

Beyond the College Classroom

e-Digest Archive

3.15.18 to 5.10.18

Timely information and resources about the college experience curated for parents to assist and support their student's success in college and beyond.

[Three vital ways to measure how much a university education is worth](#)

The Conversation

The past several years have seen increased calls for colleges and universities to demonstrate their value to students, families and taxpayers. So how is a would-be student or a tax-paying citizen to decide the value of a given university or degree?

A panel of presidents – from the University of Michigan, University of Oregon and The Ohio State University were asked: If you had to devise just one tool or metric to help the general public assess the value of a particular college or degree, what would it be and why?

Craig's Connection: Thoughtful responses from presidents of three flagship universities that include greater life expectancy, social mobility, and freedom. [See their insightful answers here....](#)

[Why are young adults the loneliest generation?](#)

Washington Post

A [study by the health company Cigna](#) found that young adults 18 to 22 are the loneliest generation of Americans, more disconnected and isolated than even our nation's elderly.

Indeed, the problem is hardly that college students spend all their time alone and on screens. It is that they spend too much of their time with peers working: running meetings, producing plays, organizing conferences or studying. They prioritize activities that achieve goals, not meaningful connection. The study found that 69 percent in this age group felt that the people around them were “not really with them,” and 68 percent felt as if no one knew them well.

Craig's Connection: Perhaps the excessively scheduled and many times parent-managed lives of our children in high school continues into college impacting their personal and relational well-being. [Worth a read....](#)

[Are Helicopter Parents Ruining a Generation?](#)

The Atlantic

This short animated video is narrated by Julie Hythcott Haims, former Dean of Freshmen at Stanford University and author of *How to Raise an Adult*.

Craig's Connection: Worth a look as a simple reminder about our role as parents in raising independent adults. [Watch the 2.5 minute video...](#)

Data USA Tool

[Deloitte, Collective Learning, & Datawheel](#)

In 2014, Deloitte, Datawheel, and the MIT Media Lab embarked on an ambitious journey to understand and visualize the critical issues facing the United States in areas like jobs, skills and education and to use this knowledge to inform decision making among executives, policymakers and citizens.

Craig's Connection: This is yet another tool that mines data from government sources and provides a nice snapshot of a single institution or compares multiple institutions. If you like data, you may enjoy exploring the other data sources on a variety of topics. [Access the tool here...](#)

Guides to 'Being Not-Rich' Are Springing Up at Elite Colleges. Should Administrators Adopt Them?

Chronicle of Higher Education

The [guide to "Being Not-Rich"](#) at the University of Michigan which students launched out of "[this assumption that everyone here is wealthy.](#)" can be seen as the result of two emerging themes at elite colleges: a political climate in which students take matters into their own hands, and a growing population of first-generation and low-income students on college campuses.

Craig's Connection: Students at several other universities are picking up on this idea and publishing their own version of "Being Not-Rich" that contains mildly edited, independent, and insightful content to help less affluent students. When looking at colleges, see if students have published such a resource and take a look at what it offers. Read the [article here...](#)

Civic Engagement and the Value of College

Washington Post

Ultimately, our job in higher education is to ignite a spark within a student that sets off his or her passion. One of the most effective ways we can do that is through civic engagement. Regardless of the subject matter a student pursues, it's up to us to help our students become graduates who will become servant leaders for their communities. This is valuable work, and we must become better at making certain that our society knows about it.

Craig's Connection: This op-ed piece written by the President of Dickinson College speaks to the contributions that colleges must make to the larger community. Meaningful civic engagement is an important component of student life Beyond the College Classroom. [Read the op-ed piece...](#)

[2018 Best and Worst Entry Level Jobs](#)

WalletHub

In search of answers and actionable information for the Class of 2018, WalletHub took stock of the first-timer job market by comparing 109 entry-level positions based on 13 key metrics. Our data includes median starting salary to projected job growth by 2026 to median tenure with an employer. The article includes findings and methodology as well as job-hunting advice.

Craig's Connection: This may be premature for some parents whose children are still in high school and college but the list provides a launchpad for discussing major selection, career identification, and the world of work. It is worth a look to explore immediate opportunities, future growth potential, and job hazards for these positions.

[TeleHELP in Higher Education](#)

University Business

Today's college students face stress everywhere they turn, from friend and roommate tensions to financial strains and fear of becoming a victim of school violence.

Since most higher ed institutions aren't able to hire enough staff to meet their students' mental health needs, some have added teletherapy services that can be delivered through video conferencing, phone or online messaging.

Teletherapy options are often effective in helping students find their way to counseling assistance—which may continue as teletherapy or transition to in-person help.

Craig's Connection: During my student affairs career we contracted with tele-counseling providers that were highly effective in triage services and referrals on nights and weekends when the counseling center was closed.

When visiting colleges or attending summer orientation, check into the availability of tele-counseling services as part of the mental health suite of services offered by the counseling center. [Read the article here...](#)

[This Generation Has A Huge and Growing Student Debt Burden. It's Not Who You Think](#)

Money

A [recent analysis of American debt](#) revealed a startling shift: borrowers between the ages of 45 and 74 now owe more money in education-related debt, on average, than do younger college graduates.

An analysis from the Urban Institute found that, while some borrowers are still paying off their own tuition costs, a bigger culprit appears to be a spike in loans meant to assist a child or grandchild.

Craig's Connection: There are many options to consider for helping a student to pay for college. Taking on debt for your child or grandchild is a highly personal decision.

Before signing that loan agreement get sound advice from a reputable and qualified financial advisor who is also knowledgeable about financing a college education. [Read the article here...](#)

[100 Top Colleges Vow to Enroll More Low-Income Students](#)

NPR

College access and affordability is a common topic in higher education — because college is the one place that can really be a catapult when it comes to moving up the economic ladder. Low-income students [make up just 3 percent](#) of the students that attend America's most selective colleges.

One hundred universities have banded together in the American Talent Initiative to collectively enroll 50,000 low to moderate-income students by 2025.

Craig's Connection: I applaud any effort to broaden access to higher education and for some students and their families this initiative will open the doors of some top colleges.

Access is one thing, but student success and completion is another.

If you plan to explore this option at any of these institutions make sure you investigate the services and programs in place to support and assist the student once they are enrolled. [Read the article here...](#)

[Forget coding. It's the soft skills, stupid. And that's what schools should be teaching.](#)

Washington Post

When LinkedIn [analyzed the skills of its members](#) in 100 metropolitan areas and the skills required for the jobs available in those places, the professional networking site found a shortage of 1.4 million people with communications skills compared with a deficit of 472,000 with software development skills.

In a recent speech, LinkedIn's CEO, Jeff Weiner, urged K-12 and higher education to focus on four core skills: critical reasoning, creative problem solving, collaboration and basic digital fluency.

Soft skills like how people get along with one another, communicate and work in teams are much more in demand these days by employers than any technical skills.

While a college degree may be the strongest signal that someone is ready, it's become increasingly less reliable than it once was, in part because it doesn't indicate that students know the soft skills. The degree mostly indicates they had the discipline to finish a task.

Craig's Connection: Most “soft skills” are developed beyond the college classroom in a myriad of activities, social interactions, and real-life experiences that expose students to diverse perspectives and challenge them in ways that can prepare them for life after college. When looking at colleges be attuned to what opportunities are available for students both inside AND outside of class. [Read Jeff Selingo's article here....](#)

[Transfer students start getting more of the credits they've already earned](#)

Hechinger Report

Community college students are a huge potential market for bachelor's degree-granting institutions struggling for applicants. Eighty-one percent of them say, when they begin school, that they hope to ultimately earn at least a bachelor's degree, [the U.S. Department of Education found](#). But only 13 percent do, [according to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center](#).

Among the reasons is what the Campaign for College Opportunity calls the “transfer maze” that forces community college students to waste time and money earning credits they can't use. [The advocacy group estimates](#) that a California student starting at a community college, who does manage to transfer to a four-year university and get a bachelor's degree, pays \$38,000 more for it than a student who starts as a freshman at the four-year school because they need to retake some courses.

Craig's Connection: Enrolling in a community college with a goal to transfer to a four-year institution to complete a bachelor's degree is an important strategy to consider in the college project. Ideally, select the four-year institution first then reverse engineer course plans and check feasibility and track records of the four-year institution for accepting credit from a community college. Some progressive 2 and 4-year institutional partnerships provide pathways for a seamless transfer experience. Look for those. [Read the article here...](#)

[A Link from Job Market Perceptions to School Work](#)

Usable Knowledge: Harvard Graduate School of Education

We've all heard the refrain expressed by high school students frustrated by trigonometry or centuries-old literature: “*When am I ever going to need this?*”

Families and teachers may be tempted to shrug off these sentiments. But teens' perceptions of how their high school coursework connects to college and career — or doesn't connect — may have more significance for their motivation and achievement than we think.

Across the board, students who were more pessimistic about the job market were less academically engaged. But students were less pessimistic about the job market when their

parents showed strong support for learning and gave good educational advice and when the students had stronger school-based relationships.

Craig's Connection: Being realistic about the world of work and supporting engagement in education is an important role parents play throughout their child's learning journey. The messages you send as a partner with your student matters. [Read the report here...](#)

At What Cost Wi-Fi?

Inside Higher Ed

Gaming consoles, tablets, smart speakers, minifridges that text you when you run out of beer -- these are just some of the internet-connected items students are now bringing with them to their residence halls.

Not every device is for entertainment, however -- phones, tablets, and laptops might (at least sometimes) get used for academic purposes.

With so many Wi-Fi enabled devices, colleges are struggling to keep up with students' expectation that wireless internet should be free, fast and everywhere.

Craig's Connection: Complaints about Wi-Fi connectivity on campus were consistently top concerns expressed by students throughout my career. Part of this is about streaming, gaming, and downloading data for entertainment and the other part is how such activities impact accessibility to the internet for learning. When visiting colleges, it is important to learn from current students how they experience connectivity on campus. Also be aware that wireless is not free and is often paid for by collecting technology fees embedded in the total cost of attendance. [Read the full article here...](#)

Watch out for these scams when figuring out how to pay for college

CNBC

As students commit to a college this spring, they face yet another hurdle: finding the money for four years of tuition payments.

With the cost of colleges and student loan balances climbing, some parents and their children will clamor for any and all help available.

Yet both prospective and current students should heed this warning: That scholarship or seminar could actually be a scam.

"If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is," said Gregory Ashe, senior staff attorney at the Federal Trade Commission's [Bureau of Consumer Protection](#).

Craig's Connection: Don't pay fees to apply for scholarships. Make sure your information and assistance sources are reputable. Connect with financial advisors who are trained and

experienced in financial planning specifically for college. Consult college financial aid officials when you have questions. They want to help and are qualified to do so. [Read the article here...](#)

[It Matters a Lot Who Teaches Introductory Courses. Here's Why.](#)

Chronicle of Higher Education

Introductory courses can open doors for students, helping them not only discover a love for a subject area that can blossom into their major but also feel more connected to their campus.

But on many campuses, teaching introductory courses typically falls to less-experienced instructors. Sometimes the task is assigned to instructors whose very connection to the college is tenuous. A growing body of evidence suggests that this tension could have negative consequences for students. Two papers presented at the American Educational Research Association's annual meeting support this idea.

Craig's Connection: Who teaches students makes a difference to students on multiple levels. As you visit colleges, ask what type of instructor will be teaching first-year courses: tenured, tenure-track, adjunct, or graduate teaching assistants. The former two are typically full-time and have a good working knowledge and a stronger connection to the institution and should be more equipped to help students in their discipline and beyond the college classroom. [Read the whole article here...](#)

[Why Practical Skills Will Matter More Than Your Degree In The New Economy](#)

Fast Company

“Getting a job at today’s IBM does not always require a college degree,” the company’s CEO, Ginni Rometty, has asserted. “What matters most is relevant skills.” Jeff Weiner, the CEO of LinkedIn, [has been pushing the same message at his company](#). And David Blake, co-founder of the learning platform, Degreed, put it like this: [“It shouldn’t matter how you picked up your skills, just that you did.”](#)

To be clear, no one who is advocating for a skills-centered system is suggesting that learning isn’t essential. In fact, the idea is that even more of us must engage in lifelong learning as automation and other technological advances render our skills obsolete. Having only a high school diploma is [not sufficient to land and hold a job anymore](#).

Craig's Connection: Credentialing by degree will be with us for a while. The challenge for students is to translate their learning into practice by engaging in practical and applied experiences, including internships and part-time employment, AND being able to document, communicate, and demonstrate how their education prepared them for the job they seek. [Read the full article...](#)

[Are Today's Teenagers Smarter and Better Than We Think?](#)

New York Times

Today's teenagers have been raised on cellphones and social media. Should we worry about them or just get out of their way?

Neil Howe, a historian and author of "Millennials Rising," said that unlike earlier generations, today's teens have accepted the structures of society and have learned to work within those boundaries. "They're very good at using rules to make their point, and they're absolutely excellent at negotiating with their parents, and negotiating in a reasonable way about how to bend these rules in a way that will make them more effective and give them more space," he said. "They're working very constructively, arm-in-arm with older people they trust, to make big institutions work better and make them stronger and more effective."

Craig's Connection: This article offers various perspectives on members of Gen Z as they move into emerging adulthood. The jury is still out and researchers have more to learn about this generation and how their lives will play out on the larger stage but a major takeaway is the importance of trust and partnership as ingredients in the student-parent-college relationship.

[Read the article....](#)

[More Guns on Campus are the Last Thing We Need](#)

Campus Security & Life Safety

In light of the recent tragedies on campuses, many government officials and organizations have been calling for increased security on educational campuses. Perhaps one of the most controversial security measures to surface is the idea of arming teachers on campuses.

This interview with a campus security consultant offers insights on alternative methods for securing campuses.

Craig's Connection: Although the interview focuses on K-12 campuses, the concepts are transferable to college campuses. When you are on college tours be aware of surveillance technology, perimeter and access security, the presence of law enforcement officers, and availability of active shooter training for students and staff, just to name a few. [Read the full interview...](#)

[Kaplan Test Prep Survey Finds Colleges And Applicants Agree: Social Media is Fair Game in the Admissions Process](#)

Kaplan

More than two-thirds of colleges (68 percent) say that it's "fair game" for them to visit applicants' social media profiles like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to help them decide who gets in — despite the fact that less than a third actually engage in the practice, according to Kaplan Test Prep's annual survey of admissions officers.

Notably, students agree: a separate Kaplan survey of over 900 high school students finds that 70 percent consider social media profiles “fair game” for admissions officers evaluating applicants — an increase from 58 percent in 2014.

Craig’s Connection: Although grades, test scores, and essays are the primary factors in college admissions, it is important to consider the potential impact of a student’s social media footprint during the college search process and after acceptance. Completing a social media audit is advised. [Read the article here...](#)

From College to Life: Relevance and the Value of Higher Education

Strada Education Network & Gallup

The more relevant that people find their courses to be in their work and daily lives, the greater their belief that they received a high-quality education and that it was worth the cost.

Importantly, relevance scores have an impact beyond purely educational outcomes — they are related to an individual’s overall sense of well-being.

Another lens for examining the “relevance of relevance” is comparing the predictive power of relevant coursework and skills to other data points widely included in college rankings. Once again, through a multiple regression analysis, the data demonstrate that relevance scores are significantly more powerful in predicting how consumers rate the quality and cost value of their higher education.

Relevance is three times more powerful in predicting value and twice as powerful in predicting quality when compared with the public data widely used to create rankings of colleges and universities. Relevance scores are more powerful than average SAT/ACT math scores, student loan default rates, average cost of attendance, a measure of alumni income earnings and graduation rates. To access the full report, [download here...](#)

Record Numbers of College Students Are Seeking Treatment for Depression and Anxiety-But Schools Can’t Keep Up

Time

Between 2009 and 2015, the number of students visiting counseling centers increased by about 30% on average, while enrollment grew by less than 6%, the Center for Collegiate Mental Health found in a [2015 report](#). Students seeking help are increasingly likely to have attempted suicide or engaged in self-harm, the Center found. In spring 2017, nearly 40% of college students said they had felt so depressed in the prior year that it was difficult for them to function, and 61% of students said they had “felt overwhelming anxiety” in the same time period, according to the [National College Health Assessment](#) conducted annually by the American College Health Association.

But most counseling centers are working with limited resources. The average university has one professional counselor for every 1,737 students — fewer than the minimum of one

therapist for every 1,000 to 1,500 students [recommended by the International Association of Counseling Services.](#)

The Center for Collegiate Mental Health reports that in 2016 on average, universities have increased resources devoted to rapid-access services — including walk-in appointments and crisis treatment for students demonstrating signs of distress — since 2010 in response to rising demand from students. But long-term treatment services, including recurring appointments and specialized counseling, decreased on average during that time period. [Read the full article...](#)

[Universities, students should consider biological rhythms during class scheduling, study finds](#)

Northeastern Illinois University

Colleges and universities should consider the circadian rhythms of their students when they schedule classes, and those students should consider their own cycles of activity when they register for classes.

Researchers found that a majority of students experience a misalignment between their natural internal rhythms and their school environment, known as social jet lag (SJL) which is correlated to poorer academic performance. Social jetlag has been shown to have other negative effects on individuals, including higher rates of obesity, and increased levels of smoking and drinking.

In an academic setting, that could be a student whose internal timing is that of a night owl, but who has to wake up early twice a week for an 8 a.m. class.

Students need to be cognizant of how they partition their time. It's really important for students to think about the timing of their activities to try to optimize their educational efforts.

Their research indicates that if a student can structure a consistent schedule in which class days resemble non-class days, they are more likely to achieve academic success. [Read more....](#)

[The World's Changing Fast. Here's How Higher Ed Can Keep Up](#) Daily Beast

Professional degrees that lack the depth and liberal arts focus are merely vocational. All college students need to be exposed to large doses of the arts and sciences. It is here that they will better understand the world they will inherit, where it came from and hone the skills necessary to become life-long learners. The vocational skills they learn now will be quickly outmoded, if not outsourced, so if they do not have the wherewithal to continually learn and growth they will flounder.

So a new group of students are making final choices about what college to attend, and what major to choose, let's make sure we share that message with them. They need to know that

technical skills—vocational skills—will be automated and outsourced. Our disciplines and colleges of arts and sciences offer lasting value and the tools students will need, in college and afterward. [Read the full op-ed piece....](#)

[You're not addicted to your smart phone-You just really like people](#)

Ozy

The seductive infinity scroll of smartphones has families across America and around the world gathering in their living rooms — not to converse or even to watch TV together, but instead to stare down at their smartphones' glowing screens and allow themselves to be sucked into the digital abyss.

At a glance, the [addiction](#) that people have to their mobile technology seems antisocial. How could turning away from those in your same physical space in favor of a digital world be anything else? But one researcher, Samuel Veissière, an assistant professor in the Culture, Mind and Brain Program at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, is making the opposite claim:

Veissière's analysis of existing research on the dysfunctional use of mobile technology through an evolutionary lens was published in the journal *Frontiers in Psychology* in February. It recognizes that the conventional wisdom — people are addicted to smartphones — does not explain why people are so drawn to that platform.

“If there is addiction to smartphones, it is first and foremost a behavioral addiction rather than an addiction to the devices themselves,” Veissière says. “It is rooted in human evolution and, in particular, in the need to connect with others, to compare ourselves to others, to compete with others and to learn from others.” [Read the full article here...](#)

[Punishing Women for Being Smart](#)

Inside Higher Ed

Study hard, earn good grades and career success will follow. Actually, a new study finds that this common advice given to college students isn't true.

The grades of new college graduates who are men don't appear to matter much in their job searches, according to a new study. And female graduates may be punished for high levels of academic achievement.

The study comes at a time of growing evidence that female students are outperforming their male counterparts academically in college (after also having done so in high school).

[Read more....](#)

[A Third Revolution for Education?](#)

The Atlantic

The world of work is undergoing a massive shift. Not since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries and the Information Age that followed in the last century has the scale of disruption taking place in the workforce been so evident. An oft-cited [2013 study](#) from the University of Oxford predicted that nearly half of American jobs—including real-estate brokers, insurance underwriters, and loan officers—were at risk of being taken over by computers within the next two decades. Just last fall, the McKinsey Global Institute released [a report](#) that estimated a third of American workers may have to change jobs by 2030 because of artificial intelligence.

“While we don’t know what skills will be required for the human-centric jobs of the future [such as health care, management consultants, and financial planners],” said Alssid, who has spent more than two decades in the workforce-development field, “we do know that these jobs will require a highly adaptable workforce that can think critically, creatively, and work collaboratively to find solutions to rapidly developing, complex problems.”

Such skills, often referred to as “soft skills,” are typically seen in liberal-arts graduates, but those individuals often lack the technical skills employers want. Alssid said a hybrid of liberal-arts and technical education is what is most needed in training programs to allow workers to better navigate the ambiguity of the future job market.

[Read the full article...](#)

[How to help young people \(and adults\) unplug and engage](#)

Chronicle of Higher Education

Manoush Zomorodi, an author and podcast host, and JP Connolly, a science teacher and tech director, discuss how digital devices can distract students and affect their mental and physical health — and what we can do about it. This segment is part of a special series of video highlights from SXSWedu, produced by *The Chronicle*.

[Take a look at the video....](#)

[A Low Bar for Bar Passage](#)

Inside Higher Ed

Is your student pre-law and thinking about law schools?

If so, it may be helpful to check out this list of law schools and their bar passage rates as reported by the American Bar Association.

Nearly nine out of 10 law school graduates who sat for the bar exam within two years of graduating passed it but more than 10 percent of law schools had at least a quarter of their students fail the exam, and more than one in six schools had rates below 80 percent, the ABA data show. [Check out the data....](#)

High School Grade Inflation: Real But Maybe Not A Worry Inside Higher Ed

John Barnhill told a joke that was much appreciated by admissions leaders gathered at the annual meeting of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers. High school grade inflation, he noted, can make admissions leaders look good. Each year, as the high school grade point average of admitted applicants gets higher and higher, he said, you can boast about how you are attracting brighter and brighter applicants. No need to mention grade inflation.

But Barnhill, assistant vice president for enrollment management at Florida State University, is clearly too honest to run with that. He gave a presentation that showed that high school grade inflation appears to be very much a factor in the rising GPAs of his university's applicants, and everyone else's. But while some in admissions bemoan the trend, saying it makes it difficult to trust high school grades, Barnhill isn't that worried.

Barnhill said the trend in grade inflation reinforces his view that "more is better" when it comes to information available to assess applicants. He urges his colleagues to pay more attention to junior-year grades than the entire GPA and to the trends in grades. He also urges more attention to grades by subject area, noting that mathematics grades are typically lower than those for other subjects, and said he doesn't want to punish those taking rigorous mathematics.

Barnhill found that high school grades are the best way to predict college success. Grade inflation or not. [Read more...](#)

A New Tool Breaks Down Earnings Potential for Different Majors. Here's What You Need to Know Chronicle of Higher Education

A data set unveiled on March 27 lets students at Texas colleges compare majors to get an idea of what they might earn one, five, or 10 years after graduation, no matter where they live and work. They can also see how much they're likely to owe, how many years it typically takes to earn a degree, and what percentage of students in that field pursue graduate degrees.

Tracking earnings nationwide is a big deal because, since 2008, the federal government has been banned from collecting and reporting such student-level information, mainly because of privacy concerns.

The University of Texas was able to sidestep that problem by teaming up with the Census Bureau and its "super secure" computer, which strips identifying information and then stores the anonymized data.

Although this tool was developed by UT, there is good information that can be accessed no matter where you live. [Here is the link to the Seek UT tool.....](#)

What's Wrong with Required Internships? Plenty.

Chronicle of Higher Education

Given that [65 percent](#) of employers want applicants with industry-specific work experience, and millions of students are struggling to pay for [basic needs](#) and the rising price of tuition, anything that would increase a college student's job prospects is a good thing, right?

Well, no. Matthew Hora, a researcher who studies college-workplace transitions, believes that in many colleges, the landscape of internships is best characterized as ambiguous, unregulated, potentially exploitative, and — for many students — inaccessible.

Running a high-quality internship program takes a number of experienced employees who can advise students, find appropriate placements, coordinate with employers, and troubleshoot problems.

For cash-strapped colleges, many of which may not have adequately resourced career centers, it is fantasy to be able to design a mandatory internship program for all students. [Read more...](#)

Liberal arts degree delivers liberal earnings and satisfaction

Seattle Times

Our country needs both STEM majors and liberal arts majors. And as leaders at Microsoft, Google and other tech companies have plainly stated, we also need liberal arts majors who study STEM and STEM majors who study the humanities, arts, and social sciences.

The current flight from the liberal arts is hurting American competitiveness and limiting our students' career prospects. It is time for all of us, not just baristas, to wake up and smell the coffee.

[Read more...](#)

The Misguided Drive to Measure “Learning Outcomes”

New York Times

The value of universities to a capitalist society depends on their ability to resist capitalism, to carve out space for intellectual endeavors that don't have obvious metrics or market value.

Consider that holy grail of learning outcomes, critical thinking — what the philosopher John Dewey called the ability “to maintain the state of doubt and to carry on systematic and protracted inquiry.” Teaching it is not a cheap or efficient process. It does not come from trying to educate

the most students at the lowest possible cost or from emphasizing short, quantifiable, standardized assignments at the expense of meandering, creative and difficult investigation.

Producing thoughtful, talented graduates is not a matter of focusing on market-ready skills. It's about giving students an opportunity that most of them will never have again in their lives: the chance for serious exploration of complicated intellectual problems, the gift of time in an institution where curiosity and discovery are the source of meaning.

That's how we produce the critical thinkers American employers want to hire. And there's just no app for that. [Read the full essay...](#)

We're Teaching Grit the Wrong Way Chronicle of Higher Education

Let's face it, for most students, academic work isn't intrinsically enjoyable. Even for the highly motivated ones, studying certain subjects or going to certain classes can feel like pulling teeth, especially if it stands in the way of more pleasurable options. The way people usually solve such dilemmas — accepting sacrifices in the present in order to reach future goals — is with self-control.

But the strategies that [educators are recommending](#) to build that self-control — a reliance on willpower and executive function to suppress emotions and desires for immediate pleasures — are precisely the wrong ones. Besides having a poor long-term success rate in general, the effectiveness of willpower drops precipitously when people are feeling tired, anxious, or stressed. And, unfortunately, that is exactly how many of today's students often find themselves.

Educators, therefore, should focus emotional learning curricula not solely on how to suppress troubling or distracting feelings but also on how to encourage useful ones. We need to teach students how to use their emotions as tools to achieve their goals.

Focusing on feelings like gratitude, compassion, and pride offer something of a double shot when it comes to fostering success. They ease the way to perseverance toward long-term goals, and they simultaneously make people act in ways that strengthen social relationships — something that benefits the health of body and mind and, indirectly, raises educational attainment itself. [Read more](#)

Random roommates only Inside Higher Ed

Duke University has removed from students what has become one of the most significant aspects of matriculation at many colleges: picking a first-year roommate.

Beginning with the Class of 2022, the roommate-selection process will be entirely governed by the university, with assignments largely made at random -- a shift, officials said, meant to stem

the recent movement of students self-selecting peers with similar perspectives and backgrounds to their own, fueled by social media connections made before arriving on campus.

While many students and higher education professionals applaud the Duke decision, others fear that forcing two people of particularly dissonant backgrounds -- a gay student or a student of color paired with one who holds bigoted views, for instance -- could lead to fear, but not much meaningful interaction.

[Read more....](#)

What do we know about the impact of internships on student outcomes?

Center for Research on College-Workforce Transitions

While workplace learning has many benefits, some of which are well documented, this review has demonstrated there is considerable variation in many aspects of the quality of internship programming and experiences, all of which require substantial support from faculty, academic career services professionals, and employers in order to ensure that outcomes are maximized.

While internships may confer many benefits to students, the unplanned and unsupported expansion of internship requirements opens universities and employers to a host of legal and ethical issues and is unlikely to expand those benefits to students, and may in cases actually frustrate the academic, developmental and career attainment of students.

Evidence indicates that internships improve students' employability, academic outcomes, and career crystallization, but the evidence is mixed regarding the effects of internships on employability over the long-term and little research exists about the effects of internship experiences on wages.

Evidence also indicates the importance of internship characteristics such as job-site mentoring, autonomy, pay, and meaningful tasks on outcomes such as student satisfaction and job pursuit, yet few studies examine the relationship between these design characteristics and student outcomes

[Read the research brief....](#)

College students want free speech-sort of

Chronicle of Higher Education

Though most college students say they value freedom of expression, [a new Gallup poll shows](#) they are more committed to free speech in the abstract than in reality.

Fifty-six percent of college students say protecting free-speech rights is extremely important to society, according to the poll of 3,014 college students that was conducted in the fall of 2017. They also say they overwhelmingly favor an open learning environment that allows all types of speech on campus over one that imposes limits on words that might be considered offensive.

The survey, sponsored by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, reveals an inner tension surrounding college students' values when it comes to the First Amendment, said Sam Gill, an executive at the foundation. Students desire both free expression and the promotion of a diverse society. [Read more...](#)

We Need To Tell Our Students That “It’s Better Than It Looks”

Inside Higher Ed

College students need to hear that:

- they are living now in the best possible time to be alive, of all times in history;
- while their personal future is not guaranteed, and that there will be setbacks, as a group today's students will have opportunities greater than any cohort in history;
- the arrow of history runs towards progress and that they have an essential role to play in extending the benefits of progress to the world.

[Read more...](#)

Interprofessional Education and the Liberal Arts

Academy for Academic Leadership

One of the benefits of recent interest in interprofessional education (IPE) is an expanded definition of a successful health care practitioner, adding to the traditional characteristics of technical and diagnostic skill and scientific knowledge the abilities to communicate and collaborate with members of health professions different from one's own in order to improve the health outcomes of patients.

Many of the competencies we expect from future practitioners have traditionally been nurtured through the liberal arts. Reframing IPE to be more inclusive by integrating the liberal arts in professional education can help healthcare graduates overcome the limits of specialized training, which results too often in knowledge without understanding, skills without character, individual achievement without community engagement, and career success without personal well-being. The liberal arts provide a foundation that underlies all professions (and careers in general), one built from critical thinking abilities, communication skills, intellectual curiosity, and a love of learning. [Read more...](#)

How Late is Too Late?

EAB Student Success Collaborative

The sample for this study was drawn from a cross section of ten public and private colleges and universities that provided data on over 78,000 students who had completed at least 60 credits (college juniors). The study explored the impact of changing majors on the time it takes to complete a degree.

The findings of the study challenged three widely held perceptions that changing a major hurts the likelihood of graduation, increases the time and cost to earn a degree, and students who settle on a major early are better off.

What the study found:

- Students can switch majors through the senior year with no impact on the graduation rate;
- The median time to degree holds steady for students who change majors through the first semester of the junior year;
- Students who make their first (and only) decision in their first term graduate at lower rates than their peers.

The big takeaway from this research is that students appear to have far more flexibility to change their majors without hurting graduation outcomes. Changing majors can extend time to complete a degree if the changes occur in the junior year or later and declaring a major in the first term and never changing actually decreases the odds for graduation.

To access the full report, go to the [EAB website to download](#).

[Pediatricians call for universal depression screening for teens](#)

Minnesota Public Radio

Only about 50 percent of adolescents with depression [get diagnosed](#) before reaching adulthood. And as many as 2 in 3 depressed teens don't get the care that could help them.

To address this divide, the American Academy of Pediatrics has issued [updated guidelines](#) that call for universal screening for depression.

The Academy is endorsing is that everyone, 12 and up, be screened ... at least once a year. The screening could be done during a well-visit, a sports' physical or during another office visit. [See full article...](#)

Here is a list of [ten things parents can do to prevent suicide](#) that has been developed by the American Academy of Pediatricians.

[Rich parents are serving as 'college concierges' for their kids — and it's fueling inequality](#)

MarketWatch

In the popular imagination, college offers an opportunity for young people to strike out on their own, away from the watchful eye of parents with the safety net of an educational institution.

But a new study suggests that for some affluent students, college is an experience still managed largely by their parents — and that may be fueling inequality.

The research isn't definitive, but [it's backed up](#) by previous studies on the issue. [It's based on interviews](#) with only 41 families of young women who lived on the same floor in a dorm at a

major public university in the Midwest. But it helps paint a picture of the different resources available to students as they navigate college life. The study also indicates that the variation in resources affects students' life post-college. [Read more....](#)

[The Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus](#)

The Campaign to Keep Guns off Campus works with colleges and universities across the country to oppose legislative policies that would force loaded, concealed guns on campuses. Since 2008, The Campaign to Keep Guns off Campus has helped stop campus carry legislation in 18 states, and are the only national organization of its kind tasked to protect higher educational institutions and the communities they serve. [Here is a link to the list of college and university presidents that have signed on to the campaign.](#)

For current information about laws governing guns on campus in your state check the [clickable U.S. map at this site.](#)

[Check out the campaign website...](#)

[Yes, college coaches do evaluate parents.](#)

USA Today

If the term “helicopter parent” tells us anything, it’s that parents are involved in the college decision-making process now more than ever—and coaches are taking notice.

“Coaches want to evaluate both the student-athlete and their parents,” says JC Field, a former Division I baseball coach. “We want to know their strengths because a lot of the time we can assume their student-athlete has similar strengths.”

But here’s the dilemma: Parents don’t always know when they’re being evaluated by college coaches and often don’t realize how they can positively impact their child’s recruiting.

Included in this article are links to various resources from the NCAA and the Positive Coach Alliance that parents of student athletes can access. [Read more...](#)

