

## Last Senior Debate Topic:

# Is college worth going to or not?

CHEYENNE MCGILLIVRAY

Senior Reporter

What is life after high school? Many people believe college is the route to go after high school or for some into the workforce. But is college really worth going to after high school? College can offer job satisfaction, health and transition to adulthood.

College can offer job satisfaction and help you make a better wage than not having a college degree. College graduates have flexibility in the job market and can generally qualify for higher paying jobs. Graduates can also choose a job they are passionate about, so their job satisfaction is higher. Having job satisfaction can give you paid time off, job security, higher wages, strong medical insurance and retirement contributions, making the job worth it. Job qualifications can make someone with a degree more eligible for raises or promotions. Studies have shown that the more education you have, the more likely you are to be employed. High school dropouts experience a 7.7% rate of unemployment, compared to the 4.8% of the general population.

Even though college can be fun, stress associated with college can cause health problems like self-esteem, headaches, weight gain, insomnia, depression and high blood pressure. However in the long run, college graduates live longer than the average age. The Center for Disease Control research discovered college graduates live around nine years longer than those without a high school diploma and four years longer than high school graduates. Factors like better medical insurance and health awareness play a huge role in longevity.

Though college can create stress, it is viewed as a transition to adulthood. Transitioning to adulthood means completing school, moving out of parent's house, earning financial independence, marrying and having children. Attending college does not negatively affect someone's transition into adulthood. In fact, moving onto college represents a significant step towards adulthood. Whether the student lives at home or goes away to attend college, the move represents an emotional separation for both parents and child. College is a great way to transition into adulthood and make the student more independent from the parents.

College is definitely worth it and can have results like transitioning to adulthood, health and job satisfaction. If someone had a passion or desire to improve, then he or she would want to further his or her education to be able to achieve that passion. College can also get a person ready for when he or she goes into a career. College can also open doors in various occupations and help create the job satisfaction that person is looking for.

## Senior Advice

MEGAN STAPEL

Reporter

"If I would have known then what I know now..." might be a reflection on many seniors' minds as they prepare to exit the high school. In some final parting words, seniors leave advice for underclassmen on how to make the most of their remaining high school days.



*Being a senior, my advice to the younger classmen would be to get involved... not only in clubs or extracurricular activities, but with your classmates. Your four years of high school will fly by; making extra memories to carry on with you forever will leave a lasting impression on younger classmen and your teachers. Teachers don't only support and teach you for the four years of high school, they support you in all the great things you'll accomplish after high school. One thing I can't stress enough—don't waste your high school partying, worrying about pointless relationships, or what you're wearing... high school will be some of the greatest and most memorable parts of your life! DON'T FORGET TO TAKE PICTURES OF ALL THE GREAT MEMORIES!*  
-Senior Melissa Conn



*I would say to never lose focus on your goals and to stay on top of all of your work, in order to remain in good standings.*  
-Senior Mya McDonald



*I know you think that it's easy enough to get all of your assignments done right before your next class; however, if you don't learn study skills, you will be unprepared for junior and senior year—even worse—college. It doesn't matter if you're naturally gifted, some things aren't common sense and won't come naturally enough for you to do them halfway like every other class of your life.*  
-Senior August Ricker

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## taking it to the next level

Five senior athletes will take their talents to the next level to continue their athletic careers



ETHAN LEIDIG

Reporter

Choosing a career and college is stressful all by itself, but add the stress of playing a collegiate sport to the mix and the choice becomes more stressful.

With recruiting processes becoming more digital, potential college athletes have to learn how to navigate the complex and competitive waters. Sometimes those waters take athletes to destinations close to home, but other times, athletes travel great distances to find the perfect fit.

Seniors like Jon Hunnacutt and Ashley Babcock are staying close to home to learn and to compete. Babcock will be attending Fort Hays State to compete for their track team, while Hunnacutt will be playing football for the Tigers.

"For recruiting, most of the schools reached out to me, but I did; however, reach out to one. The schools mainly learned about me on social media and through camps. My parents really helped me in this recruiting process, but it was still a tough process. Some of the things that were the most challenging were finding the schools that offered you every-

thing that you wanted and asked for, but it was also really stressful waiting to hear back from the schools and coaches. I ended up choosing Fort Hays State because they offered me reassurance that the other schools couldn't: that I could compete in track and field while studying to be a nurse," Babcock said.

While some students are staying close to home some are traveling to neighboring states just like Treylan Gross who is going to William Jewell college to play football in Liberty, Missouri. Alexi Beach will be attending Northwestern Oklahoma State in Alva, Oklahoma, to play volleyball.

"The coaches mostly contacted me, but I did email a few coaches that I was interested in playing for. I had a profile on a website that had my film and stats from my high school career. I mainly reached out to the schools through emails, texts and calls. My parents helped me in this process, but it was still a really tough deciding where I wanted to go and picking a college that met my requirements athletically and academically. The things that I really liked about this school was that it

is smaller, has a good science department, the coach that I want to play for now coaches here and it was affordable," Beach said.

One student will be traveling outside of neighboring states to continue his education and athletic career: Trey Sides will be traveling to Jacksonville, Florida, to play college basketball for a division one team.

"During the summer I was fortunate enough to get to play on Western Kansas Elite AAU basketball team. In the early summer, I contacted the schools that I wanted to play for, and a lot of them got back to me. The coaches watched a lot of games and kept in touch with me throughout the summer. Playing well had gotten me a lot of publicity and some articles about me helped to get my name out. To get in touch with the schools, I looked up the coaches' emails on the Internet and emailed them saying that I was interested in playing for them. I gave them my ACT score, phone number, AAU coach's phone number and attached my Hudl highlight film from my junior season. It was a very stressful process of being recruited because you want to go play where you are wanted,

and its very difficult to figure out which teams meet your criteria. My AAU coach (Kenny Eddy) was a big reason for helping me get recruited. He sent coaches a lot about our team and helped by getting coaches to come to our games. My parents were also a big help getting me to the tournaments and told me to do what I thought was right. They supported me the whole time. I ended up choosing Jacksonville because I thought that it fit me and my family very well. Financially everything was paid for, which helped out a lot. I also really liked the coaches and the way that they believed in me and showed me on my official visit. The opportunity to play division one basketball was hard to pass up for a kid that always dreamed of playing at the highest level," Sides said.

Whether an athlete is being recruited across the state or across the country, the process is mostly the same.

Recruiting still brings stress whether an athlete is going to a large school or small one. Most importantly athletes will need help from people who care to guide them to make the best decision possible.