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The Advantages of Attending a Career College.

By Max Stein

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There are many educational choices for this year's crop of graduating seniors. Traditional colleges, both four-year colleges and community colleges, are becoming less and less of a "fit" for students. Long times to graduate, waiting lists for popular programs, or outdated curriculum for modern careers are all compelling reasons to seek other sources of education. Indeed, only 30% of students who enter a four year college actually graduate. Of those who do graduate, large portions don't even find work in their chosen field.

On the other hand, career colleges offer specific training for some of the "hottest" jobs available like nursing, dental hygiene and a wide range of technical and computer jobs. Let's look at three perceived disadvantages a career college has over traditional schools.

Prestige

With such a current emphasis on college attendance and the competitive lengths some high school students are willing take to get into top schools, some recent graduates may consider choosing to attend a career college as settling. This is not necessarily the case. Why are you going to college? Usually the answer is to get an education, learn a profession and be able to provide for you future. A career college does all these things, in less time than traditional schools. Most career college graduates actually make a higher starting wage as well, depending on their degree. When you look at the choice pragmatically, one may ask the question, "Why don't more high school graduates choose a career college?" One thing to make sure of before you enter any school, is whether or not it is accredited by the national governing body, especially if your profession requires licensing...like nursing or dental hygiene.

Expense

When you compare tuition prices with a community college or junior college with that of a career college, you may wonder how you can justify the wide discrepancy. Once you consider the limited availability of spaces in top in demand programs, it becomes easier to justify the cost. For instance, nursing schools, dental hygiene schools and other "hot" careers have long wait times to even gain

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entry. While these wait times often shorten up, it still may be years before you get into the program. Meanwhile, career colleges have much shorter wait times, or no wait times at all. If you consider the lost earnings of a dental hygienist during the three year wait period, it becomes much easier to justify the higher tuition. Indeed it would cost more over the long run to attend the community college!

Social Life

One of the big reasons graduating seniors go to college is because it allows them some freedom and independence for the first time in their lives. There are few things that compare to the feeling of living on a college campus your freshman year. While career colleges don't typically offer that experience, they do offer many social activities other colleges do like political and professional associations. People have a tendency to make friendships and form bonds no matter what the environment is. If you really

want to "spread your wings" and get away from home, move out of your parent's house and get some roommates. If you need distance, attend a career college in a different city or state.

The bottom line is career colleges offer many distinct advantages over traditional schools. Relevant education, reduced wait times for enrollment and shorter time to graduation are all great benefits. Don't let the perceived disadvantages of a career college derail you from a bright future.

www.top-colleges.com

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Earning Your Associate's Degree Online

By Mark Woodcock

An Associate's degree, or a "two-year" degree, provides a valuable pathway to career enhancement, and provides an educational foundation which makes it easier to earn a Bachelor's degree down the road. Earning an Associate's degree online is a flexible, convenient, and innovative way to advance your career and improve your education. Traditionally, going to college requires a student to physically attend. This often requires relocating, or settling for a college because it is close to home. The advantages of technology now afford students the opportunity to attend college outside the confines of a traditional college, and earn a degree online. As the popularity of earning a degree online increases, more traditional colleges are joining online-only colleges in offering educations over the Internet, presenting students with broader educational options, not to mention flexibility and convenience.

In order to land that promotion you've worked so hard for, or attain the career of your dreams, it's often necessary to have some type of secondary education. There are many advantages to earning your Associate's degree online. Receiving your Associate's degree online allows you to achieve your career goals at your own pace, without interfering with your current work commitments. You need not live

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locally to attend the college of your choosing. Attending courses and submitting coursework online eliminates the need for commuting or relocating. Convenience is another plus in earning a degree online. A college may offer more sections of popular courses at many convenient times, including nights and weekends, allowing you more options as to when to attend class. This allows you more flexibility, and is ideal if you work full time and/or care for a family. In addition, who wouldn't find it appealing to attend college from the comforts of home?

There are many types of Associate's degrees you can learn online. There is certainly a degree to suit every educational and professional need. Some of these programs include General Education, Information Technology, Paralegal Studies, Business, Healthcare, and various professional certificates. These are but a few of the programs available to study online. Most of these programs are offered at fully accredited colleges that are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, which is a necessity if you have prior college credits that you wish to transfer, if you intend to continue at another college in order to receive a Bachelor's degree, or if you want your degree recognized by your employer and any professional organizations you are affiliated with.

You might be worried about affording an online Associate's degree. Often, financial aid is available to online students in the form of grants, loans, and even scholarships. Also, many employers may be willing to pay for part or all of your tuition and fees. After all, investing in your education is investing in the firm's future as well.

The misconception of receiving your Associate's degree online is that the experience might not be as enriching or legitimate as attending face-to-face classes at a traditional college. The degree programs offered online present the same opportunities for group work, independent study, and interpersonal communications as their traditional counterparts. In fact, continuing your education online might help to facilitate the learning process as well as develop time management and self-motivation skills. With the prevalence of the Internet and advancements such as teleconferencing in both education and the business world today, it is possible to come away from the experience not only with a degree, but also with greater knowledge and comfort with technology, which could prove to enhance your career as well. Receiving your Associate's degree online is a valuable, convenient, and flexible way to broaden

your career opportunities.

Learn the essential information for picking the right online degree course at



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