

Ask Yourself These Questions

- Is the school accredited? Is it licensed by the State to provide the program I want?
- Does the school offer financial aid? If so, what types?
- How much does the program cost? What does that include? Will my financial aid be enough to cover the cost of attendance? Will I have to pay any of it back?
- Do I have to pay all expenses at once?
- Can I get a refund if I have to drop out?
- What is the average number of students in each class? Will I have enough contact with my instructors? How many students who begin a program actually graduate?
- What are the attendance and grade requirements?
- Can I get the courses I want at times that are convenient to me?
- How long will it take to complete the program? How many hours a week will I be in class? How many hours of homework will I be expected to do?
- Does the school provide all of the training that I need for the professional certification required for my career?
- What will I have when I complete the program? A degree? A certificate?
- If professional certification is required for employment, how many students enrolled in the school's program pass the certification exam?
- Does the school have modern facilities and equipment? Will I be trained on state-of-the-art equipment used in the field that I want to enter? Does the school have enough equipment to ensure all students will get to use it?
- What percentage of graduates find jobs? What does the school do to help graduates locate jobs? Does the school provide free job placement services?
- If I decide to continue my education, will other schools accept the coursework from my current school? Check with the school to which you may transfer and find out if they will accept your coursework.

Things to Do Before Enrolling

- Talk to employers for whom you would like to work and ask from which schools they hire graduates.
- Call the Better Business Bureau and ask if anyone has complained about the school.
- Browse the internet for additional information about the school. Read through past school newspapers to find out more intimate details of a school.
- There are two agencies, one public and one private, that are responsible for approving or recognizing accrediting agencies. To confirm that the agency accrediting your school is approved or recognized, contact one of the following:

Accreditation and State Liaison Division
Office of Postsecondary Education
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K Street NW
#7105
Washington, DC 20006-8509
(202) 219-7011

OR

Council for Higher Education Accreditation
One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 510
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 955-6126
www.chea.org

**DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS!
AS A CONSUMER YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW THE
ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS BEFORE YOU INVEST
YOUR MONEY.**

