April 2026 Newsletter
collegeapp101.com

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Job Opportunities after College

Gallup researchers Zach Hrynowski and Stephanie Marken published findings earlier this calendar year that bear witness to optimism among college students. The article, "College Students, Grads See Strong Career Value in Degree," reports that the vast majority of associate and bachelor's degree students are confident or very confident that their education will provide the necessary skills for their desired career. Indeed, such hope among college students is a refreshing contrast to higher education's detractors, who point out the uselessness and fruitlessness of investing years in higher education. What about degree holders? What do those in the throes of the job search have to say about their college degree? Hrynowski and Marken provide answers to these questions, too. 71% of recent bachelor's degree holders (those who graduated in 2015 or later) say they landed a desirable job within six months of graduation. 42% say such a job was available to them immediately upon college graduation.

How should parents of college bound high school students handle this information within the context of dinner table conversations? Parents should convey the optimism of current undergraduates. As mentioned above, there is an opinion among some adults that college degrees are wastes of time. Parental honesty about the experience of present college students should be known more broadly. Further, parents should point out the 29% to their college bound high school students. 29% refers to the bachelor's degree holders, who searched for desirable employment for more than six months. If those college graduates decided to shoulder undergraduate student loans, then they likely had a rude awakening, when their six month repayment deferral period ended, and they were required to repay student loans while unemployed (or underemployed). Because of factors like 29%, it is best to pay college expenses with cash, personal savings, 529 plans, educational savings accounts, scholarships, and grants, not loans.

Families in need of guidance in the undergraduate experience, college admissions, and college apps should reach out to Dr. Riley at collegeapp101.com.

Career Planning Session

College App 101 is excited to announce a new career aptitude service: Career Planning Session. This service is for students, who do not know what college major to declare or career path to pursue. The Career Planning Session is a meeting to discuss a high school student's prospective career choices and the education that such career prospects require. A pre-meeting assessment is required. Connect with Dr. Riley at collegeapp101.com and request more information today.

College App 101 Podcasts

Designed for college bound high school students and their parents, these podcasts are brief, informational, and entertaining. They are available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and collegeapp101.com/podcasts/. Recent episodes:

- Developing a Love for Learning Part 3
- Interview with a College Student about Major
- Avoiding Common High School Mistakes
- The Importance of Wonder in Education

Dates to Remember:

- Apr 11: ACT test day
- Apr 17: regular registration deadline for the May 2 SAT
- Apr 21: late registration deadline for the May 2 SAT (fee increase)
- May 2: SAT test day
- May 4-8; 11-15: AP Exams – good luck, testers!
- May 8: regular registration deadline for the June 13 ACT
- May 22: regular registration deadline for the June 6 SAT
- May 26: late registration deadline for the June 6 SAT (fee increase)
- May 29: late registration deadline for the June 13 ACT (fee increase)

Click here for SAT registration and here for ACT registration

Past College App 101 Newsletters

Past editions of the College App 101 Newsletter can be found here.