For most high school graduates, a degree from a four-year college seems like the only option as far as higher education is concerned. However, it is also important to understand and consider the alternative of trade school.

Here are the differences between the following institutions:

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
- provides a 2-year Associate degree
- most cost effective option and provides open admission
- good fit for students that are undecided about a major
- offers the option to transfer to a 4 year college upon completion; very important to ensure that all courses are transferable and can be counted as credits
- does not provide extracurricular activities and on-campus residency

**COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY**
- provides a 4-year Bachelor of Arts or Science degree
- can be a private or public institution and admission requirements must be met
- offers a wide range of academic majors and is focused on a more intensive, academic program
- offers extracurricular activities and on-campus residency

**Trade/Vocational School**
- provides a certificate of completion
- designed to give students the technical skills to prepare them for a specific occupation and can be completed within a shorter time period
- cost effective option and provides open admission
- no extracurricular involvement and on-campus residency

For a list of trade schools in Georgia, click [HERE](#).