

Is community college for you?

- You know where you want to be but need some training to get there
- You want to explore different choices before settling on a path
- You need to cut the cost of a four-year college degree
- You want to sharpen your study skills before enrolling at a university
- You want small classes and personal attention during your first college years
- You want to continue to work at your job while going to college
- You want to live at home

If you checked even one box on the quiz, you may want to check out a community college. You won't be alone — 45 percent of all first-year college students start at a community college.

These institutions offer two kinds of education:

1. If your goal is a four-year degree, you can earn a two-year (associate) degree at a community college, then transfer to a four-year college as a junior.
2. You can earn an occupational degree or certificate in two years or less, then start working immediately in a high-demand field.

Many community college students have jobs and family responsibilities. Scheduling classes may be a big challenge. So community colleges tend to offer courses during the day, in the evening and on weekends. They have pioneered new teaching methods, too. Some offer courses online (distance learning), combine Internet and classroom learning, give interactive TV courses, condense semester courses into shorter time frames and more.

Interested? You don't have to wait. Consider taking a community college course during high school. You will learn what college work is like, and rack up some college credits, too.

Source: *The College Board*

Handout 9C