

5.14 Comparing Programs

You have already identified a desirable occupation and researched the credentials needed to qualify for a specific position. Now it is time to identify which training programs can help you achieve those credentials.

As you evaluate the different program options, think about your personal priorities, constraints, and budgetary needs. Take into consideration the factors examined in Sections 3 and 4 to decide which program is most relevant and achievable for you.

5.15 Activity: Compare Programs

Step	Action
1	Identify three programs or schools that support your training goals.
2	Complete the Program Comparison Chart on the following pages to conduct a side-by-side analysis of each option. A sample chart has been provided as a guide.
3	Add any notes that are relevant to your specific situation.
4	<p>Use the resources below to conduct your research. Be sure to use the individual school or program websites for specific details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.careeronestop.org/FindTraining/find-training.aspx CareerOneStop allows you to click on the type of training you are looking for from the list, enter keywords and a zip code to find learning opportunities, and follow any links to individual program sites. • nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/ The College Navigator tool from the National Center for Educational Statistics allows you to search and get detailed information about over 7,000 post-secondary institutions, enter search criteria to find program details, and follow links to school websites for more information. • www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/school_locator.asp The Department of Veterans Affairs WEAMS Institution Search allows you to verify if your school or program is VA-approved.

Sample Program Comparison Chart

Details	Program 1	Program 2	Program 3
School/Program Name	North County Community College	Medical Training Institute	Lennard Tech, Paramus NJ campus
Desired Credential	Medical billing certificate or medical coding certificate	Medical administration and billing/coding certificate	Medical coding and billing certificate
Length of Program	15 weeks	37 weeks (AM classes) 62 weeks (PM classes) *flexible AM/PM	900 hours (39 weeks daytime or 54 weeks evening)
DOL Registered Apprenticeship	None	None	None
Accreditation	Yes, regional	Yes, ACCSC	Yes
Program format	Mostly online, meet once/week in person	In person, onsite	Day or evening, blended delivery
Transfer credit policy, if applicable	May have scholarships for students transferring to four-year college programs; send JST	No credit for prior coursework	N/A
VA approved	Yes	Yes	Yes
Estimated funding			
GI Bill	\$4,560 tuition	\$13,745 tuition	\$14,970 tuition
Monthly Housing Allowance	\$2,282/month	\$2,753/month	\$2,972/month
Books/Supplies	Up to \$1,000	Up to \$1,000	Up to \$1,000
Wages/OJT	\$2,050/month	\$2,050/month	\$2,050/month
Estimated expenses			
Tuition	\$1520/ semester	\$3520/ semester	\$5120/ semester

Details	Program 1	Program 2	Program 3
Housing	\$7000/semester	\$7000/semester	\$7000/semester
Books/Supplies	\$450/semester	\$1450/semester	\$1750/semester
Application requirements or prerequisites	Fill out online form to request admissions assistance	Online application, appt. with representative, HS diploma, placement testing	Need to fill out form to request information
Application deadline	???	???	???
Anticipated Program start date and end date	6 SEP 20XX-19 DEC 20XX	???	???
Contact information (POC, phone, email, website)	Admissions: Devon Williams 222-333-4450 Veteran Rep: Jay Watts j.watts@email.edu	MTIadmissions@email.edu	Admissions: Jane Smith 844-277-2770
Notes:	On campus Veteran support group	Extremely flexible course schedule. 97% placement rate	Caution on GI Bill Comparison Tool. Need to learn more about why.

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School/Program Name			
Desired Credential			
Length of Program			
DOL Registered Apprenticeship			
Accreditation			
Program format			

Details	Program 1	Program 2	Program 3
Transfer credit policy, if applicable			
VA approved			
Estimated funding GI Bill Monthly Housing Allowance Books/Supplies Wages/OJT			
Estimated expenses Tuition Housing Books/Supplies			
Application requirements or prerequisites			
Application Deadline			
Anticipated Program start and end date			
Contact information (POC, phone, email, website)			
Notes:			