

Adjusting Higher Education Policy for the Internet Age – Summary*

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In education, the internet has:

1. Reduced the need for the physical college campus.
2. Reduced the need for live instruction.
3. Reduced the need for formal career education before entering the workforce.

The Declining Need for the College Campus

- In the past, the campus was the only way to bring students and highly knowledgeable, specialized teachers together.
- Today, most college education does not require a campus.
- The “college experience,” which requires a campus, is unnecessary for many students.

Delivery of Academics

- Online delivery allows for self-pacing and mastery of material.
- Online is a better and cheaper method to deliver content and develop most skills.
- Student-to-student interaction or supervised hands-on training can be provided locally with limited local facilities
- Career Education (e.g. college major) has more need

for a campus and direct access to instructors and other students than does General Education (freshmen/sophomore courses).

Early College High School

- Colleges can provide inexpensive, general education courses online to high school age students, with local high schools providing onsite discussions and tutoring.
- Early College High School is a huge time-saver for students.
- Early College High School can be a huge money-saver for state public/higher education budgets.

How much formal higher education is necessary?

- Many careers require education beyond high school, but not a full bachelor’s degree.
- Online learning allows workers to learn in small doses on a just-in-time basis.

Implications for Policy

- Establish a truly seamless system of course transfer.
- Make Early College High School universally available.
- Eliminate unnecessary formal education requirements for occupational licensing.
- Eliminate unnecessary formal education requirements for government jobs.

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