



# Breaking Education Barriers to Work: 4 Actionable Steps

Education is often seen as the key to unlocking job opportunities and advancing in one's career. However, for many individuals, education can be a significant barrier to work. Research shows that college enrollment in the United States has been exponentially decreasing due to many factors. From time restraints to the high cost of tuition, education barriers can prevent individuals from job opportunities and earning potential. During your job search this year, you may see job opportunities you know you're skilled for -- but they are requiring a four-year degree. Here are five ways you can overcome education barriers.

## Seek Out Employer-Sponsored Education Benefits



Many employers offer education benefits such as tuition reimbursement or on-the-job training programs. You can research whether a company offers employer-sponsored education benefits by checking the job posting for any mention of education benefits as part of the compensation package. This may include "tuition reimbursement" and "learning and development opportunities." It's important to note the types of benefits offered can vary widely between companies. Some employers may only offer assistance for undergraduate and graduate programs, while others may offer assistance with certifications or online learning programs.

Additionally, you can use online resources such as Glassdoor or Indeed to read reviews.

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## Explore Alternative Education Options

Traditional four-year colleges and universities are not the only paths to a successful career. In our digital era, you will find hundreds of resources to learn skills and stay ahead of your industry. Dedicate time to learn about the different hard and soft skills important to your industry, and look into resources available to you. Some resources include [SkillShare](#), [LinkedIn Learning](#), free webinars, and trial-and-error.

Show your skills by developing a portfolio and highlighting them on your resume.



## Showcase Transferable Skills

Even if you are pivoting industries, identify job skills you have that appear in the job listings you're applying for. These may be skills like communication, training end-users, leadership, problem-solving, and creativity. What are ways you've used these skills to make a difference at your job or volunteer work? Turn these into action statements on your resume to earn the attention of hiring managers, recruiters, and applicant tracking systems (ATS).

An example of what to include on your resume: Developed and implemented creative solutions to customer complaints, increasing customer satisfaction ratings

[Read more about crafting your resume for ATS.](#)

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## Build a Support Network of Mentors

Seek out mentors who can offer guidance and support as you navigate your career path. Mentors can provide valuable insights into the industry and help you identify opportunities for growth and advancement.

Look for individuals who have experience and expertise in your field, as well as those who have achieved the goals you aspire to. This could include colleagues, supervisors, or industry leaders. You will find them on LinkedIn by searching for specific job titles. Send them a connection request explaining why you are reaching out to them and that you'd like to chat about their experiences. Be clear about your goals and show appreciation for their time.



### About EG Workforce Solutions

We've been in this business for decades and have developed a deep network of professional connections. Whether they're companies looking for talent, job seekers looking for work, or an up-and-coming store in need of some temporary help, we know the right people to bridge the gap between the hiring and the hired.

But what's more, we get to know people. From employers hiring to candidates looking, we take the time to listen and learn. We hear your likes, talents, and needs. We gain an understanding, and with it, we're able to facilitate lasting relationships between businesses and people.