

Ten Reasons For Going To College

There are many reasons for going to college, so you might consider these as you make your decision. Please feel free to ask me any questions that come up. College is a big step, but you're fully capable of taking that step!

- 1. You get to study things that interest you.** Although most colleges and universities still have required courses you must take to get a degree, you get to choose more courses that interest you. If your course of study doesn't interest you as much as you thought it would, you get to change your mind and study something else! I changed my mind from studying pure mathematics to studying computer science and English literature. Studying something you're interested in is a lot more fun.
- 2. You get to experience college life and activities.** Although high schools have lots of activities, colleges take that to a whole new level. Almost every college has a Student Union or Student Campus Center, where you can hang out, get something to eat, learn about campus activities, join clubs, and meet new people.
- 3. College is your first opportunity to be on your own.** There are many services around a college campus to help you navigate life there, but college is really your first opportunity to be on your own. Four-year schools have dorms where you might choose to live, but even two-year schools offer challenges where you get to find your own way, much like the "real world." Think of college as being a step that is half way between your high school and adult life, when you have a job and are working full-time.
- 4. Colleges allow you to mature gradually, not all at once.** Everyone wants to mature quickly—get a job, have a family, and experience life as an adult—but they lose sight of the fact that a person naturally changes so much between the ages of 18 and 22, and those changes are often difficult and confusing. College lets you mature more gradually, because it has an implicit "safety net" community to help you through those changes.
- 5. You learn a lot in college.** High school basically teaches you how to learn things, while college focuses on increasing your knowledge about things. You develop study habits in high school, and you put those study habits to extensive use in college. You will spend fewer hours in classrooms and more hours studying and working on projects. What you learn in college prepares you for what comes next as an adult.
- 6. College opens new worlds.** College is a gateway to many new worlds. Well over half of the students who go to college wind up choosing a career or major activity that they never dreamed of before college. I never dreamed of writing computer software before I entered college, for example. You will encounter many new things.
- 7. You get the respect of being an adult without quite so many responsibilities yet.** In most college settings, you don't get pushed to do homework or actively take part in classes. You get the respect from teachers that you will figure out what to do on your own. So, in that way there is less pressure in college than in high school or a job. Your primary responsibility is to learn things that will help you after college.
- 8. College develops your decision-making skills.** Probably the biggest change you'll encounter in college is that it provides an environment in which you can develop your decision-making skills in life. You decide what courses to take, what people to interact with, what schedule you'll maintain, and how to solve daily problems. It also gives you the time to plan what you want to do in your life. To make these important decisions, there are plenty of people to help you along the way.
- 9. College can help you find a job.** Colleges often lead to job opportunities. Employers reach out to colleges to locate job candidates, or they at least are more likely to accept resumes and job applications if they see you received a degree. Often college professors and teachers know of employers who are hiring.
- 10. A college degree sets you up to make more money in your life, which leads to more security.** It is usually true that a person with a college degree will make much more money in their life than a person who didn't go to college. Money has its benefits, including providing more security as you get older.