

Dropping Out of College Was the Best Decision I Could Have Made

It's been over 11 years since I dropped out of college, and it has turned out to be one of the best life choices I have ever made. My only regret is that I didn't do it sooner.

Straight out of high school, I really had no clue who I was, or what I wanted out of life (I knew my mom wanted me to become a Lutheran minister, and I was strongly considering it if only to make her happy). When I signed up for classes at a local community college, I ended up majoring in business and minoring in music (I guess I wanted to open a...Music business?). My class-load was not terribly heavy, but I still had a hard time dragging myself out of bed for my earlier classes, and after a few weeks stopped attending them. No one seemed to care, so eventually I stopped going to my other classes as well, opting to wander around campus, hang out in the library, or go to more interesting classes that I hadn't actually signed up for. Well I couldn't keep this up forever, at least not without someone getting wise to my shenanigans, so I had to come clean.

I ended up flunking out my first semester, as it was too late to withdraw from my classes. My parents were not ecstatic (they were even less thrilled in the coming months when they learned I was getting married and moving 1100 miles away).

Sure, the main reason I avoided my classes was laziness, but it seems college has become the lazy option.

I can understand if you have a vision for your future, or a career or vocation that you would like to pursue that requires a degree, but anymore college is just an extension of high school, a way to postpone adulthood. Not sure what you want to be when you grow up? that's fine! Just change your major 17 times, you'll get there soon enough. Why go out into the real world and get real life experiences when you can spend another 4 to 8 years in a classroom? And hey, If you're not happy with your degree, that's okay, you can just come right on back and get another one.

I am eternally grateful to my irresponsible 18 year old self for being lazy, selfish, and reckless. That one decision propelled me into a life of travel, adventure, and awesomeness (not to mention the lack of debt!). I may not have a degree, but I have an amazing wife, 4 kids, my own home, and 11 years of real life experience. (maybe I would have had these things had I finished my degree, but then again, maybe not)

Disclaimer: *Everyone makes their own personal life decisions. If college is right for you, go for it, just don't feel like it's your only option, or that you're a deadbeat if you don't have a degree.*