

"Why College?"

Nearly every high school student at some point in time has asked himself: "What will I do after graduation?" Though the choices are few, the impact of your choice will be great. Attending college is one of the best decisions that you could make because it promotes independence, provides social opportunities, and instills a sense of accomplishment that will prepare you for this big thing called LIFE.

One often overlooked benefit of attending college is that it prepares you to be independent. Students are away from the protection of their parents and the comfort of their homes for the first time and must now face the reality of being partially on their own. Remember, there won't be any school bells, campus advisors, or moms and dads around to monitor your behavior. One very important aspect cultivating independence is time management. Students must manage their time from waking up to get to the cafeteria, to getting to classes, to making the dorm curfew. Making your own decisions fosters a sense of independence as well. Students must learn to make important decisions about what to major in and how to schedule their classes, what's appropriate to wear, whether to attend a party or complete an assignment, or sleep in late and miss a class. College is the great balance that bridges the security of home to striking out on your own one day as an independent adult.

Another advantage of attending college is the social opportunities that it provides. College is the home of endless activities. Nowhere else can you find sports, parties, bands, sororities, fraternities, concerts, student government, talent shows, contests, and work study programs, just to name a few. College is also such a fantastic way to meet people. Life-long friendships become established, cultural diversity is explored, academic cohorts are created, and dating spills into the new extracurricular activity. If you're lucky, that date could even turn into your future spouse. These social aspects occur at no other place and at no other time except college, and they enable students to participate with a greater depth of experience, school spirit, and community.

Finally, attending college creates a foundation for success. College provides a platform on which to advance your knowledge in subjects such as history, literature, science, mathematics, and so on. Whether it's an associate's, bachelor's, master's, or doctor's degree, it exemplifies hard work, perseverance, dedication, and status. College also prepares you for achievement in any chosen career field. Unlike jobs of the past, current jobs rely on technology, creativity, and problem solving to sustain our rapidly changing world. As a result, they require more brain power than brawn. What's more, a person who attends college has a greater access to the job markets, many of which require advanced degrees; has advanced positions such as CEOs, directors, and managers; and has salaries that earn thousands more than a person who does not. Generally, it's always necessary to have a good education, but attending college also gives you a chance to cash in.

In closing, college gives you the opportunity to enjoy a richer, more meaningful life. Obtaining a college degree remains the greatest achievement of all professions and the greatest hope for all generations. What could be a greater reward?