College & Career Planning: Types of Schools

What Types of Schools Can I Choose From?

- **Public vs. Private**
  - Public schools are funded by state and local governments, while private schools are not
    - State universities (funded by state governments) typically offer lower tuition rates for local students
    - In New York, the State University of New York (SUNY) and the City University of New York (CUNY) are both public schools, and have similar tuition costs.
  - Public schools can be less expensive than private schools, but not always. It’s important to research the cost of each school you are interested in

- **Four-year Colleges and Universities**
  - Earn bachelor’s degree
    - Usually either in the arts (e.g., English, history, drama) or sciences (e.g., biology, engineering)

- **Two-year Colleges (Community and Junior Colleges)**
  - Lower cost and accept more students compared to four-year
  - Earn associate’s degree
    - In some career fields, you can begin working after earning associate’s degree (e.g., computer network support specialist; physical therapy assistant, nursing)
    - Some people choose to start at a two-year college and transfer to four-year college. This can help save money, as two-year colleges often have lower tuitions compared to four-year colleges

- **Career Schools (Technical, vocational, or trade schools)**
  - Usually two years or less
  - Classes and hands-on experience related to a **specific career**
    - Examples: cosmetology, medical imaging

- **For More Information on Types of Schools:**
  - Visit the following website:
○ https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/prepare-for-college/choosing-schools/types