

Video Transcript: Community College VS. 4 Year College / University

[Music]

What's up everybody!

Welcome back to college for the people the channel on YouTube dedicated to giving you realistic informative practical advice to help get you to wherever it is that you want to go

My name is Miss Astrid, I am a professional college counselor and I'm here today back with another video of a topic that I think is super interesting and important to talk about which is this:

What are the main differences between community college and a four-year college or university?

Let's go the first difference that I want to talk about between a community college and a four-year school is that community colleges are what are called open enrollment or open admission schools.

This means that the only thing that you need to get into a community college is a high school diploma or a GED and if you're trying to take classes for fun and not take classes for credit which we'll talk about later then a lot of community colleges don't even need you to have that.

If you're going there for the reason of transferring to a four-year school later on or you're going there to finish a certification program or an associate's degree or potentially even some trade programs, then the only thing they want from you is:

To fill out a free application online and either send them your ged or your high school diploma that's it.

Open admissions mean that they're not looking for a minimum gpa they don't need you to have scored a certain amount on your act or sat.

Although you are not required to send in test scores necessarily just know that you absolutely can and should send in test scores if you did well.

So if you scored well on your act or sat or any other standardized exam absolutely send in those scores, so that they see what score you got and depending on that will place you in the correct level of English and math and any other relevant classes you might have to take.

Now don't get me wrong there are some four-year schools that are also

open admissions and open enrollment but there's not that many and it's not as common.

Most four-year schools will say they want you to have a minimum gpa or minimum test scores.

Minimum requirements that they want you to have in order to get in.

So, if your grades were not that hot in high school or you didn't test as high, then community colleges are a great way to kind of reset.

Start over and boom get it in college but they're also a great option for people who did do really well in high school so we will talk about that again a little later.

The second difference between community colleges and a four-year school is the cost now there are certain four-year colleges and universities that are affordable don't get me wrong but almost always you will find that your local community college or any community college really around the country is going to be more affordable and is going to be cheaper than attending a four-year school.

Why? because their community colleges they're there for the community, they are there so that people no matter what age or what they want to accomplish, what they want to study and do are able to take advantage of that system and take classes there.

Another reason why I love community colleges you guys.

I really love the community college system, I'm going to make a whole other video about why you should consider going to a community college no matter how amazing of a student or not so great of a student you were.

But back to the second point the cost: if you are looking for an affordable option community college is the way to go.

Now, if you want a four-year degree, okay you can either choose to do all your four years. at a four-year school all together in one place or what you can do is attend community college for the first two years.

Take your general education requirements and then transfer into your last two years at the four-year college.

The advantage of going to a community college first, is that you're going to save a lot of money by going there for your first two years.

Community colleges are affordable you can still use financial aid at your community college you can still use scholarships at your community college.

So, it's a really smart way to save money up front or in general for those who either are not in the best financial situation or for those that are but are just smart and don't want to maybe spend it all outright in all of your four years.

Okay so cost is a big, big difference between the two.

The last difference that I really want to cover is what degrees and programs you can get out of going to a community college or going to a four-year school.

The highest degrees that community college usually offer is associate's degrees these are two-year degrees.

Now, a four-year school instead, you will be able to get a bachelor's degree and if you want to keep going you can end up getting you know a master's or a phd a law Degree, a doctorate degree.

So, it depends what you want to do but the main difference, I guess to just keep things simple.

Four-year schools will offer you bachelor's degrees, whereas the community colleges will offer you associate's degrees which are two-year degrees.

What are the pros and cons how do they differ associates of arts degrees are obviously shorter.

They're half the time then a bachelor's degree and for the most part it really depends on what you want to do.

Now there are a lot of industries and a lot of jobs that now especially want students to get bachelor's degrees.

But there are a lot of jobs and industries where an associate's degree is more than enough.

How do you find out what you need for what you eventually want to do?

Like I said in the video before which I will link and was covering how to choose a major you want to work backwards, look up current open positions in the job that you are interested in doing in the future on indeed on LinkedIn, on google for example if you want to become an accountant look up open positions for accountants in big companies or whatever it is.

Look up underneath the job posting what degrees or certificates they want you to have in order to be able to apply and do that job.

If they require minimum a bachelor's degree then you're going to probably want to go for a four-year degree.

If they only require an associate's degree then maybe going to community college and just doing two years is perfectly fine and more than enough for you.

The beautiful thing about community colleges is that if you do the first two years there and you want to keep going you have the option of transferring for it to a four-year school and completing the last two years there.

In order to get your bachelor's degrees and this is what we call a two plus two, meaning you do your first two years of general classes at the community college. and then you transfer to the four-year school, and you do your specific major specific and more specialized courses.

The other great thing about community colleges is that you don't necessarily need to go there just to get an associate's degree.

They offer a lot of different certificates licensing program, trade programs they offer a lot of really like diverse and interesting classes.

So, whether you're going there just for fun or you're actually going there to complete a program look at what options are available because community colleges have a ton of different subjects that you can study and a ton of different options as far as different careers that they might help you get into.

For example, if anyone is interested in becoming an EMT or a firefighter that's usually something that's done at the community college level, and they get you in they get you out and they get you working which is awesome.

Another great thing about community college system that's different from a four-year school is that you can take classes at the community college system for no credit.

What does this mean?

When you first apply to a community college, they will usually ask you on your application if you're interested in taking classes for credit or not for credit.

The difference is that if you want to go to the community college in order to either transfer to a four-year school or complete some type of program whatever that is , then you're going to want to take classes for credit because that means that they're going to count those credits towards you completing that program.

Now, if you want to just go for fun which a lot of people do to, learn a new skill or they're interested in something but you don't necessarily want to go to complete a program or to transfer, right? you're just doing and wanting to take classes for fun.

Then, you can take classes for no credit which means that you're not going to be receiving credit for those classes and it's pretty much that just doing it for fun.

Whereas a four-year school any class that you register for the most part is going to be counting towards credits.

In conclusion community colleges are an amazing way to learn save money, get in and really figure out what it is that you want to study.

For students who are not really sure what it is that they want to get into, I think that starting at a community college is an amazing idea because you have the ability to take a bunch of different classes and a bunch of different topics.

And save money while doing it instead of potentially getting into a four-year School but still not really being sure what you want to do .

I hate to use this word but kind of wasting money and time and energy taking classes for a higher price that you might not have necessarily needed in the first place.

So, community college system I love it.

I love it, I personally went through the community college system i went to a community college after high school.

I stayed there for two and a half years, I transferred to a four-year school and I loved my experience.

I'm going to do a whole other video only specifically about community colleges and why i think they're amazing.

I will never stop talking and promoting and encouraging students to check out the community college system because it's smart and we need to stop these stereotypes about community colleges being for losers or students that are not good.

In summary, number one they're open enrollment you can get in and get in easily.

Number two they are cheaper and number three, they offer shorter and completely different types of programs than what four-year schools will offer.

So, it really just depends on what you want to do.

If you have any questions at all about community colleges or community colleges versus four-year schools drop a comment below.

Like share and subscribe and until next time this is college to the people take care of yourself and others