

The Value of Attending a Community College

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Guest Contributor

Have you ever wondered about the value of attending a community college? Those who have know first hand the enormous value that a community college offers.

Community colleges offer university level courses. Courses offered at the community college, such as English, Math, Psychology, History, and other general education courses are the same level of work as a university. These courses meet the university's requirements for general education and a portion of a student's major. Actually, one can complete over half of their bachelor degree at a community college.

In addition, California universities hold open up to 80% of their places for Junior level transfers from the community colleges, demonstrating the quality of education coming from such schools.

Another unique value and special feature of attending a community college is that everyone is provided the same opportunities. Universities tend to attract the academically prepared student through an application process

and a minimum requirement on the SAT scores for students out of high school, or a GPA requirement from transfer students; however, the community college not only attracts the academically prepared student as well, but they also present the opportunity for success to students who were not fortunate enough to receive a solid academic foundation in their prior education.

Everyone who attends is welcome! Students have access to an education and an abundance of resources in order to build the necessary foundation for success, such as undergraduate or graduate degrees, vocational programs, and/or upgrading current career skills, or a complete career change.

Also, the community colleges help to build the foundational skills which students may not have received in high school, and that the universities do not highly invest in. Once these students develop their skills, they do just as well academically (if not better) as the students who began their studies in a university.

Community colleges offer associate degrees and certificates of completion. These degrees and certificates demonstrate a commitment

to completing required tasks, which are transferable skills to both employers and other schools.

In addition, many people are not assured of completing a bachelor's degree, due to life's circumstances, but completing an Associate degree or certificate marks a significant event in one's life, the completion of a college commitment!

Community colleges meet the challenges of society's ever changing demands. With the growing complexity of technology and increasing higher educational achievement, the community college continues to meet the overwhelming tasks by developing programs, staff, and facilities to meet these needs. Thus, they regularly meet those needs for those who need them most. And once again, everyone is welcome to attend!

Community colleges also are designed to provide adult education through community service programs. These programs provide courses for teaching, cultural and personal enrichment, community concerts or lecture series, upgrad-

ing job skills, meeting the needs of the older adult through Emeritus Programs, and many other activities to help benefit the community.

In addition to the low cost for a first class education, the community college also has staffs such as Counseling, Disabled Students Programs (DSP&S), Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOP&S) and Re-entry Services/Departments, which are all highly dedicated to student success. Many students who have been dismissed from the universities and were unable to return can come to the community college and receive the services and support from these dedicated staffs in order to fulfill their prior hurdle, and then re-enter the university.

The most important value of attending a community college is the process of education. Education can be a transformation, learning how to meet deadlines and requirements, developing accountability, dependability, and responsibility, plus networking while developing a sense of community and life long friendships. People can take as many courses or as little as they choose, while developing their skills to be successful along their own life's path.