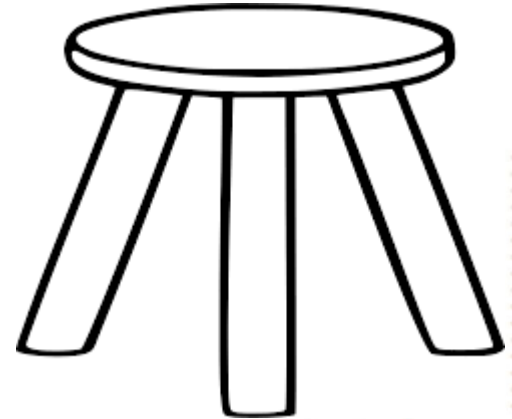


Source: JFF Beyond Degrees Report, 2024

How to Make Progress

A three-legged stool approach:

- Robust education and training options
- Strong financial aid and support services
- Inspiration and aspiration





MyFutureVT

Vermont free hub for career and education exploration and planning



EXPLORE CAREERS



FIND TRAINING AND EDUCATION



GET SUPPORT

Your Path. Your Future.

Welcome to your free online resource to help you take the next step in your education and career journey.



I want to know more about...



Careers



Education



What I Want



Helping Others



How To Get Started

Recent Posts

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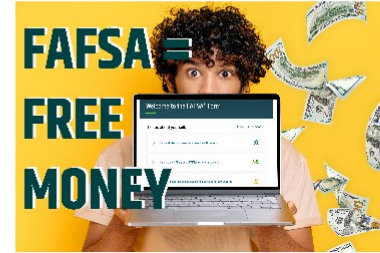
Step-by-step education guide

Discover which education or training programs meet your goals with our step-by-step guide.



How CCV students can get guaranteed admission to bachelor's degree programs

The Vermont Transfer Guarantee is a partnership between CCV and participating colleges and universities in VT, allowing you to transfer seamlessly.

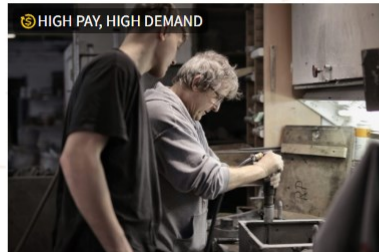


What to know about the 2025 - 2026 FAFSA

If you are planning to be a student during the 2025-2026 school year, it's time to get started on the FAFSA.

Featured Careers

[VIEW ALL CAREERS](#)



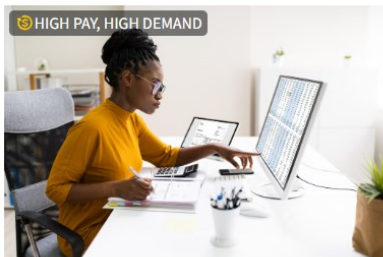
FILTERS

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554 Results

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Type your keywords here...



Accountants and Auditors

OVERVIEW

INTERESTS



\$35

Median Wage



2280

Projected Openings

LEARN MORE ABOUT JOB



Actuaries

OVERVIEW

INTERESTS



\$58

Median Wage



80

Projected Openings

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Acupuncturists

OVERVIEW

INTERESTS



\$38

Median Wage



110

Projected Openings

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500+ Careers



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650 Credential Programs



Construction 101 |
Certification

ReSOURCE

[VIEW PROGRAM](#)



Construction
Technology Program |
Certificate

Green Mountain
Technology & Career
Center

[VIEW PROGRAM](#)



Construction
Management |
Associate Degree

Vermont State University

[VIEW PROGRAM](#)



Construction
Management |
Bachelor's Degree

Norwich University

[VIEW PROGRAM](#)

<p>Program name</p>	Construction 101	Construction Technology Program	Construction Management	Construction Management
<p>Eligibility</p>	There are no known participation restrictions for this program.	This is intended for high school students attending from within the district. Students from outside the	There are no known participation restrictions for this program.	There are no known participation restrictions for this program.

MyFutureVT: Making an Impact



94%

of all users rate MyFutureVT as 'good' or better.

96%

of all users say MyFutureVT has **content that is valuable** to them.

94%

of all users say MyFutureVT has a **good look and feel**.

“I’ve used similar platforms that were different in the way things were set up. This is more user friendly and has a more student-friendly feel.”

- Zeynep (20s) of Chittenden County

74% of career and education seekers say MyFutureVT is engaging, which encourages them to explore more information — and 89% of navigators report the same.



MyFutureVT: Making an Impact

Leading to positive outcomes

90%

of education & career seekers say **something changed for them** after using MyFutureVT.

93%

of navigators say **MyFutureVT made a difference** for their clients or family members.

“

I have just heard a lot of negative things about just the workforce in general, especially in Vermont ... this opened me to jobs that are local and nonprofit.”

- Lydia (20s) of Washington County

38%

now have a clearer understanding of their career path.

35%

say MyFutureVT helped identify resources to support their decision-making.

22%

say MyFutureVT connected them with people or organizations who can help.

14%

enrolled in an education or training program.

9%

applied for or have been offered a job.

Vermont Credential Transparency Project

Goal: Inventory all postsecondary credentials available in Vermont for the benefit of prospective students, workers, education and training providers, and state leaders.



Apprenticeship



Badge



Certificate



Certification



Degree



Diploma



License



Micro-Credential

Benefits to Vermont



Individuals

Access to clear and accurate program information empowers students and workers to find the credential that works best for their education and career goals.



Employers

Increased knowledge of the credential options leads to new partnerships with education and training providers, and more informed hiring decisions.



Policymakers

Comprehensive program and credential information helps inform workforce development and education policy decisions.



Education and Training Providers

New marketing opportunities for regional and national exposure to Vermont's programs and new data to make informed choices about program offerings and delivery models.

Graduate with a Plan

Goal: increase the number of high school aged Vermonters who graduate with a career and education plan for after high school with the support of a trusted adult.

- Provide **navigator training** to better equip student-serving adults (from teachers to employers) to support students in exploration and planning.
- Develop and pilot a **model curriculum** for career and education planning in middle and high schools.



Budget Request

Advance Vermont seeks a base appropriation of \$350k to sustain and expand MyFutureVT and enhance its statewide reach and impact.

State support will enable MyFutureVT to:

- Remain a free, accessible statewide resource
- Expand content, functionality, and resources
- Increase awareness and usage



Thank you



Visit advancevermont.org
or [MyFutureVT.org](https://myfuturevt.org) for more
information

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