

10 Reasons Why You Should Consider A Two-Year College*

Convenience-Almost everyone in the United States (except in very rural areas) is within a 20 minute drive of a two-year college. Plus, almost all two-year colleges offer a large portion of their classes in the evening. That gives you the convenience of becoming a college student while keeping your full-time job.

Low, Low Cost Forget \$20,000. A \$2,000 annual tab is too high at most two-year campuses. After you pay the tuition, there are no other costs, except your books and that gallon of gas a day. No room and board. No fees to support the football team.

Varied Curriculum At a typical two-year college, the curriculum is varied and flexible.

Course offerings are split roughly 50-50 between the traditional academic stuff (for students going on to four-year schools) and employable skills, such as computer repair, dental hygiene, and travel agency (for students seeking a job or career change).

Undistracted Faculty Professors at two-year colleges only have one job - to teach.

They're not distracted by more rewarding sidelines, such as research and writing journal articles, as are many of their four-year college brethren.

Individual Attention Because the faculty's only goal is teaching, students can get more attention from their teachers. The full time professors are more likely to have time for chats after class or in their offices than their four-year colleagues who shoulder other responsibilities.

A Way To Overcome The Bad Times "If you have a high school record that not even your mother can admire, a two-year college is just the place to erase it. Just about all public two-year colleges use open admissions, which means anyone with a high school diploma or equivalent can enroll. Those C*s and D's on your transcript won't block the way.

Easy Access To Four-Year Colleges Four-year colleges look to their two-year-siblings - especially neighbors in their area - as sources of good students. They're well aware of what students can do if they complete the two-year curriculum. Transferring to a four-year college with a two-year degree can be the easiest way to 'get there.

One Way To Enter A Step At A Time If you're not sure you're ready for the rigors of being a full-time college student, you can test the waters gradually. Take one course at night and see how you do. The next semester, take two. Soon, you'll be ready to be in the student business full-time.

No Dorms Community colleges - at least the vast majority that are publicly supported - are commuter colleges. They have no on campus residence halls. Everyone shows up for classes and then leaves.

Financial Aid Yes, even two-year college students are eligible for financial aid. All the rules are the same as for any other student. You can get a Pell Grant or a Perkins Loan to attend Convenient Community College just as you can at Bigbucks U.

* Taken from: **College Planning For Dummies** by Pat Ordovnsky.