

Paid training and learning a trade vs. paying for college and hoping for employment

Paid training and learning a trade:

3 -12 months working as a helper /apprentice learning the basics of the trade at a training pay rate. (Each individual differs due to their aptitude/ability to learn). So, in year one you have gained vast amounts of knowledge and been paid at in the neighborhood of \$20,000 to do so.

After the initial training period you then go into a learning tract in a company provided van and paid on a commission basis(approximately 3 years) to put you on pace to gain a journeyman's license during those 3 years your earning potential during this time can be \$50,000 - \$80,000 per year.

In the fourth year once you are eligible and have passed the Journeyman's License test your earning potential could possible become in the six figure range.

During this entire time you have had company provided Medical and Dental coverage, and after the first year you will have had the ability to begin investing in a 401K program for your retirement.

Paying for College and hoping for Employment:

You're out the cost of tuition and fees + room and board (because you probably have moved to a college town) for a, at minimum four year time period with the hopes of gaining employment after years of racking up student loan debt. Studies in the past have shown that the earning potential of a college educated individual is greater due to having a degree. This is no longer the case and did not take the trades into account in the studies.

In conclusion:

It is our opinion that if you have the aptitude, willingness to learn and the ability to see that the training time is an investment in setting up a stable, long term and financially rewarding career. Then going into the plumbing trade is the right path for you, if working with your hands, challenging your mind every day, feeling a sense of reward because you helped someone each day sounds appealing then the plumbing trade is right for you.