

Educational Experience

When students are asked why they are in college, most often they respond with a variation of “To get a good job.” While getting a job is certainly an important part of attaining a college degree, it is just as important to reflect on your college experience more broadly. In this section you will be asked to consider other reasons you are attending college as well as anticipate strategies you will use to be successful. Thinking about your goals as a college student at the beginning of your academic career will help you plan for success.

PART I: Why College?

For most students, college is a time of both academic and personal growth. Many find themselves either on their own for the first time or at least with new responsibilities. The time you spend at college should be an enriching time in your life. Hopefully you will have the opportunity to take advantage of all the experiences that are available to you during your college years.

Below, list some of the reasons it is important for you to attend college. Think about both professional and personal reasons.

Why College?
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

Discuss your answers with your peers or as a whole group. What does your list tell about you as a student? Why are these reasons important to you? Do your peers have similar answers?

PART II: Potential Obstacles

Now that you have listed and discussed some of the reasons you decided to attend college, the next two sections ask you to think about obstacles you may encounter as a college student as well as what resources you have that you can take advantage of. You may have very good intentions as a college student, but unless you anticipate difficulties you may encounter, you will lack the preparation to deal with them effectively. Below list potential factors that could create challenges for you as a college student. In other words, make a list of things that might impede your progress toward attaining your education goals. Then discuss how you might overcome those obstacles. And remember, some things might be obstacles in some ways but advantages in other ways (such as family).

Obstacles	Plan to Overcome
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	

In small groups first then as a whole group, discuss a few of the identified obstacles and plans to overcome them. What unseen obstacles might still come up? What ways can you plan to overcome obstacles whether you have planned for them or not.

Part III: Resources

Just as you might experience challenges to your college success, you also need to be aware of and understand what resources are available to you. Again, some of the things that may be obstacles may also be something you can take advantage of. While you may have many personal resources, it is also important to understand the resources you have on campus. For example, faculty are a resource. If you are confused about an assignment, you can contact faculty via email or stop by their office hours. If you find that you need extra help on an assignment, there are multiple tutoring centers on campus with tutors ready to assist you. Below list both personal things you can take advantage of to help you succeed in college as well as campus resources you are aware of.

Resource List	When might you need this resource? How do you plan to take advantage of it?

As a group, discuss the resources available to you-both personal and academic. How will you take advantage of these resources?