

College Benefits Top 10*

College can be a life-altering experience for students, and not only academically. Here are just a few of the ways which college can change your students' lives for the better:

1. Earning a bachelor's degree will allow students to earn, on average, \$1 million more than high school graduates over the course of their careers (Starrett et al., 2022; Abel & Deitz, 2014).
2. College offers students an opportunity to build relationships with mentors and peers that will benefit them throughout their careers (Campbell et al., 2012; D'Agostino, 2022)
3. When you attend a college that is a 'match' with your high school GPA and test scores, you will likely graduate from that college within six years and go on to find a great job (Cook, 2022; Howell & Pender, 2015).
4. College graduates tend to have more job satisfaction, jobs that offer a greater sense of accomplishment, more independence and opportunities for creativity, and more social interactions in their jobs than non college graduates (Oreopoulos & Petronijevic, 2013; Sutton, 2017; Wolniak & Engberg, 2019).
5. Graduating from college increases students' prospects for employment. The unemployment rate for college graduates, as of 2022, has been approximately half that of high school graduates (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022).
6. College helps students develop skills that prepare them for careers in the tech-driven economy, including nonroutine, abstract skills that aid in problem solving, multitasking, and creativity (Oreopoulos & Petronijevic, 2013; St. Louis et al., 2021; Hutson et al., 2023).
7. College can broaden students' understanding of the world and international perspectives (Sutton, 2017; D'Agostino, 2022).
8. Getting involved as a college student can lead to greater civic involvement over a lifetime. College graduates are more likely to vote, run for political office, and volunteer in their communities (Perrin & Gillis, 2019; Brand, 2010; Sutton, 2017; Ishitani & McKittrick, 2013).
9. College graduates experience health benefits, including longer life expectancy, lower obesity, lower likelihood to smoke, and lower instances of mental illness (Harper et al. 2021; Baum et al. 2013; Oreopoulos & Petronijevic, 2013).
10. College graduates tend to experience family benefits, including lower likelihood of divorce and children who are more successful in school (Oreopoulos & Petronijevic, 2013; Reynolds, 2021).

*These benefits generally compare the average student with a bachelor's degree to the average student with a high school diploma.

Student-Friendly Language

1. EARN \$1 MILLION MORE IN YOUR LIFETIME
2. CONNECT WITH PEERS AND MENTORS
3. INCREASE YOUR JOB OPTIONS
4. BE HAPPIER IN YOUR JOB
5. MORE LIKELY TO BE EMPLOYED
6. BE PREPARED FOR SUCCESS IN A TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN WORLD
7. UNDERSTAND THE WORLD BETTER
8. MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY
9. LIVE LONGER AND HEALTHIER
10. MORE SATISFYING FAMILY LIFE

In summary, college is "life-altering"