



# Vocational & Technical Programs Licensed Data Set—2017 Database Overview

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Peterson's Vocational & Technical Programs Database is designed to serve as a key source of information about occupationally-specific educational programs at a wide variety of institutions. The programs in this database result in an award below the associate degree level. Typical users are those who need training, but not necessarily a degree, to get the jobs they seek. These users might be high school students, persons in the process of changing careers, or persons preparing to leave service in the military. They need to locate information about the myriad of programs that can lead them to their chosen careers. This database provides a gateway to the thousands of schools that offer this kind of education, from Academy of Hair Design to Zane State College. Many are small schools run for profit; some represent programs within institutions of higher education.

This Overview is designed to familiarize you with the Vocational & Technical Programs Database and will give you a broad sense of where this database came from, how it fits into the Peterson's Product Line, what it is used for, and how you may be able to use it. A Data Dictionary, comprised of detailed descriptions of the tables and fields in the database, is available in a separate document.

## **UNIVERSE:**

The Vocational & Technical Programs Database includes 4,012 institutions in the U.S. (including U.S. territories) that offer postsecondary awards, certificates, or diplomas requiring between one and two years of study. Institutions that are included meet the qualifications of having been in operation for at least two years and must be accredited/approved by a national, regional, state, or specialized accrediting body. Programs included are defined as instructional and designed to prepare individuals with entry-level skills and training required for employment in a specific trade, occupation, or profession. This definition of vocational and technical schools includes career and other private colleges, public colleges, and regional technical training centers. Program classification is based on the CIP (Classification of Instructional Programs) taxonomy used by the NCES (National Center for Educational Statistics).

## **TIME-FRAME INCLUDED:**

The database is updated biennially, in conjunction with the release of this licensed data set. Archived databases are available, beginning with the 1994–95 academic year. Databases from the 1994–95 through the 1998–99 academic years are stored in legacy structures; databases from the 2000-01 academic year forward are stored in table/column structures consistent with the current set.