The End of the University

Dale J. Stephens
Hacking Your Education
Escape Lectures, Save Thousands, and Hustle Your Way to a Brighter Future

Dale J. Stephens
Founder of Uncollege.org
I thought you had to be: genius motivated privileged
I was proven wrong.
UNCOLLEGE
But why do you do this?
“Never let my schooling get in the way of my education”

- Mark Twain
Homeschooling ≠ Unschooling
unschooling
none of these: teachers
   tests
   grades
   curriculum
   bells
summerhill

3 million copies 1960-1973
Do we trust people’s innate capacity to be curious?
Unschooling > Public School
NATIONAL AVERAGE PERCENTILE SCORES

When it comes to test-taking, homeschooled kids consistently out-perform public schools.

- **HOMESCHOOL**
  - Reading: 89
  - Language: 84
  - Math: 84
  - Science: 86
  - Social Studies: 84
  - Combo of Reading, Language, Math: 88
  - Combo of All Subtests: 86

- **PUBLIc SCHOOL**
  - Reading: 50
  - Language: 50
  - Math: 50
  - Science: 50
  - Social Studies: 50
  - Combo of Reading, Language, Math: 50
  - Combo of All Subtests: 50
HOMESCHOOLERS ARE LESS AFFECTED BY EXTERNAL FACTORS

HOUSSEHOLD INCOME:
Their scores are largely unaffected by household income:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Income</th>
<th>100%</th>
<th>75%</th>
<th>50%</th>
<th>25%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$34.9K OR LESS</td>
<td>85</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>$35K-$49.5K</td>
<td>86</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50K-$69.9K</td>
<td>86</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$70K OR MORE</td>
<td>89</td>
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CERTIFICATION:
They did well whether or not their parents were certified teachers:

- Students of CERTIFIED PARENTS: 87th Percentile
- Students of NON-CERTIFIED PARENTS: 88th Percentile

PARENTS’ SPENDING:
They succeeded no matter how much money was spent on their education:

- Parents spent UNDER $600 ON THE STUDENT: 86th Percentile
- Parents spent $600 OR MORE ON THE STUDENT: 89th Percentile
Not only did I learn the subjects, I learned how to learn.

(meta-learning)
But despite all that, I still . . .
Your Hendrix Odyssey: Engaging in Active Learning is the hands-on, experiential approach to learning pioneered at Hendrix. Pierre Urisanga's personal Odyssey began in Musanze, Rwanda.
There were two main problems with college.
1. It cost $45,000 per year. (and even so only 50% graduate and only 50% of those with degrees under 25 are using their degrees)
2. At college there was no meta-learning. We were really excellent sheep.
What about the beer and girls?
I prefer guys and champagne.
Somewhere along the line I told people I was writing a book.
Hacking Your Education

Escape lectures, save thousands, and hustle your way to a brighter future

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The book started a movement. And we started Gap Year.
Why don’t schools teach meta-learning?
“HIGH NEED” FOR APPLIED SKILLS

Percentage of employers reporting that they have a “high need” for training programs in these skills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical thinking/problem solving</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics/social responsibility</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionalism/work ethic</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creativity/innovation</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifelong learning/self-direction</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Let’s help people learn how to learn
What Will I Do On My Gap Year?

- Learn how to learn.
- Find mentors.
- Share a meal with thought-leaders and entrepreneurs.
- Live abroad for three months.
- Fundamentally challenge your assumptions.
- Build a personal website and your personal brand.
- Build a portfolio of academic and professional work.
- Find an internship and work in the real world.
The Four Phases

1. Launch
The Gap Year starts with a ten-week residential program called the Launch. During this time you will live with nine other Fellows and an UnCollege House Manager in a Gap Year House. The houses are currently located in San Francisco, with more locations coming in 2014.

You will participate in sessions, workshops, challenges, roundtables, and discussions, all designed to help you develop meta-learning skills, design the rest of your program, and set yourself up for success beyond the program. You will be introduced to the UnCollege network of mentors and be assisted by our team in creating your own learning plan, planning your Voyage, and securing an Internship.

2. Voyage
The second phase of the Gap Year Program is called the Voyage. You will spend three months living in a country where you haven’t lived and do not speak the language, doing things you’ve never done, and getting outside of your comfort zone. You could spend the time working on an organic farm in Spain, distributing aid in a refugee camp in Jordan, or teaching classical music in China—whatever you think will challenge you and help you grow. The UnCollege team will help you to organize your voyage and give you $2,000 towards your expenses.

3. Internship
After your Voyage, you will spend three months as an intern at a company or organization that matches your learning objectives. It could be a giant tech company like Facebook or Google, a tiny startup in Silicon Valley, or a charity distributing aid in Africa.

The aim is to gain real world work experience that will make you stand out to future employers or investors. Drawing on our network of contacts in Silicon Valley and elsewhere, the UnCollege team will help you secure an internship with a company or organization that is looking for dynamic young people like you.

The internship does not have to take place in San Francisco or the United States. You may choose to work anywhere in the world to complete your internship. You will continue to receive support and guidance from the UnCollege team.

4. Project
Finally, the biggest challenge of all—create a real project that someone pays you to complete! The last phase of the Gap Year Program is the Independent Project, leading to a tangible deliverable. This could be anything from an exhibition of your photographs or a published book, to a business plan or even a functioning company. The aim is to demonstrate your talents and stretch you to the limit—and to give you something major to show off when interviewing or raising funds.

The project does not have to take place in San Francisco or the United States. You may choose to work anywhere in the world to complete your project. You will continue to receive support and guidance from the UnCollege team.
Over 200 applications for first class
10 people from 6 countries
Opening 2nd house in January
In last two weeks 140+ apps for Summer
FELLOWS PROFILE: ZELIA

- Zelia is from Cupertino, California. A year after leaving High School she was still unsure about college, so she applied for the UnCollege Gap Year Program.

- She has spent the last twelve months working on the Obama campaign in Aurora, Colorado as an Early Vote organizer; interning as a lab assistant at Svaya Nanotechnologies in Sunnyvale, California; and teaching English in Madrid, Spain.
What does *this* mean for you?
1. You’ve got competition.
2. Ya might wanna think about changin’ ;‑)
What an unschooler thinks you should do:

- Get students out of the classroom
- Link curriculum to the market
- Do away with tenure
- Stop grading students, make them build a portfolio
- Copy your local gym
Thank you for listening.

Find out more at uncollege.org

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