

## An Alternative to University Education

### 一般大學教育的替代方案

A high school diploma is not the end of many people education these days. High school students who want to continue their education generally choose one of two routes after graduation. Some students opt to attend a community college and then transfer to a university, while others go directly to a university. Making this difficult choice requires a great deal of careful thought. However, if the choice is based on three specific factors, namely, cost, location, and quality of education, students will quickly see the advantages that attending a community college offers.

近期來，教育不在終止於高中畢業證書。想繼續升學的高中學生在畢業後通常會選擇這這兩條路的其中一種。一些學生選擇去社區大學然後再轉到一般大學讀書，而另一些學生則直接去上一般大學。在做這個困難的決定需要好好深思熟慮，然而當決定是基於這三個因素，也就是支出費用、地點和教育品質時，學生會馬上注意到上社區大學能有的優勢。

Attending a community college is much cheaper than attending a university. For example, tuition at a local community college might cost \$ 3,000 per year, especially for residents of the area. The same classes taken at nearby university could cost over \$ 25,000. In addition, a university would charge more parking, photocopying at the library, cafeteria food, and campus health clinic services. No matter how the total bill is calculated or what is included, it is more expensive to study at a university.

上社區大學比上一般大學便宜許多。舉個例來說，尤其是對那個地區的居民，當地社區大學的學費大概是 3000 美元。同樣在一般大學上課要花費金額可能超過 25000 美元。再來，一般大學可能收取你更多的停車、圖書館列印、自助餐廳及校內保健室服務的費用。不管如何計算或如何加總，在一般大學讀書要支付的帳單是比較昂貴的。

Studying at a community college can be more convenient because of its location. Going to a university often requires recent high school graduates to live far from home, and many of them reluctant to do so. These students are only seventeen or eighteen years old and may have very little experience with being away from home. It is often difficult for these young people to suddenly find themselves far away from their families. In addition, very few parents are prepared to send their teenagers to distant universities. Because almost every area has a community college, students who opt to a community college first can continue to be near their families for two more years.

讀社區大學可說是比較便利，因為它座落的地點。一般大學所需要的是離家較遠且剛畢業的高中學生，但其中許多學生，都不情願這麼做。這些學生年齡才 17 或 18 歲而且鮮少有離開在外面的經驗，對這些年輕人來說突然離家人這麼遠，通常是難度過的。還有，幾乎沒有家長事先就想好要把他們正是青年時期的小孩送到遙遠的一般大學。因為幾乎每個地方都有社區大學，學生先選讀社區大學可以再和離親人有兩年的時間親近。

Finally, there are educational benefits to attending a community college. University life is very different from community college. A university campus offers a large variety of sports events and social activities, and students can easily become distracted from their studies. Community colleges, which typically have fewer students and extracurricular activities, may be a better environment for serious study. In addition, the library facilities at a community college, though not as large as those at a university, are more sufficient for the kind of work that is required in first- or second-year courses. Class size is also an issue to consider. Introductory courses at universities often have 50, 60, or over 100 students. In such large classes, student-teacher interaction is minimal, and learning can be more difficult for some students. Finally, the teaching at community colleges is often better than the teaching at a university. Professors at community college often have the same credentials as those at universities, but community college professors spend most of their time teaching instead of conducting research, as university professors have to do.

結論，讀社區大學有許多跟教育有關的福利。一般大學和社區大學有很大的不同，一般大學的校園很大可以提供人辦很多體育和社交活動，因此學生容易因此而分心部顧課業。社區大學基本上學生較少，課外活動也少，是嚴謹看待學習的較佳環境。再提一個，雖然社區大學沒有一般大學的圖書館大，但館藏有充足的一年級和二年級所需要用的書。班級大小也是一個要考慮的事情。在一般大學基礎課程時常是 50,60 或超過 100 個學生，在這樣的大班級，學生與老師的互動極少，對學生而言又更難學習了。最後，在社區大學教書通常比在大學教書好。社區大學教授和大學教授有著同樣的資格證書，但是社區大學的教授花較多的時間教學而不是作像大學教授必須去做研究。

The decision to enter a university directly or to attend a community colleges for the first two years after high school can be difficult. Community colleges are not as glamorous as large universities. They are often perceived as second-rate alternatives to more well-known universities. However, based on the three important factors outlined above — cost, location, and quality of education — it is clear that for many students, choosing a community college is the smarter thing to do.

選擇直接進入大學或在高中結束後到社區大學讀兩年會是個難抉擇的事。雖然社區大學沒有像一般大學那麼光鮮亮麗，它們被視作踏入知名大學的次級替代方案，然而，就以上所列出的三種因素 — 支出費用、地點和教育品質，對許多學生來說，選擇社區大學顯然是較聰明的選擇。