

WHY YOUR STUDENT SHOULD GO TO COLLEGE



New experiences, people & places: Whether your student goes to a community college near your hometown, a state school a few hours away, or a private school in another state, she will have the opportunity to meet people and make friends from different places. She will also have the chance to take classes in subjects that interest her, and even study abroad in another country if she chooses.

Money: Education pays! College graduates earn 60% more than a high school graduate. Jobs that require a degree are also more likely to have benefits and retirement plans.

Independence: In college, your student controls the classes he takes and how he will spend his time. Your student might move into a college residence hall or dorm, or an apartment or house with friends. Colleges offer help in taking on these new responsibilities, however, so he will always have support.

Discover passions: Your student can get involved on campus with student clubs, athletics, and community service. She might become a radio DJ, join a fraternity or sorority, or run for student government. There are also hundreds of courses to choose from at college – she can find out what she's interested in and choose her major and potential future career!

Job security & satisfaction: Those with college degrees have lower unemployment rates than those with only a high school diploma. In addition, college graduates have more jobs to choose from and the opportunity to choose a career that is interesting and meaningful.

DID YOU KNOW?

Individuals with a college degree are more likely to engage in physical activity and report being in good health.

COLLEGE MYTHS (AND REALITIES)

MYTH: College is only for the smartest students.

REALITY: There are many different colleges and postsecondary programs available. Some colleges require specific classes or high grades to be accepted, while others have no requirements beyond graduating from high school. College is an option for everyone – but the more challenging classes and the better grades your student gets, the more options she or he will have, in addition to greater access to scholarships.

PARENT CHECKLIST

- Talk to your student about the importance of college.** Ask her the reasons she is interested in going to college, and what careers she might be interested in.
- Encourage your student to do well in school.** Let him know that you expect good grades, and that you expect him to take challenging classes. Ask about homework, tests, and other assignments to stay connected with what she is doing in school.
- Encourage your student to get involved.** Suggest sports, school clubs, volunteer opportunities, or part-time jobs that reflect her interests.
- Talk to teachers and staff.** Connect with the school during conferences, open houses, school activities or just because. Consider volunteering at the school or chaperone a field trip.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs and is a federally-funded program that helps rural, low-income middle and high schools prepare students for education after high school. Visit oregongearup.org to learn more and access resources to help your students make a plan. © 2016 Oregon GEAR UP

COLLEGE. It's not a dream, it's a plan.