

START

*Estimated minimum amount of time required

Line Key

Possible route, but unlikely

Most likely route

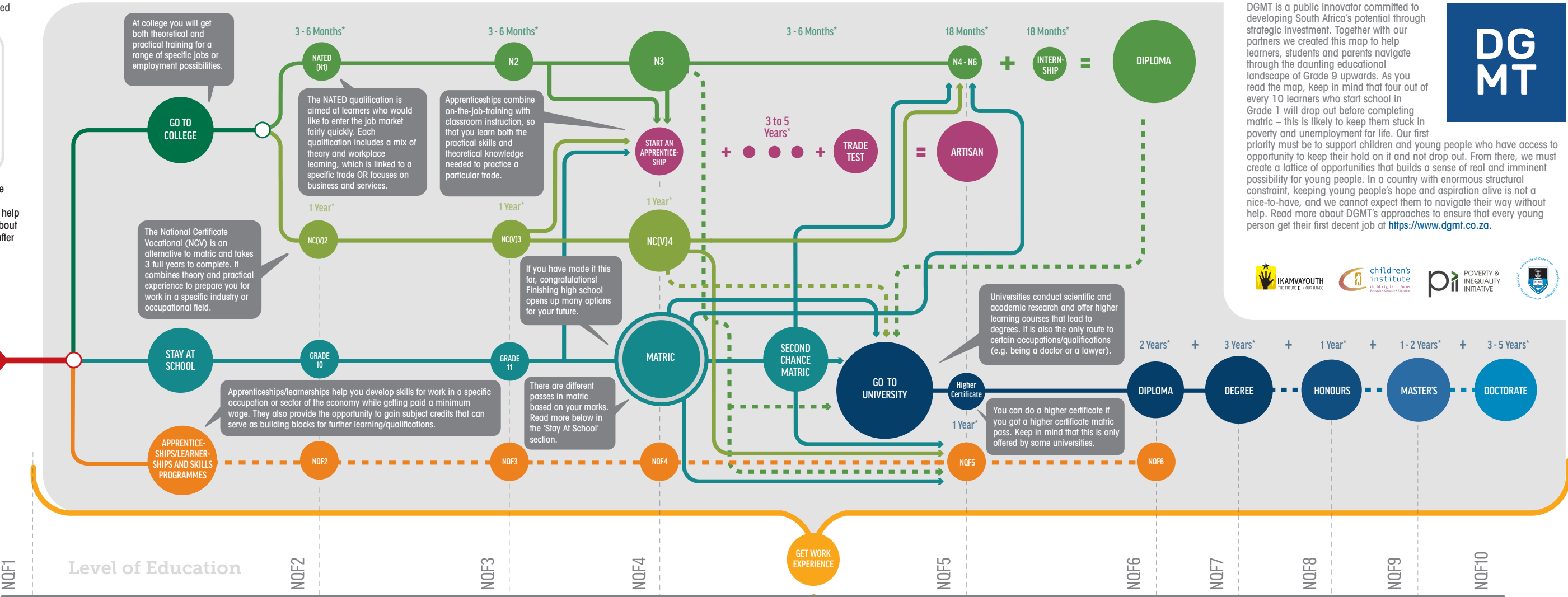
Start thinking about the future! Find out what interests you. This will help you make decisions about what you want to do after school.

START HERE

GRADE 9

Find out about the subjects and marks you need for the courses you want to study after school.

Pathways from school to work



DGMT is a public innovator committed to developing South Africa's potential through strategic investment. Together with our partners we created this map to help learners, students and parents navigate through the daunting educational landscape of Grade 9 upwards. As you read the map, keep in mind that four out of every 10 learners who start school in Grade 1 will drop out before completing matric – this is likely to keep them stuck in poverty and unemployment for life. Our first priority must be to support children and young people who have access to opportunity to keep their hold on it and not drop out. From there, we must create a lattice of opportunities that builds a sense of real and imminent possibility for young people. In a country with enormous structural constraint, keeping young people's hope and aspiration alive is not a nice-to-have, and we cannot expect them to navigate their way without help. Read more about DGMT's approaches to ensure that every young person get their first decent job at <https://www.dgmt.co.za>.



Acknowledgements

This infographic was developed as part of the larger 2015 South African Child Gauge™ (<https://www.ci.uct.ac.za>), in a partnership between the Children's Institute and the Poverty and Inequality Initiative at the University of Cape Town and Ikamva Youth. Significant contributions were also made by JobStarter.

Finding work with a Grade 9 is tough because most employers require a matric certificate.

LOOK FOR WORK

Being your own boss might sound great, but it is not for everyone. Your chances of success will be much better if you finish school, and get work experience and specific skills.

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS

VOLUNTEER

Volunteering is a great way to get work experience and build your CV.

For more career information visit <https://www.jobstarter.org.za>

STAY AT SCHOOL

If you stay in school all the way to matric, you will qualify with a National Senior Certificate (NSC). However, if you don't make it - don't give up!

Second Chance is a collection of pathways, instituted by the Department of Basic Education, through which those who have failed matric, or want to improve their results, can write Grade 12 examinations outside the regular schooling system.

If you've been out of school for more than three years you can qualify with a Senior Certificate (SC) through the programme. If you feel that you need to consider your options after leaving school visit <https://www.jobstarter.org.za>.

Remember that your Grade 11 marks are important - some universities use them for provisional acceptance. Always apply to more than one institution after school. This will improve your chances of getting into a course you want. If you get a higher certificate matric pass, you can do a higher certificate at TVET colleges and at some universities. This can be a stepping stone to further studies. It is the same as an NQF5.

There are various passes available to learners that write matric based on your marks. There's a bachelor's pass that allows entry into a university and a diploma that allows you into some universities and technical colleges. A higher certificate gets you into a Further Education and Training (FET) college. Those learners who failed can try matric again, go to a FET college or look for a job.

GO TO COLLEGE

There are two routes into the college system: National Accredited Technical Education Diploma (Nated) and National Certificate Vocational (NCV).

THE NATED ROUTE

Take this route if you would like to enter the job market fairly quickly. You can start N1 (NQF2) with just a Grade 9, but you should note that most Nated courses start at N4 (NQF5). To start at N4, you will need a matric certificate.

There are different admission requirements for different colleges and courses. Make sure you know what they are.

N1 to N3 can be completed within 18 months and gives you the same NQF level as matric. Technically, you would be qualified to go to a traditional university, but most traditional universities give preference to students with a matric.

Your best option is to complete N4 to N6 over 18 months, and then spend another 18 months doing an internship to qualify for a diploma.

The Skills Education Training Authorities (SETAs) can provide you with financial support (through the TVET colleges) during the internship period.

To get this support, you will have to be very proactive in finding an internship yourself. This qualification and practical experience will increase your chances of finding employment.

Visit <https://www.education.gov.za/Further-Studies/FETColleges.aspx> or go to your nearest TVET college to find out more.

NCV

This is a good option if you don't feel that school is the best option for you or if you left school before completing matric and still want to get a qualification that is on the same NQF level as a matric. But remember, it's not necessarily easier than school! The NCV route ends at NQF level 4. If you want a higher qualification, your best option is to choose the NATED route.

To move from NCV to NATED you need to have chosen your NCV subjects very carefully. Speak to your college about your best options. Getting into university will be hard because universities give preference to learners who have passed matric.

Remember to always make sure your course is accredited!

Visit <https://www.education.gov.za/Further-Studies/FETColleges.aspx> or go to your nearest TVET college to find out more.

BECOME AN APPRENTICE

If you are interested in becoming an apprentice, first speak to qualified artisans and, where possible, visit their places of work to see if this is the type of work you would like to do. You need a Grade 9 plus a NATED N2 certificate, matric, or an NCV3 to start an apprenticeship. The preferred and most efficient route is through the NATED qualifications offered by TVET colleges.

A formal apprenticeship works by entering into a contract (normally three to four years) with a company to learn the skills of a trade. You are paid a monthly salary and undertake practical training following a prescribed training plan. You need to complete your studies at a TVET college and obtain a minimum of 18 months' workplace experience under the supervision of a coach. You also need to keep a logbook to record your hours of work experience.

When you have completed your training and have enough work experience, you can take a trade test and qualify as an artisan. If you have lots of practical experience in a particular trade, but are not registered as an apprentice, then you will need to provide proof of your prior learning before you can

write the trade test. You must have an N2 trade-related subject from a TVET college, and at least five years' proven and relevant work experience.

THE UNIVERSITY ROUTE

Get familiar with the types of universities and how they structure their courses:
- Traditional universities (e.g. University of Cape Town)
- Universities of technology (e.g. Cape Peninsula University of Technology)
- Comprehensive universities (e.g. University of Johannesburg).

Many courses are long and expensive, which will have significant financial and personal implications for you and your family. You can find out more about financial support in the grey column.

APPRENTICESHIPS/ LEARNERSHIPS AND SKILLS PROGRAMMES

Learnerships comprise theoretical and on-the-job training and can usually be completed within 12-18 months.

You will enter into a fixed-term employment contract with a company while studying for a qualification registered on the NQF.

Entry requirements vary, e.g. some might require matric and/or specific subjects like maths/computer literacy.

Starting a learnership is not easy. You first need to find a company that will employ you and provide you with workplace experience.

LOOK FOR WORK

Things to consider when looking for work:

- Learn how to write a great CV and cover letter, and how to do well in interviews.
- The move from being a learner/student to being an employee involves a big change. You will need to learn about the work environment so you can do well there and grow your employability skills.

Go to <https://www.jobstarter.org.za> for help with the above.

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Besides needing financial support, you might also need academic and emotional support to start your own business.

Find out what support is offered to entrepreneurs in your area.

You could also find a mentor. This person should be able to give you relevant advice and encouragement when you need it. Additionally, you could join a business network or forum to get connected to other entrepreneurs and business owners.

VOLUNTEER

You could contact non-profit organisations/ small businesses in your area to see if they would allow you to volunteer. Be clear on what you can offer (i.e. your strengths) and what you would like to learn from the experience. Remember that most volunteer opportunities are unpaid, but some may cover your food and transport costs.

FUNDING YOUR STUDIES

Bursaries or loans can help to fund your studies. Bursaries are given to you based on your marks and your financial need. Loans, however, need to be paid back to the institution once you start working.

Note that bursaries and loans do not cover application and registration fees. Find out what these fees are way in advance so that you can start saving.

Also remember that if you get a government bursary or loan, you will need to reapply every year to prove that you still need the support.

There are various bursaries and loans available at <https://www.jobstarter.org.za>

Remember to always check the terms and conditions first!