

Community College

No application process. Community colleges are open to any student with a high school diploma. You do not have to fill out an application, take the SAT, or have a competitive GPA. You need only enroll to be guaranteed admission.

Only issues AA degrees. Community college will only issue associates degrees. If you're looking to get your Bachelor's, you'll have to transfer to a major university.

More affordable. Because community colleges do not offer the same variety of degrees and resources as a university, they are generally much cheaper. At a community college, you pay by the unit. If you attend full time, most community colleges will cost approximately \$1,600 per year.

No living on campus. Community colleges do not offer housing on campus; students must commute. Some may feel that this takes away from the full "college life" experience. Others say it's a great way to manage a job and an education at the same time.

Flexible schedule. A community college is generally more flexible with your schedule, but this isn't always the case. Most of the time, you'll be able to get into classes that fit into your outside schedule. A community college is great for those who work a lot of hours. Also, at a community college, you can take as many or as few classes as you want per semester.

No academic requirements. At a community college, you do not have to maintain a certain GPA in order to continue to take college classes. However, if you are planning to transfer to a university, you will have to keep above-average grades in each of your college courses!

Smaller classes (usually). Community colleges will usually have a smaller classes anywhere from 20-40 students.

Mixed age student population. At a community college, you're going to find people of all ages. From senior citizens to teens fresh out of high school.

University

Application process. Universities are considered more prestigious, and are therefore competitive. You must apply for a university by filling out an application, taking the SAT or SAT entrance exams, and maintaining a good GPA in high school. You are not guaranteed admission.

Issues higher degrees (BA, MA, PhD). If you're looking to get more than your associates, or are pursuing a career that requires a higher degree, a university is where you will have to go. All universities offer a variety of Bachelor's Degrees, as well as graduate degrees like a Master's or Doctorate.

More expensive. Universities offer many more resources than a community college. For this reason, they are more expensive. Depending on the university (they are all different), yearly tuition can cost anywhere from \$6,000 - \$23,000, not including the cost of living on campus. * Note: Universities also offer more financial aid/ scholarships to help cover their costs.

Living opportunities on campus. If you want to focus on school and nothing else, a university can provide you with a dorm or apartment (usually shared with roommates). If you stay on campus, you'll usually get to know more classmates and may be more likely to focus on your schoolwork rather than leaving and going back to your everyday lifestyle.

More rigid schedule. Because most students attend universities full time in an attempt to graduate as soon as possible, most universities require you to take a certain number of units per semester in order to stay enrolled. You may also find that they do not always offer classes exactly when you want to take them.

Academic requirements. At a university, you must maintain a minimum GPA each semester, or they will put you on academic probation. Eventually, you can be kicked out for poor grades. Remember, universities are competitive, and they can replace you if you don't take your classes seriously!

Bigger classes (usually). Depending on the university, there may be lecture classes of anywhere from 100 – 500 students or smaller, section classes of 10-50 students. Every class is different.

Younger student population. You're going to find a lot more people in the 18-25 year old range. This helps with social activities if that's one of the concerns you have with school.