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Is earning a COLLEGE DEGREE worth it?

Because we value facts over opinion (and know you probably do too), here is a data-driven list of the Benefits of College and the 6 reasons why a college degree is worth the time, effort, and the cost it requires.

Benefits of College

1. Greater Earning Potential One of the most important and obvious benefits of college and reasons to earn a college degree or an advanced degree (Master's, PhD) is to increase your earning potential. The data below was gathered by the United States Census Bureau and suggests a strong positive correlation between degree level earned and salary potential.

PhD, Doctoral: \$84,496

Professional Degree: \$89,960

Master's: \$69,732

Bachelor's: \$59,124

Associates: \$41,496

Some College, No Degree: \$38,376

High School Diploma: \$35,256

Less Than High School Diploma: \$25,636

2. More Job Opportunities So are you really that much smarter if you earn a college degree? In most cases, the answer is yes. Even if you don't remember everything you were taught in college, most students come away with (1) a greater ability to think analytically and (2) the discipline to see a task through from beginning to end – two very attractive qualities in a potential employee. Earning a college degree will greatly enhance your marketability as a professional.

3. Better Employment Benefits Studies have shown that college graduates are more likely to receive greater employer-provided benefits than employees without a college degree. This is especially true when it comes to healthcare coverage. A 2008 report produced by College Board showed that roughly 70 percent of individuals with a four-year college degree received health insurance from their employer, while less than 50 percent of employees with only a high school diploma received the same benefit.

4. Higher Job Satisfaction Not surprisingly, college graduates are typically more satisfied with their careers than individuals with a high school diploma – and since we spend almost our entire lives working, job satisfaction can be a large factor in our overall satisfaction with life and sense of well-being. Studies have also shown that as the level of education increases, so does job satisfaction.

5. Increased Benefits to Your Children When considering the benefits of college, most people only consider the direct impact of a college degree on their own lives – but one of the more hidden benefits of college and earning a college degree is the positive impact it can have on the well-being of their families as well, especially their children. Not only are children of parents with a college education better off socially and economically, but studies have shown that children in households where one or both parents have a college degree are themselves more likely to earn a college degree. Earning a college degree can have a ripple effect that will influence the well-being of generations to come.

6. Improved Ability to Communicate Effectively A college degree also has a very positive impact on an individual's written and verbal communication skills. Of all the benefits provided by earning a college degree, this is one of the most valuable. Communication skills will influence just about every aspect of your life. The ability to communicate clearly, concisely, and persuasively will help you land the perfect job, improve your career advancement opportunities and enhance your interpersonal relationships with family members and associates.

(From CollegeAtlas.org)



Simple activities to help build reading skills in children

Children must learn to read before they can read to learn. How can parents help their children become readers? The Learning First Alliance, a group of education organizations, suggests that parents help in these ways:

- **Read at bedtime.** From the time your children are very young, get in the habit of reading aloud at bedtime. If you haven't started this tradition, it's not too late to begin.
- **Enjoy the library together.** Take your child to the public library regularly. Together, explore all the resources available.
- **Encourage your children to write.** Look for ways to motivate children to write. Leave a note on the refrigerator and ask your child to write back. Buy your child a journal.
- **Play rhyming games.** Young children learn a lot as they think about rhyming words. They focus on the sounds inside words and start to hear the sounds that letters make. Choose a word, and have a contest to see who can think of the greatest number of rhyming words.

Remember – practice makes perfect. Young readers need lots of practice to polish their skills. Keep reading material around your house. Have your child read the recipes when you cook. And be sure you have a regular reading time every day.

The benefits of WALKING

Walking is one of the easiest ways to exercise. You can do it almost anywhere and at any time. Walking is also inexpensive. All you need is a pair of comfortable shoes.

Walking will:

Give you more energy
Make you feel good
Help you to relax

Reduce stress
Help you sleep better
Tone your muscles

Help control your appetite
Increase the number of calories
your body uses

Keep safety in mind when you plan your route and the time of your walk:

Walk in the daytime or at night in well-lighted areas.

Walk in a group at all times.

Notify your local police station of your group's walking time and route.

Do not wear jewelry.

Do not wear headphones.

Be aware of your surroundings.

Implementing a daily walk is a life-enhancing discipline, but be sure to follow safety guidelines.



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I had given up on the justice system and my trust in lawyers until I hired David Gordon. He restored my trust in lawyers because he is so honest and fair. I feel like he went the extra mile and he always had my best interest at heart. He never made a promise to me he did not keep. He was always there when I needed him just like he'll be there for you.

-Patricia V



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Make use of the talents you have

A water bearer in India had two large pots hung on each end of a pole that he carried across his neck to the stream every day for water. One of the pots had a crack in it. The other pot always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream, but the cracked pot always leaked, arriving at the house only half full.

Ashamed of its imperfection, the pot with the crack spoke to the water bearer one day. "I want to apologize to you."

"Why?" asked the bearer.

"I can deliver only half my load because of this crack in my side. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts."

The water bearer said, "As we return from the stream today, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path." After leaving the stream that day, the pot with the crack took notice of the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still had leaked out half its load, and once again felt itself a failure.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day as we walk back from the stream, you water them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my table. Without you being just the way you are, I would not have this beauty to grace my house."

The lesson: Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all pots with cracks. But when we learn how to accept who we are and harness the talents we already possess, nothing goes to waste.

