

# Rethinking your GAP YEAR



Thinking about reconsidering your college plans? You're not alone. A recent survey by Strada Education shows that nearly two-thirds of young adults have either changed or canceled their plans for higher education as a direct result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. According to the Gap Year Association, as many as 750,000 college-going students planned to take a gap year this fall—a semester (or longer) break from school—usually between high school and college.

Navigating uncharted territories has been challenging. But it doesn't mean you have to put all your plans on hold. In fact, taking classes at [Your Community College] could be a great way to get your career and college plans off the ground in spite of the challenges.

You can still take time to work, volunteer, re-think career plans, or assist your family while working to achieve your educational goals. Taking classes at [Your Community College] should be a part of your gap year plans. Here's why.

## Stay healthy

Minimize exposure risks to you and your household by enrolling online at [Your Community College]. You can learn and study from the safety of your own home. Historically,



community colleges have consistently offered flexible and high-quality online courses. There's been a bit of a learning curve with the shift to majority-online learning, but we have all the tools and resources you need to help you succeed.



## Save money

If your state university has moved its classes all online, you could save tens of thousands of dollars by taking your General Education courses at Your Community College instead. The value of a community college degree or certificate is often overlooked because of the great price point. Tuition at Your Community College is around \$3,500 per year, while the average cost at a state university is upwards of \$35,000. Those are huge

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savings! Why pay more for the same thing? Save now, transfer later, and cut your potential student loan debt in half or more.

## Save time

It may sound tempting, but studies show that many who take a gap year end up either wasting valuable time and getting far behind in their career plans, or don't re-enroll altogether. Over half of students who delay enrollment will not return to earn a bachelor's, according to one recent study by Inside Higher Ed. If you are one of the many students who has had to reconsider your educational goals, you can still take a few General Education courses while you adjust your plans to the changing job market and economy. Taking even one or two classes a semester adds up, and you'll be in better shape for completion than if you hadn't taken any classes at all. Slow and steady wins the race!



If you're interested in learning more about how you can enroll, or rethinking your "gap year," contact our guidance counseling services at (123) 456-7890 or reach out at [counselor@ycc.edu](mailto:counselor@ycc.edu).