



What can college do for you?

Chances are you think about college as a way to get a job once you graduate. You're probably right: a college education helps people find better jobs. Even more important may be the fact that a college graduate earns on average 50% more per year than a person who has only a high school education. But college can do more than just help you get a job, or make more money. Consider the less obvious—but equally important—advantages listed below.

Learn to think and communicate better

A college education helps you understand the world as it is now and prepares you to understand it as it will be in the future. Here's what one graduate said about his college experience: *"It's not about what you major in or what classes you take... It's really about learning to think and communicate. Wherever you end up, you'll need to be able to analyze and solve problems—to figure out what needs to be done, and to do it."*

Deal better with advances in knowledge and technology that are changing the world

Genetic engineering, drugs to reduce forgetfulness, computers that respond to our voices—nobody knows everything the future will hold, but you can get ready for it through a college education. Education can provide you with intellectual tools that you can apply to an infinite variety of situations.

Be better prepared to live in a world of diversity

The racial and ethnic composition of the United States is changing rapidly. Whatever your ethnicity, chances are you'll be working and living with people whose backgrounds, lifestyles, and ways of thinking may be very different from your own. You won't be prepared for the future unless you understand others and their cultural backgrounds, as well as how your own cultural background affects you.

Learn to lead a life of civic engagement

In its broadest sense, civic engagement involves making contributions to the society and community in which you live. College provides you with the opportunity to become involved in community service activities, and to do your part to better the world. On a more personal level, college also allows you to develop skills required to act toward others with **civility**—respectful, courteous behavior and sensitivity to differences of all forms.

Make learning a lifelong habit

Higher education isn't the end of your education. On the contrary—education allows you to build on your natural curiosity about the world, and to experience learning as a rewarding and lifelong journey.

Understand the meaning of your own contributions to the world

No matter who you are, you're poised to contribute to society and to the world. Higher education provides you with a window to the past, present, and future, and it allows you to understand the significance of your own contributions. Your college education provides you with a compass to discover who you are, where you've been, and where you're going.