

# Why Go to College?

*Why go to college? It's a question that's easily overlooked in the rush to start the college application process and find the perfect school. There are many great reasons to attend college, and we've outlined a few for you below.*

## Earning Potential

Sure, there are successful people out there who make a great living without a college degree. But on average, college graduates earn nearly twice as much annually as those who don't continue their education beyond high school, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Factor those earnings over a lifetime, and someone with a bachelor's degree will, on average, make \$1 million more than someone who didn't go to college.

**CollegeforTN.org** is a great place to go to learn about different career options! Visit the [Career Planning](#) page to learn more about yourself and explore careers. Some helpful tools are the [Interest Profiler](#), [Career Plan Builder](#), [Career Finder](#), and [Resume Builder](#). There are also questions and answers about career planning under the [Voices](#) section. Check it out!

## Career Path

Many students go to college to prepare for their future career. And the great thing about college is you can sample and explore potential careers before you dive into one. Think you want to major in business? Take a few introductory classes in accounting and marketing, and you'll figure out pretty quickly if the business school is right for you. Likewise, that psychology elective you took on a whim might spark an entirely new area of interest, taking you down a career path you never imagined.

## Self-Reliance

Think of college as a stepping stone to the real world. Setting your own schedule, choosing your own classes, and finding time to study outside of school are all things that help prepare you for adulthood while getting your education on a college campus.

## Connections

As a college graduate, you'll be part of an alumni network that can help you make connections both professionally and socially. Yes, the name on your diploma just might score you a job interview with a fellow alum.

## Personal Growth

College is about more than spending time in the classroom working toward your diploma. Along the way, you'll be meeting new people, having new experiences and developing new interests that give you a broader perspective on the world around you. No matter what your major is, you'll leave college as a well-rounded individual who is better prepared to handle whatever life has in store for you.

