

# Bachelor's Degree by 18: What Colleges Don't Tell You

## Bottom Line

This practical session focused on how you as parents can help your students maximize high school by incorporating a dual credit method into your homeschool schedule using the curriculum you already own.

This session is about taking it to the next step and challenging/inspiring your student to do something incredible - to earn a bachelor's degree by age eighteen. A shortcut to life or graduate studies, this concept saves thousands of dollars and years of time, launching your student out ahead of the pack.

## Earning a Bachelor's Degree by Age Eighteen

Why it's a good idea:

- Twenty years ago people wondered whether homeschooling would work; now we know it does.
- The first two years of college are just a review of high school.
- We as parents must set the vision; we must inspire our students to excellence.
- You are not just raising your children now. You are raising your grandchildren.

## What's the Big Deal?

Many people ask: What's the big hurry? Why the push? What will my child do with a bachelor's degree by age 18 anyway? Won't that be depriving them of their college years?

On the contrary, this will allow your child to:

- Achieve something extraordinary and build their confidence.
- Maximize their study time.
- Gain mastery in learning.
- Capitalize on opportunities (internships, travel, entrepreneurship).
- Earn an extra 7 years of income = \$140K



**As a first generation homeschool graduate, Woody Robertson has been where most students are now and desires to help them wisely answer some of life's biggest questions concerning their future. A frequent motivational speaker at conferences nationwide, Woody thrives in rallying and organizing teams, families, and students for greater efficiency and impact in our culture today. In 2006, he earned his accredited BSBA in General Management in 18 months and now resides in San Antonio, Texas with his wife Gina: the girl of his dreams!**

Are you  
raising a child  
or are you  
raising your  
child to be an  
adult?

This will be the sign of your success: when your children take ownership of their lives and build off your investment to train their children.

### **Traditional College Statistics**

For the record, here are some eye-opening statistics on the current college scene:

- Literacy among college grads has fallen to 31% (American Library Association)
- College students spend more time playing sports or drinking than studying. (National Center for Education Statistics)
- There is a 93% liberal bias among college faculty. (Santa Clara University)
- College tuition is skyrocketing (+10% increase in 2010). (CollegeBoard)
- Two-thirds of college graduates have student loan debt.
- The average student debt is \$30,000
- Only 31% of college graduates can read a complex book and extrapolate from it.
- Most students learn little to nothing during their first 2 years at college (University of Chicago)
- Only 54% of college freshmen will graduate from college (USAToday)
- 79% of grad's starting salaries are under \$40K (USAToday)
- In 2010, fewer than 20% of college grads had a job at graduation compared to 51% in 2007 (MSNBC)

### **Where Do You See Your Child at Age 25?**

The Big Question

Do you see them with a job, married or a house paid for (no mortgage)?  
If not, the next question you need to ask yourself is: Are you raising a child or are you raising your child to be an adult?

One of the biggest problems the current generation faces is a lack of purpose.

### Current Stats

- More adults (ages eighteen to forty-nine) watch the Cartoon Network than watch CNN.
- The average video gamer was eighteen in 1990; now he's going on thirty.
- The National Academy of Sciences has redefined adolescence as the period extending from the onset of puberty, around twelve, to age thirty.
- Today, the average age for marriage is 28.1 (men) and 25.9 (women). It was 20 in 1950.

As parents, we need to break out of the box and dare to dream for our children so that they can dare to dream for themselves as adults!

Today's Gen Y (Born between 1980–2000) is a far cry from past generations. Here are some of Gen Y's key traits:

- Short-term minded
- Want things to happen fast
- Used to things being given them
- Coddled and idealistic
- Little commitment
- No long-term plan or vision
- Live paycheck to paycheck

Despite this already dismal list, one of the biggest problems the current generation faces is a lack of purpose. The current generation is in a fight against normality and mediocrity. This includes method of education.

The Edison's  
or Einstein's  
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### **Looking Back**

The Founding Fathers

Our Founding Fathers provide excellent proof that earning a college degree by the age of 18 is not unrealistic:

- Alexander Hamilton: graduated at age 18. He became Washington's Chief of Staff and a Lt. Col at age 22.
- Aaron Burr: graduated with his A.B. in theology at Princeton University at age 16. He was in law school 2 years later.
- Light Horse Harry Lee: graduated from Princeton at age 17. He returned home to prepare for war, was promoted quickly at age 19 and was 21 during the retreat from New York.
- Thomas Jefferson: graduated from college at age 16. He was 33 when he wrote the Declaration of Independence.

### **The Education System**

Typical "School" of Thought

Almost all of us have been indoctrinated to think this way:

- 1 Year Preschool
- 1 Year Kindergarten
- 8 Years General Education
- 4 Years High School

This is a total of 14 years! Back in the days of our Founding Fathers, a student went to school for about 8 years and then entered a College or University. There were no high schools as we know them.

The Results of this "School" of Thought

- Conveyor-belt feel.
- Personalization is stifled.
- Emphasis on cramming facts and figures.
- Education prolonged to the point of lost interest.
- The Edison's or Einstein's wouldn't have any chance in our system today.

# Create innovative leaders

## **Current System**

Students are grade segregated and have four extra years of school. This makes the student feel frustrated, exasperated, discouraged, and stuck.

## **Suggested System**

Students wouldn't be grade segregated (get off the conveyor belt). They would combine high school and college. This makes the student feel motivated, serious, encouraged, and free.

## **Three Methods of Education**

### Public Education

- Goal: to create uniformity in preparation for functioning within society
- Teaching what to think

### Professional Education

- Goal: to create specialists through trade programs
- Teaching when to think

### Leadership Education

- Goal: to create innovative leaders
- Teaching how to think

## **Combining High School and College**

### The Options

- Dual Credit
  - Community College
  - Online courses
  - Credit by Exam (CbE)
  - CLEP Program
  - Lower level credit
- General Exams  
Subject Exams
- \$77 per test (plus proctor fee)
  - 3-6 credits each
  - Testing Format  
Multiple choice computer based testing  
1.5 hour test—immediate score  
[www.CollegeBoard.com/CLEP](http://www.CollegeBoard.com/CLEP)

### **The Five General CLEP Exams**

These five exams are core high school level courses that are also worth a total of 30 college credits:

- College Composition
- Humanities
- Social Science and History
- Natural Sciences
- College Mathematics

### **Modular Approach to Studying**

- Focus on one subject at a time
- Study similar subjects in succession (overlap)  
Example #1: Western Civ. (1&2), US History (1&2), Sociology, Psychology, Social Science and History  
Example #2: Micro Economics, Macro Economics and Money and Banking

“I’ve never  
heard of  
anyone  
stumbling on  
something  
sitting down.”

—Charles F. Kettering

### **Suggested Daily Schedule**

- First 2 hours of the day focus on math and English
- Rest of school day target one subject at a time

### **Handling Your High School Transcript**

- Rule of thumb is that a 3 college credit exam would be the equivalent of .5 a high school credit and 6 college credit exam would be the equivalent of 1 high school credit.
- Generally .5–1 H.S. credits are required for each subject per year and states require a total of 2–4 HS credits per subject

### **Deciding on a Major**

#### A Few Tips to Get Started

- Base this decision off of purpose (see following section)  
Don’t think “job” first  
Pursue internships to test areas of interest
- Resource: Peterson’s Guide to Internships
- If your student isn’t certain, keep the undergrad broad/diverse  
Example: BA Communications or BSBA Business

### **The Life Purpose Conversation**

Have your student ask themselves the following questions:

- My God  
Has God spoken to me through His Word?  
How does God reveal himself through His Word?  
How does God confirm His Word to me?
- My People Group  
What people groups have I been exposed to in life?  
What are the greatest needs within each people group?
- My Bent  
Where and when in my childhood have I consistently displayed strong propensities?  
Where can I begin to prove these out in service within my community?

### **Recommended Target Colleges**

- Thomas Edison State College  
www.tesc.edu
- Excelsior State College  
www.excelsior.edu

### **Action Steps for Right Now**

- Develop Accelerated Study Skills  
Speed Reading  
Memory  
Writing
- Begin with 5 General CLEP exams
- Continue with additional exams, courses and portfolios
- After earning 80 or more credits, transfer to a distance learning program

### **Three CollegePlus! Options for Your Student**

#### **CollegePrep**

- Advisement for parents
- Students learn:  
How to land scholarships  
Critical Thinking Skills
- Full Dual Enrollment—Earn 6–24 college credits!

#### **CollegePlus!**

- Save 63–83% on college costs
- Bachelor's degree in 2 years or less
- Fully accredited
- Solid Christian foundation with an emphasis on launching students into success
- Endorsed by Christian Leaders
- Strong distance learning study skills
- Life Purpose Planning ensures firm choice of degree major

- Student is fully self-directed upon enrollment with target college
- Saved several thousand students more than \$62M on college tuition costs!
- 95% retention rate (unheard of in higher education where 77% is cause for celebration)
- The CollegePlus! Learning Network boasts a 99.2% pass rate on exams
- 76% Graduation Rate (national average success rate is 54%)
- 91% exam success rate

### **College of Your Choice**

- You choose the college
- We'll research your options
- Save time (1–2 years)
- Save money (up to \$60k)  
Money savings guarantee

### **More Information**

- Accelerated Distance Learning, Brad Voeller

[www.CollegePlus.org](http://www.CollegePlus.org) • [Info@CollegePlus.org](mailto:Info@CollegePlus.org) • 866.989.5432