

The Parent's Guide to College Alternatives



**HELPING YOUR STUDENT FIND THE RIGHT PATH
— WITHOUT UNNECESSARY DEBT OR PRESSURE**

KAL OTIS

a small note

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

"To own one's uniqueness, is to discover your purpose"

Kal Otis is an experienced college career consultant and business owner dedicated to helping students unlock their potential by discovering their strengths, interests, and aptitudes. Her coaching approach is grounded in the latest research on brain science, aptitude testing, and personality assessments, which she expertly integrates into an accessible format for her students. With over 34 years of experience in brain development, Kal has a deep understanding of how individuals

learn and process information. By working with Kal, students not only gain confidence in their unique abilities but also develop a clear understanding of their learning style and what drives their interests. Kal's coaching is tailored to each student's needs, and she works collaboratively with them to create a customized roadmap for success. Her ultimate goal is to help students fall in love with who they are, unlocking their potential to achieve their dreams and thrive in their chosen career path.

INTRODUCTION

You're not alone.

If you're questioning whether a 4-year college is the best path for your child—you're asking the right question.

Today, there are more options than ever before. And many of them lead to **stable, high-paying, and fulfilling careers**—without the time and cost of a traditional degree.

This guide will help you:

- Understand your options
- Compare real outcomes
- Make a confident, informed decision

WHY FAMILIES ARE EXPLORING ALTERNATIVES

- Rising tuition costs
- Student debt concerns
- Changing job market (skills over degrees)
- Not all students thrive in traditional classrooms

Key Stat Section:

- 40% don't graduate in 6 years
- \$37K avg student debt
- Millions of skilled jobs opening this decade

PATH #1 – TRADE SCHOOLS

Best for: Hands-on learners, problem-solvers

Examples:

- Electrician
- HVAC technician
- Welder

Pros:

- Short training (6–24 months)
- Earn while you learn
- Strong job demand



Average Salary Range: \$50K–\$80K+

PATH #2 – 2-YEAR DEGREES

Best for: Students who want flexibility + career options

Examples:

- Nursing
- IT Support
- Radiology Tech

Pros:

- Affordable
- Transfer option available
- Clear career pathways



Average Salary Range: \$50K–\$80K+

PATH #2 – CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Best for: Fast entry into workforce

Examples:

- Cybersecurity
- Digital Marketing
- Medical Assisting

Pros:

- 6–12 months
- Skills-based hiring
- Low cost, high ROI



HOW TO KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT FOR YOUR CHILD

Ask

- How does my child learn best?
- Do they prefer hands-on or academic environments?
- What are their natural strengths?
- What kind of lifestyle do they want?
- How will you or your child pay debt?

Important Reminder:

There is no one “right” path—only the *right fit*.

COMMON PARENT CONCERNS

“Will they be successful?”

→ Yes—many of these careers are in high demand and financially stable.

“Will they regret not going to college?”

→ Many students return later with clarity (and save money doing so).

“Is this limiting their future?”

→ Not at all. Many paths allow for growth, certifications, and advancement.

FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT



Your role isn't to choose the “perfect” path.

It's to help your child choose a thoughtful, informed one.

When students feel aligned with their path,

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When students feel aligned with their path, they gain confidence—and that's what leads to long-term success.

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HOW I CAN HELP

You don't have to figure this out alone.

At College Careers Consulting, I help families:

- Explore college and non-college options
- Identify best-fit career paths
- Create a clear, personalized plan

Schedule your free parent consultation today

collegecareersconsulting.com

OR

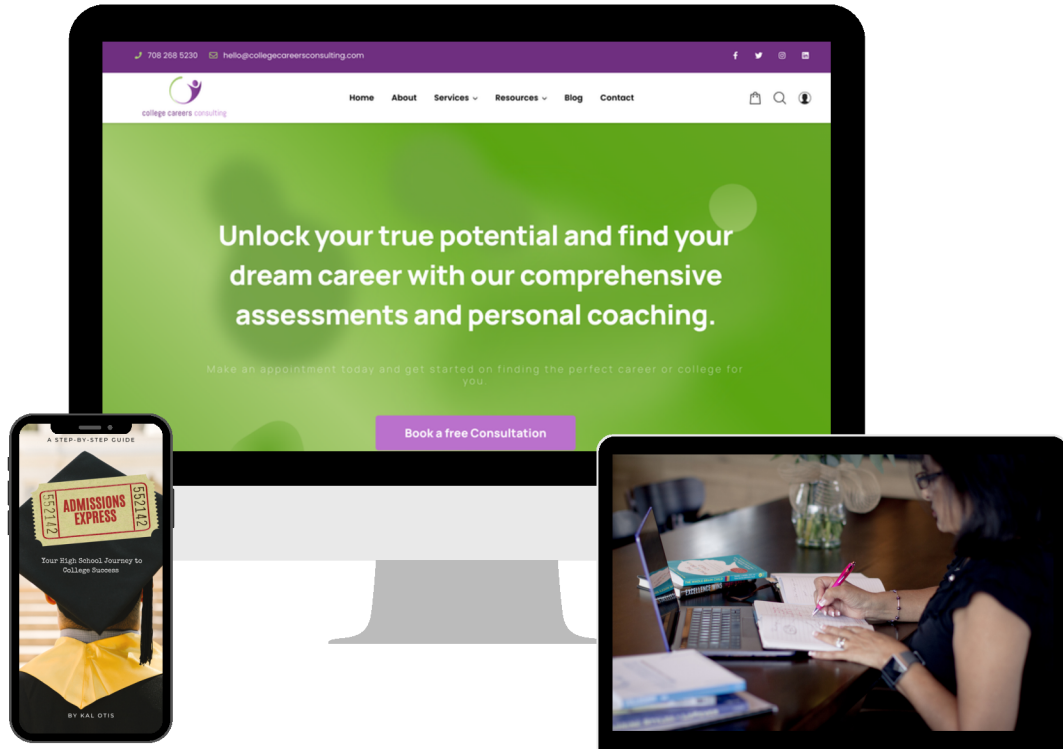
Email me directly to get started

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college careers consulting

embrace your uniqueness • discover your purpose



We were living with constant tension, arguments, and stress because of our inability to understand our teenager. This also created marital strife. Kal's expertise in understanding learning styles and personality types, combined with her compassion, helped us achieve harmony, peace, and relational enjoyment in our home. If you want to fight for your relationships, hire Kal! She truly made a difference for our family.

Donna M

Kal introduced me to careers that I never thought would be a possibility for me. She kept me on task and made the process of getting into college not so overwhelming. Even when I felt overwhelmed Kal took the time to address the situation. Kal was definitely one of my biggest motivators throughout the entire process and is very passionate about her job. As someone who never thought about biochemistry for a career, Kal had helped me to gain confidence to take on this career and become excited about my future!

Sophia M

For more reviews visit our website

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