

Applying to College

Students who plan to pursue a gap year should still apply to college while a senior. Many, but not all, colleges and universities offer deferred enrollment to the following year. In other words, a student who has been accepted to the college of his or her choice and committed to attending in the year following the gap year may still do so. The college or university puts their matriculation on hold and allows them to attend the fall of the following year. Most colleges recognize the maturation benefits of a gap year for their freshman students.



References

Gap Year Semester

National Outdoor Leadership School The Leader in Wilderness Education

www.nols.edu

Seamester Programs

Global Semester at Sea Study Abroad Programs

www.seamester.com

Gap Year Programs

Choose Your Gap Year Project Today Get Your New 2011 Brochure Now!

i-to-i.com/2011-Brochure

Taking a Year Off?

TeenLife.com lists 100s of gap year programs for high school grads!

www.TeenLife.com/GapYear

Taking a Gap Year before College | Best Colleges Online

An admissions blog at MIT discusses why you may wish to take a *gap year*. The *College Board* talks about what to do when taking time off after high school. ...

www.bestcollegesonline.com/...college/taking-a-gap-year-before-college/

The Benefits of the Gap Year – Answering your questions about the ...

Jun 22, 2010 ... Should your child have a 'gap year' before college? ... According to the *College Board*, three out of five students who enter a public ...

collegeadmissionsanswers.com/2010/06/22/the-benefits-of-the-gap-year/

Lake Forest High School



The Gap Year

The Gap Year

The World English Dictionary defines a gap year as “a year's break taken by a student between leaving school and starting further education”. Simply said, it is time away from formal education.

Why would a student choose to take a gap year?

There are several reasons to consider a gap year. Many students do not feel quite ready to enter the post-high school academic realm and want to explore other life experiences without the pressure of grades upon them.

A gap year can provide more motivation, maturity and focus before entering college. Gap years are not “time off.” They are times for students to set goals and experience different structures than their high school offered and their colleges will afford them.

Type of Gap Year Programs

Work or Internships

Students can work with or without compensation in a career of interest to them. This, like job shadowing in high school, can help students decide if they want to pursue the necessary education to obtain the career after college or it may help them determine to choose another career path.

Study Abroad

Students go abroad to immerse themselves in a foreign culture. By doing so, they also learn independence by flying alone, living on their own and becoming responsible adults within the confines of another country.

Some students do volunteer service work in underprivileged nations such as teaching or helping with the reconstruction of an area.

Some students live with a host family and attend classes at a nearby institution thereby choosing to immerse themselves in the language and culture of their host country.

Gaining acceptance to a college which originally denied the student

A gap year can provide a student the education necessary to attend a college or university that originally did not offer them admission. By taking classes for academic enrichment and reapplying to that college, a student enhances the chances for being admitted. Post graduate or PG schools and community colleges offer such opportunities.

Overall, a gap year can provide many benefits for students not ready to take the traditional steps from high school by going directly to college.

