

Benefits of Completing College

INTELLECTUAL AND REASONING ABILITIES

College graduates show a measurable improvement in factual and core knowledge, reasoning capabilities, and critical thinking, analysis, and lifelong learning skills.

College graduates have greater factual and core knowledge.

- College graduates have a considerable advantage in comparison to high school graduates when it comes to factual knowledge.
- Studies show that incoming freshmen increase their knowledge in core areas (e.g., mathematics, science, English, and social studies) 50 to 60% in two years and 60 to 75% by the time they are college seniors.

Adults with college degrees are more likely to have strong reasoning capabilities.

- A report from the American Association of Colleges and Universities stated that higher education is the "best and most powerful way to build students' capacities to form reasoned judgments about complex issues."
- Exposure to years of higher education improves an individual's ability to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of arguments by applying reason and evaluating evidence.
- Studies have reported that the ability to comprehend and adequately present both sides of an argument or controversial issue is significantly improved after one attends college.

Individuals with college degrees have enhanced critical thinking and analysis skills.

- College seniors have a measurable improvement in critical thinking skills; compared to incoming freshmen, they are also able to address sophisticated problems and provide more complex solutions.
- College graduates are more skeptical about assumptions, more likely to accurately differentiate between facts and opinions, and better able to predict outcomes of their decision-making.
- Adults with higher education also tend to have stronger quantitative and analytic capabilities, an increased ability to integrate ideas and concepts, and overall higher level of proficiency in writing, speaking, teamwork, and a host of other competencies.

College students develop enhanced lifelong learning skills.

- Adults with higher levels of education are more likely to engage in activities and opportunities throughout their lives that enhance learning and add to their knowledge base.
- College graduates are more likely to love learning; they also tend to have developed the interest and skills to practice continual learning and self-improvement.

Intellectual and cognitive development is a powerful benefit of higher education. In order to succeed in today's complex global work environment, most individuals need both a general education and the training and skills mastered in a formal educational experience.

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