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The Value of a College Degree

Many high school students believe that a college education will be their ticket to success in their adult life. However, in recent years, data has shown that this is not always the case. College degrees are lessening in overall value due to an overabundance of degrees, lack of financial benefits, and the rise of viable alternatives.

As college degrees are becoming more common, the value of having a degree is decreasing drastically. Students are graduating from college only to discover that all of the professional jobs that they are qualified for are already taken. This leads the graduates to taking jobs that they could have obtained before ever attending college, which leads to financial issues after graduation.

When graduates leave college, they tend to struggle financially to begin with. Because of their inability to get professional jobs, college graduates end up receiving a lower salary than expected. Regardless of lower salaries for their graduates, colleges seem to be raising tuition prices. Raised tuition rates combined with lower salaries leave graduates struggling to pay off any debt they may have accumulated. However, there are ways to prevent the looming college debt.

With increased technology, college classes are able to be taken out of the classroom. About one third of college students are taking some sort of online class currently (“Online”). Many students use online learning as an alternative to traditional college. These students are still able to earn their degrees while significantly cutting back on the costs of their education. Although these graduates may still face the challenges of not finding professional jobs, they will have notably fewer expenses tied to their degree.

Although college degrees are becoming less prestigious, harder to finance, and earned in newer ways, many students will still continue to attend college in the traditional form. However, with all of the different aspects working against colleges, there may be a resulting decline in enrollment of college students. For colleges to prevent the negative aspects, they will have to provide solutions to lower costs, increase value, and combat online learning.

Works Cited

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