

Lame Excuses for NOT Going to College

🌀 Nobody else in my family has ever gone to college.

Someone has to be first...why not you? Besides, today's job market is different than in the past, with trained, educated workers nabbing the best jobs – and the best money. Look at being first as a source of pride, for both you and your family.

🌀 I can't afford to go to college.

A majority of students receive financial aid of some sort, most of which is based on need. In fact, the less money you and your family have, the more likely you are to qualify for financial aid. (See page 26 for what types of financial aid are available and how to apply for it.) Plus, if your high school grades have averaged out to 2.5 or above, you've already got money coming to you through the state of Kentucky to apply to your college or technical school tuition at schools throughout the state.

🌀 I've already had 12 years of school. I just want to get out and make money.

First of all, college is pretty different from high school. In college, you have the chance to choose one area that really interests you and take courses that focus on that. Secondly, the jobs that offer the best money and the most opportunity go to college grads. Statistics show that college graduates will earn hundreds of thousands more over the course of their working life than those with only a high school diploma. Skip college and you're very likely to get stuck in a cycle of minimum-wage jobs.

🌀 I don't really know what I want to do with my life.

Join the crowd – you'll fit right in with the majority of other college freshmen! College is all about choice. While you're taking your basic courses during the first couple of years, you'll also have the chance to check out classes in a variety of different fields and see what clicks for you. Colleges also have career development programs that can help you decide on the best fit for you. And remember, your decision isn't set in stone: You can always change your major – and your life.

🌀 What if my grades aren't good enough to get into college?

You'll never know if you don't at least try! While grades and test scores are a consideration, colleges also look at other areas of your life, such as extracurricular activities, special talents in arts or sports, jobs you've held while in high school, church and community service, and letters from teachers or other adults. Don't let less-than-perfect grades keep you from doing something more with your life! 🏠