
AAA Education Program : Affordable, Accessible, Accredited

A Universal Associate's Degree

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MOVE BACK HOME?!... KIDS TODAY ARE SO LAZY AND IRRESPONSIBLE! YOUR MOTHER AND I STARTED OUT WITH NOTHING!...



FIVE-FIGURE STUDENT LOAN DEBT

20 AND 30 SOMETHINGS

TRUST ME, I WOULD'VE LOVED STARTING OUT WITH NOTHING!...



Introduction

Many students who attend less affluent schools do not get a good education. Also, these students are less likely to attend university due to the cost. We believe that university should be available to more students for a lower price. While we cannot lower the price of college tuition, it is possible to innovate the current system for high school students. There are multiple ways to do this that will benefit high school students, and make a college education more accessible to them.

Why does an Associate's Degree needs to be low cost and transferable?

According to the Pew Research Center:

- Americans owed more than 1.3 trillion dollars in student loans in 2017
- 53% of students with a Bachelor's degree or higher have outstanding student debt
- Students with an Associate's degree owe about \$10,000

Transferability:

- Each state has their own policy regarding earning university credits in high school, including how transferable the credits are and whether school participation in such programs are mandatory

The Benefits of Earning an Associate's Degree

- According to the Census Bureau, students with an associate's degree earn, on average, \$400,000 more than students with a high school diploma.
- According to the US Department of Labor, the unemployment rate for students with an associate's degree is 1.6% lower than that of a high school graduate.

The Game Plan

- National online course enhancement
- Core Curriculum so nationally recognized
- Education majors who need internships can oversee the progress of these students at the schools
- Funding
 - Program is free to schools, but any student who receives their associate's degree, they would pay a low percentage of income after they graduate from university back to the company
 - Predetermined between program and student
 - Community college impact
 - Plans : Standard and premium
 - More affluent schools can pay for premium:
 - accelerates the time needed for earning credits
 - courses are added to the standard course load
 - premium courses are taught in person by community college professors
 - Part of the money goes to community colleges for their employees working
- Advantageous to universities because more students will be able get their graduate degrees

Why this will help Everyone

- Payment plan makes the company sustainable
- Students will not be overburdened with large amounts of debt
 - The payment plan will not accrue interest like student loans
- Students who chose not to go to college will still have a degree, something would have otherwise not been possible for students who are impoverished, teen parents, or could not otherwise leave their home for secondary education.
- Students who can attend college may seek further education (graduate) than they otherwise would have.

Feasibility and Sustainability

Feasibility:

- The feasibility of the program is compromised by government practices that make the program until to take hold. Education is controlled by state, not federal, government, making this program difficult to implement across the board. Community colleges and universities will likely oppose the program and do what they can to ensure that students do not take part in it, likely by refusing to accept credits.

Sustainability:

- The payment plan is highly sustainable as students will only pay a small percentage of their income.
- They will also only pay for a small set number of years and no interest will be accrued.

Originality and Innovation aspect

- Currently, each state has their own policy regarding earning university credits in high school, including how transferable the credits are and whether school participation in such programs are mandatory
- While there is an existing version it is still innovative
 - This is a comprehensive program to enhance work
 - Low cost with innovative payment plan
 - Nationally recognized credits
 - Allows Education majors to complete an internship

In Conclusion...

Challenges that we faced:

- Finding an original, and feasible idea
 - Many innovations already exist and creating a completely original idea was difficult
 - Funding and logistics were difficult to work out
- Finding information on a global perspective
 - It was difficult to compare US education to other nations because it is so diverse
 - This is why we chose to work in the US
- Possible government issues with implementation of the program

The Future of the Program

- As students begin paying back, we may be able to offer the program at a discounted cost, or for free for severely impoverished areas
- If the program is successful within the United States, we may expand the program internationally.
- We would like to work with universities to ensure that the students' credits are accepted at an institution.
 - Possibly develop a dual degree program where students enter the program to earn their bachelor's and master's degree so that schools are willing to accept their credits.

Sources

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