

Question 2: Is College Right For Me?

In the previous *My Main Reasons For Going To College Questionnaire* the best two reasons for going to a four year college are “l: I want to learn new things, broaden my horizons and satisfy my curiosity.” and “t: I want to be in an intellectual atmosphere with hundreds of subjects to choose from, among students who are interested in the same things as I am.” Many of the others are important, exciting and even necessary but they are still less important reasons for going to college.

As the time approaches for students to make decisions about post-secondary options the excitement is often tempered by:

- doubts
- fears
- insecurities
- questions about choosing the right program and the best possible school.

There are no guarantees that you'll get a high paying job just because you go to college.

Examine the following student discussions about “Why are you going to college?” If you see yourself in one of these discussions, perhaps it is time to re-examine your motives for going to college, and what kind of college you are thinking of attending, before you make an unsound and needlessly expensive decision.

Anisa and Kaleena Discuss Their Reasons For Going To College

Anisa: *My main reason for going to a four year college is money. I want to be ready for a high paying job when I graduate. Haven't you seen the poster with the three car garage with exotic cars, advertising three good reasons to go to college? That's for me!*



Kaleena: *I have seen it and I think it's clever advertising but misleading. There are no guarantees that you'll get a high paying job just because you go to a four year college.*



Anisa: *I know that but my chances are a whole lot better than they would be if I went to a two year college or went straight to work.*

Kaleena: *Well that depends. Statistically, overall that is true. But I don't think I want to make my personal decisions based on a general statistic. It depends on what program you are in, whether or not you are taking a co-op program and getting experience, what the labor market is like when you graduate, whether you intend to do any transfers or post-graduate work and all that stuff.*

Anisa: *Yeah, I know that but employers are always more impressed when you have a four year college degree.*

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Kaleena: *That is not always true. Besides, don't you realize that many students get their associate degree first, work for awhile and then go back for another two or more years for a degree. Some really hot careers these days, such as in technology, did not exist before.*

Anisa: *Really?*

Kaleena: *I thought you wanted to be a cabinet maker. That's what you've talked about for years. Working in a hands-on, creative setting and meeting lots of people and being able to have the best kitchen cupboards. Remember? You also talked about being an ambulance or critical care worker.*

Anisa: *Yeah, I knew that those jobs would give me good money. Now I figure that if I go into Business at a four year college I will make even more money.*

Kaleena: *That's cool but did you ever think that you should love what you are doing? And also, you hate studying and you're not a reader. You are great with "hands on" things. You will die sitting through two hour lectures and doing major essays.*

Anisa: *Yes, you are right about that. I really have been brainwashed by all my relatives to go to a four year college and get a job that they think will make me financially independent. Is it possible to apply to both a four year college and a two year college at the same time, I wonder?*

Kaleena: *Yes, it is. I know someone who is doing that.*

Anisa: *Great. Thanks for being so up-front with me. It really helps to have a friend like you. You know me too well. I would probably have ended up dropping out!*

Kevin and Anders Discuss Reasons For Going To College

Kevin: *I picked "f: I need to get away from home" and "n: I am eager to finally have freedom and independence" as my main reasons for going to college. What I really want to do is go to Australia and work for "Adventure Trips". This is an amazing company! I am just not ready for college. I feel that with all my personal problems in high school I just need some space and time away to sort out my priorities right now.*

Anders: *Then why are you applying to college? There is lots of time. It's not a race.*



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