

Education Pathway Model



NAME _____

DATE _____

PERIOD _____

Column 1 is filled in as a model. Read it first. Then use the dated Route Data Guide for Columns 2 and 3.

Requirements vary by employer. The BLS median is national and is not a starting salary promise.

FIELD	CAREER 1: CERTIFICATION ONLY	CAREER 2: ASSOCIATE DEGREE + CERT	CAREER 3: BACHELOR'S DEGREE
Career Name	Help Desk Technician		
Common entry preparation	Some college is common; some candidates qualify with a high school diploma plus relevant IT certification		
Time consideration	Certification study time varies; no four-year degree is automatically required for every role		
2024 BLS median pay	\$60,340 for computer user support specialists		
One tradeoff	Faster possible entry, but requirements vary and the occupation has a lower median than the other two routes		

Source discipline

- Use the Route Data Guide for the exact BLS wording and dated median pay.
- Degree labels describe common program length. Certification study time and price vary.
- Compare costs only from a current official provider, college, or voucher source supplied by the teacher.

Think About It

1. Which path takes the LEAST time? Which path takes the MOST? Use the numbers from your table.
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
2. If you wanted to enter the workforce sooner, which path would you investigate first? Name one benefit and one tradeoff.
