

Certificate & Diploma Program Tuition Comparison — National Averages				
Tuition only — does not include books, tools, fees, or living expenses Sources: CollegeTuitionCompare.com (IPEDS AY 2024–25) BestColleges NCES Published institutional pages				
Category	Program (Certificate / Diploma)	Tier 1 Public Community College	Tier 2 Local / Regional Trade School (Avg. Published Tuition)	Tier 3 National Career Institute (Avg. Published Tuition)
BUSINESS & FINANCE				
Business & Finance	Medical Billing & Coding	\$3,200	\$16,627	\$18,000
Business & Finance	Bookkeeping Certificate	\$2,400	\$6,000	\$8,500
Business & Finance	Payroll / Tax Preparation Certificate	\$1,800	\$4,500	\$7,000
Business & Finance	Accounting Technician Certificate	\$2,800	\$7,500	\$11,000
Business & Finance	Business Administration Certificate	\$2,600	\$7,000	\$10,000
Business & Finance	Real Estate Certificate	\$1,500	\$3,500	\$4,500
Business & Finance	Paralegal Certificate	\$4,500	\$12,000	\$18,000
EDUCATION & CHILD SERVICES				
Education & Child Services	Child Development Associate (CDA)	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$6,500
Education & Child Services	Early Childhood Education Certificate	\$3,200	\$7,000	\$10,000
HEALTHCARE				
Healthcare	CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant)	\$1,200	\$4,480	\$8,500
Healthcare	Medical Assistant	\$4,200	\$16,239	\$22,000
Healthcare	Dental Assistant	\$4,800	\$16,730	\$21,000
Healthcare	Pharmacy Technician	\$3,500	\$14,974	\$18,000
Healthcare	EMT (Emergency Medical Technician)	\$2,200	\$4,986	\$7,500
Healthcare	LPN – Licensed Practical Nurse (Diploma only)	\$9,500	\$18,035	\$28,000
Healthcare	Veterinary Assistant Certificate	\$3,800	\$9,500	\$14,000
PERSONAL SERVICES				
Personal Services	Cosmetology	\$6,500	\$16,042	\$19,300
Personal Services	Esthetician	\$4,200	\$9,978	\$12,500
Personal Services	Barbering	\$5,500	\$14,546	\$18,000
SKILLED TRADES				
Skilled Trades	HVAC Technician	\$4,500	\$13,584	\$24,000
Skilled Trades	Electrical Technician	\$4,800	\$15,963	\$28,000
Skilled Trades	Automotive Technician	\$5,200	\$16,505	\$37,000
Skilled Trades	Construction Technology Certificate	\$4,200	\$9,000	\$15,000
Skilled Trades	Welding	\$3,800	\$11,439	\$26,000
Skilled Trades	Plumbing	\$4,000	\$10,940	\$16,000
Skilled Trades	Carpentry	\$3,800	\$8,500	\$13,000
TECHNOLOGY				
Technology	IT Support Certificate	\$3,500	\$10,000	\$18,000
Technology	Cybersecurity Technician Certificate	\$4,200	\$12,000	\$22,000
Technology	Web Developer Certificate	\$3,800	\$9,500	\$16,000
Technology	Graphic Design Certificate	\$3,500	\$8,500	\$14,000
TRANSPORTATION				
Transportation	CDL – Commercial Driver's License Program	\$3,500	\$6,258	\$10,000
Transportation	Diesel Technology Certificate	\$5,500	\$25,492	\$38,000
Average — All Programs		\$4,109.00	\$10,979	\$16,869

Tier Definitions
Tier 1 — Public Community College: In-district (resident) tuition only. Excludes fees, books, and supplies. Based on IPEDS-reported public school averages and individual program pages.
Tier 2 — Local / Regional Trade School: National average published tuition for vocational certificate programs. Source: CollegeTuitionCompare.com (IPEDS AY 2024–25) unless noted.
Tier 3 — National Career Institute: Average published program tuition from national for-profit career schools (Lincoln Tech, UTI, Concorde, Fortis, UEI, etc.). Per IPEDS / school consumer info pages.
Community colleges usually cost less because they receive state funding. Private trade schools and national career institutes charge more. Some private schools offer faster programs and job placement support.
Prices shown are tuition only and do not include books, tools, uniforms, or testing fees.

Average Cumulative Student Debt by Degree Level				
Total debt typically accumulated by graduation — national averages, 2024–2025 Sources: NCES, AAMC, APTA, AACP, ADA, ABA, BLS				
Degree	Example Career	Avg. Total Cumulative Debt	10-Year Total (w/ 6% Interest)	Notes
Associate Degree	Various	\$9,100	\$12,416	Avg. federal loan debt at graduation; many complete debt-free via community college
Bachelor's Degree	Various	\$46,440	\$63,363	Federal student loan debt average at graduation (NCES 2024)
Master's Degree	Various	\$70,672	\$103,252	Cumulative debt incl. undergraduate loans (NCES / College Board)
Doctor of Education (EdD)	University Professor	\$106,395	\$155,444	Includes prior degree debt; EdD often pursued while working
Juris Doctor (JD)	Attorney	\$140,730	\$214,657	ABA 2024 Law School Debt Survey; excludes undergraduate debt
Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)	Physical Therapist	\$128,440	\$195,911	APTA survey; includes undergraduate debt
Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD)	Pharmacist	\$154,440	\$235,569	AACP 2024; includes undergraduate debt
Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS/DMD)	Dentist	\$178,800	\$272,725	ADA Health Policy Institute 2024
Doctor of Medicine (MD/DO)	Physician	\$207,662	\$316,749	AAMC 2024 Medical School Graduation Questionnaire
Doctorate (PhD – Research)	Research Scientist	\$106,395	\$155,444	Often partially funded via stipends/fellowships; lower than professional doctorates
Doctorate (PsyD)	Clinical Psychologist	\$108,940	\$166,167	APA 2024; PsyD typically self-funded vs. PhD which is often funded

Sources: NCES National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS) | AAMC 2024 Graduation Questionnaire | ADA Health Policy Institute | APTA | AACP | ABA Law School Debt Survey | APA | College Board Trends in S

Full Reference List

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