



There are two reasons why you should look at a career that is in demand in South Africa today:

1. You will be much more likely to find a job.
2. South Africa needs such skills to grow our economy and develop our country.

Finding a job

South Africa's Minister of Labour said in July 2007 (Business Report, 2007/07/10) that although about 400 000 youths matriculate each year, 60 percent of them do not find employment or enrol for further study. Yet at the same time South Africa is suffering from critical skills shortages in certain areas. Clearly many young people who can't find jobs have not had the opportunity to be trained in the scarce skills that are in great demand.

With the right training, there are many opportunities for young people to find jobs. Furthermore, not all these jobs require a university education. There are also lots of careers that need a certificate or diploma in the required skills. If you want to avoid joining the ranks of the unemployed youth of South Africa, then you could consider choosing a career from those outlined in the section that follows.

NOTE

The careers listed here have been identified by Deloitte as some of those needed most urgently in South Africa today. Deloitte is committed to linking young people to opportunities for training in scarce skills and creating opportunities for young people to take an active part in growing our country's economy and creating jobs.

Supporting the economy

By following a career path in an area where there is a great demand for skills you can not only be sure of finding employment, you can also contribute with pride to the growth of South Africa's economy. Skilled people are the most precious commodity in an environment where economic growth depends on the success of industries such as manufacturing, mining, research, technology, construction and transport along with vital sectors such as education, health and finance. The more successful these sectors of our economy are, the more we will produce, the more people we can train, and the more jobs we can create.

Choosing your path

From the day we are born we journey down a path of lifelong learning that links our education and training, our community involvement and our personal life. All our life experiences teach us something and both our formal and informal learning is important in developing our skills. So, whatever our employment destination, there is more than one pathway to it. Your learning path will be unique but it is important that you understand what skills, experience and attributes you need to reach your destination.

This chapter details the learning and career paths for each scarce skill – from entry level to final qualification. The careers outlined here may help you to choose a line of work that appeals to you and to find out which path you will have to follow to gain the necessary skills for that career.

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Training is essential

The careers listed on the following pages require some form of training, starting with a certificate or diploma which will involve intensive practical training, or moving on up to a university degree which will provide a stronger theoretical and academic background. You cannot hope to develop a career or skills that are in demand without the necessary training. Whether you leave

school after Grade 9 or Grade 12, you will need some form of training to prepare yourself for entry into your career.

The majority of the careers listed here require a background in mathematics and science. These are crucial subjects which every high school student should select and study hard, even if only for a limited period.

Certificates and Diplomas

Diplomas and Certificate courses are offered at Further Education and Training (FET) colleges, at universities of technology, and, in certain cases, also at universities.

The range of certificates and diplomas is vast and can involve anything from a few months to three years of study. You do not need a university pass to enter.

These are the key features of studying for a certificate or diploma:

- Diploma study develops career-oriented skills and practical knowledge.
- Diploma study trains people to be ready to start work on completion of their study.
- Students are taught through a combination of instruction in theoretical knowledge and practical experience, in many cases on the job.
- Students learn how to apply their knowledge in real-life situations.

Many diploma programmes allow students to graduate at a number of different stages. For instance, you can qualify for a National Certificate after the first year of a diploma programme, a National Higher Certificate after the second year, or be awarded a National Diploma on successful completion of the third year. Those who then wish to study further can usually register for a Bachelor of Technology, which will take a further one year full-time or two years part-time. Some diploma programmes are aimed at post-graduate students who have successfully completed a degree.

Degrees

Degrees require a minimum of three years of study at a university or university of technology. You need a Senior Certificate with a university pass to enter.

These are the key features of studying for a degree:

- Degree study develops the ability to work with ideas, to think in terms of systems, to experiment, to be flexible, to evaluate and to communicate.

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- Instruction is theoretical and classroom or laboratory-based.
- Some degree programmes include practical career skills, but most graduates will need further professional or on-the-job training after they have graduated to equip them for their future careers.
- Teaching staff are actively involved in research; some are world experts in their field.
- Most degree programmes last three or more years. Some universities structure their courses to allow students to move in and out of the institution depending on their personal and financial circumstances. Some universities award certificates recognising courses that students have successfully completed.

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