WHY TAKE A GAP YEAR?

Going Straight To College Isn't The Right Choice For the Majority of Students

At one time, college was the only way for students to get up and out. It was viewed as gaining exclusive access to bigger and better things, but today's alternative learning options have led us out of this university tunnel vision. College is still a fantastic ecosystem built to support growth in young adults, but it's not the only solution, or even the best solution for the majority of students today.

"30% of students who attend college or university will drop out during their freshman year. Two-thirds of those dropping out in their first year will never go on to graduate."

- ALEX ELLISON, COLLEGE COUNSELOR

But why?

Lack of direction, a burning desire to start a business, or just plain curiosity about opportunities outside of the traditional classroom help explain those crazy high rates.
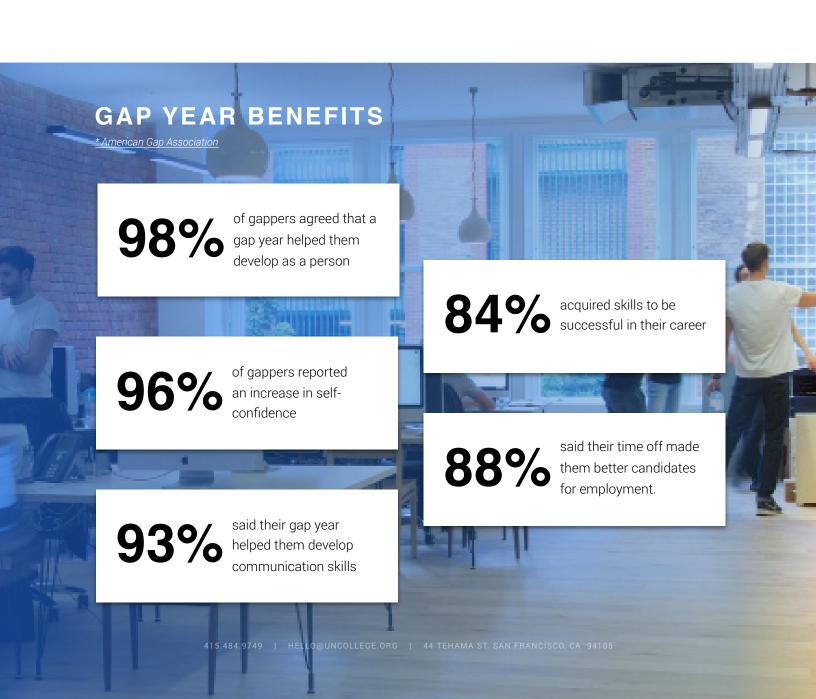
The most common reason for deferral we hear from students these days is that they want to gain real world experience before picking an area to study and settling down at college. As it turns out, that instinct is spot on - **time in the real world can greatly increase your chances of success at university and beyond.**

In fact, students who defer admission between high school and college are more likely to graduate, earn higher GPAs, and report greater job satisfaction than their peers who decide to enter college right after high school. Even big name schools like Harvard and Yale have encouraged students to defer in order to pursue a gap year.

What should you do to get ahead if you don't go straight into college?

If you are thinking about deferring or bypassing college altogether, you aren't some lone ranger. It's supported and encouraged by colleges and counselors and if you're lucky, your parents are on board, too. Here are some reasons why:

GAP YEAR BENEFITS
American Gap Association

98% of gappers agreed that a gap year helped them develop as a person

84% acquired skills to be successful in their career

96% of gappers reported an increase in self-confidence

88% said their time off made them better candidates for employment.

93% said their gap year helped them develop communication skills

UNCOLLEGE

Is a Gap Year
RIGHT FOR YOU?

Are you any of the following:

1. Questioning what you want out of your education, career and your life?
2. Want to gain real world experiences and personal growth?
3. Exploring different interests or unsure about your career options?
4. Burned out from the competitive pressure of high school?
5. Attending college, but want some time off to clarify your goals?
6. Craving adventure and real life experience?
7. Motivated to succeed without college?
8. Planning to go to college but are overwhelmed by all of the decisions you have to make to get there?

IF YOU ANSWERED YES…

Then a gap year may be right for you! UnCollege's Gap Year offers is a structured 32-week program that allows you to explore the world and learn on your terms. By volunteering abroad, focusing on personal and professional growth in San Francisco, and gaining real world experience in an internship, you can feel confident in your next step, whatever that may be.

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