What to do after IT1025.

Immediate employment. Perhaps, this course was all that was needed, a bit of extra computer knowledge. Cuyahoga Community College has added the requirement of completing your resume and attending a co-op or internship seminar. They are doing this for the students benefit. Resume rules change and having an updated version will give applicants the best chance at a job or advancement. Interview skills both soft and hard skills are a game changer. Knowing how to act, how to dress, even perhaps luncheon rules of an interview. Knowing them ahead of time saves everyone’s time. Take advantage of this now, continue to use the resources available, until you are happily ensconced in a new or better position. comfortable in the next step.

Post degree certificate. Students that have done their time, taken the courses to become a well-rounded student. Even if it was twenty++ years ago. This is a nice path to obtain a job in a field of your interest quickly. Follow the course program sequence, take the courses, perhaps become certified and finally utilize the career center to refresh skills and gain employment.

**Transferring to four-year university**

**- First let me say kudos on saving money with this route!**

I found an article that sums up this process and a quote**: “**Sad fact = Only 33% of students actually end up transferring to a four-year institution within six years. The main reason is the lack of information and guidelines around the transfer process”. The information and direction is at Tri-C you just have to ask.

<https://www.parenttoolkit.com/college-and-career/advice/community-college/5-ways-to-make-transferring-from-a-two-year-college-to-a-four-year-college-easier>

**Ask Questions ….Make Grades a Priority…** **Apply for Financial Aid… Make a Plan... Understand Course and Credit Transfers…**

**Ask Questions -** Find a counselor you feel comfortable with see them regularly, get to know them. Students can ask important questions about possible career paths, transfer school options, and other academic issues that come up.

**Make Grades a Priority-** Do well in your classes learn for the sake of gaining knowledge. Repair old grades if needed, by retaking a course or applying for the grade forgiveness program. Starting on a good foot and more forward. Good grades will get more scholarship money.

**Apply for Financial Aid –** Even if you are working presently and can pay off your tuition at Tri-C each semester. Learn the process here at Tri-C and save yourself some money. Visit Financial aid let them help you start the process and it will be easier later.

**Make a Plan** = Four-year university - to obtain XX degree. Do I know my path -or- I am not sure. I almost want to set up Lucid chart! What I do know is, I would like to get a four-year degree without huge financial debt. In the perfect world - you know what your career path is, and which college will get you there, don’t forget affordably! Alas, this is not always the case. Many times, even those with a clear pathway, change major. Perhaps an interesting class, an inspired teacher, or a change in personal circumstance. One of my favorite authors Steven Covey stated: “**Begin with the end in mind**”. Decide a path and move forward until you reach the end or CHOOSE to take a different route.

**Understand Course and Credit transfers-** Start on this process before you take anymore courses. If your path changes you may lose some credit transfer. However, a path changed (especially at Tri-C rates) is a good thing – your career will last many years into the future. If your path is the same, you will save time and money in the long run knowing the classes that transfer.  “They don’t realize it can be a seamless process where their credits transfer and they only spend an additional two years to get their degree, (parent tool kit)”. Some colleges have articulation agreements and a nice road map of courses you can take that seamlessly transfer.

**? How to decide a major?**

***See a counselor* -** they have tests and knowledge to help define a direction – or at least solidify a few careers you don’t want.

What you can do on your own. Work backwards, look up a few job postings and see the requirements of positions you wish to obtain. Find the extent (associate degree, bachelor’s, experience) others in your chosen field have graduated with in the past (LinkedIn).

Before committing years to achieve this goal. Look at books for certifications and/or future courses.

Try an internship or shadowing opportunity through our career center.

Take one or two classes in that field.

**? How do I obtain four-year degree needed for my career choice?**

***See a transfer specialist*** – They have guided many of your fellow students and keep up to date.

What can you do on your own - Continue to work backwards find a few colleges that have the degree (or similar) that you are looking toward. Search the Universities website, view the curriculum and decide if the courses interest your direction. I would suggest looking at a few colleges for bargaining reasons (more later on this topic). If the University is local print off curriculum and visit the chosen Universities Tri-C contact advisor. Check transfer center website for the date and time they are at the western camps. Some colleges set up tables outside of counseling center. Others schedule time increments in an office (located in the transfer center) for private help. Jamie Zahler [jamie.zahler@tri-c.edu](mailto:jamie.zahler@tri-c.edu)  216-987-5049.

**? I found a few colleges with my major – What now?**

***See Financial Aid Department* –** Learn the process now and save money.

Some person experiences - If you are strapped for money request the application fees to be waived. Applying to more than one college can have a few benefits. Gather all acceptances here’s how to compare. A spreadsheet can be helpful. <https://www.xltemplates.org/college-comparison-worksheet-template/> - use as an example and choose your own headings.

Now about the Finance game!

The finance of going to college is a bit of a game. A small private college with a larger sticker price may be cheaper than the in-state college.

Each college will first send an acceptance, later a financial aid package (or statement).

1. **Apply for FAFSA** – many colleges only give out aid if you have filed FAFSA. The date for FAFSA is OCT 1st. File right away money at colleges not earmarked for specific areas are often given out in order of first filed first to receive. Tri-C Financial Aid Dept. has a Fri. night help session through the year (more near OCT 1st).

Types of Aid (Financial Aid Packet <https://money.com/how-to-read-college-financial-aid-statement/>)

Grants & Scholarships = Free $$– yours to keep no payback.

Need Based: Usually given from FAFSA results, most often need to carry full time course load.

Merit Based: It can be based on academic achievement, artistic abilities, leadership skills, or any other characteristic. May have stipulations, Example: you must maintain a certain GPA and carry full time course load. \*\* run net price calculator or know by accepting merit aid if you do not meet expectations the aid can be withdrawn\*\*

Loans: *subsidized* = No repayment until after graduation. Interest is paid by the Education Department while you're enrolled at least half time in college.

*Unsubsidized* = Interest begins accruing as soon as the loan is disbursed, including while students are enrolled in school.

Work Study = when listed on FA packet it may say like $3, 000.00. Consider this a loan. You must come-up with the money first. The school is given money by the government for you to have a job and earn that amount through the semester.

If you have questions always ask financial aid office.

**Now you have applied – you are comparing acceptances and FA packages.** This is what has worked for me, my kids and many other students. You just must be willing to ask.

If your dream college is not the lower price tag.

1. Get to know someone in the dept of that school. Take a tour of the college and ask to meet with teacher in the dept (Example - data analytics assistant dean). Make sure this is a good fit.
2. Stop at the financial aid dept – mention you have few questions (sit down advisor not the counter). Show them packages you were offered from other colleges. Tell them you met with assistant dean of data analytics and these are the reasons you want to attend this college. If you have a number you can afford let them know, if not ask if they can match (smile and say perhaps beat) the other offers.
3. Side Notes: Four-year universities have money.

Have I visited Financial aid - Tri-C scholarships

NEW choose Ohio First = STEM fields.

Have I investigated scholarships outside of Tri-C – think computer and local first.

Lastly – go back to the University – thank the Assistant Dean you spoke with and ask about any departmental scholarships.

Good Luck you are your own best advocate. Live your best life today.

**Future Considerations and challenges** are the desire of each student to seek help at Tri-C to move forward to their goal.

Perhaps thinking of this process in small steps and the final goal more rewarding that a large paycheck. Good grades, researching credits, and applying for financial aid will garner more money than a 40 hour work week and personal accomplishment in the long run.

“5 Tips for Transferring from a 2-Year College to a 4-Year College.” *Parent Toolkit*, www.parenttoolkit.com/college-and-career/advice/community-college/5-ways-to-make-transferring-from-a-two-year-college-to-a-four-year-college-easier.

Examples:

Curriculum Sheets – Cleveland State

College of Engineering

<https://engineering.csuohio.edu/sites/csuohio.edu.engineering/files/Computer%20Engineering%20Degree%20Map.pdf?_ga=2.227842079.347509474.1582672273-1056212824.1582672273>

Business college -

<https://catalog.csuohio.edu/mime/download.pdf?catoid=27&ftype=2&foid=1173>

<https://business.csuohio.edu/academics/tri-c-csu-business-degree-completion-program>

Dual Admission:

<https://www.csuohio.edu/dual-admissions/dual-admissions>