

## REACHING YOUR GOAL

In this article, you will review the fact-finding missions you have completed so far. You have researched your career options and are ready to enroll in a training program.

### COMPLETED MISSIONS

***The visit to the college is completed. This means you have come a long way in planning your future.*** Look at the fact-finding missions you have completed so far:

- You thought about the difference a good job can make in building the way of life you want. A good job can make a difference in the amount of money you earn in the next year or two, and it can make a difference in your earning power over a working lifetime. It can make a difference in how important you are to a company. It can give you the opportunity to continue to learn new things, to get better jobs, and to grow. It can enable you to do interesting work that has a future. A good job can make a difference in how you think about yourself. It can make you feel valued and increase your feeling of self-respect.
- You took some time to look at yourself -- to think about what is important to you, what interests you, and what your abilities are.
- You talked to people about their jobs. You talked to counsellors and librarians to get information about certain occupations. You did your homework and know what is required for the career. You know about the working conditions, the pay, and the promotion opportunities. You considered whether this career will be around in the future.
- You made a decision to find out how you can be trained for the career you have picked.
- You located the college and contacted them to get information on training programs.
- You learned what you can expect a college to provide.
- You looked at college catalogues and considered, among other things, whether these colleges seem stable.
- You visited the chosen college and asked questions about it and the programs it offers.
- During the interview and the tour, you listened to the college official, paid careful attention to the classes in session, inspected the facilities and the equipment, observed the instructors, and talked with the students.

- You have found out whether the school is able to deliver the training it promises.
- You checked on financial aid, and you know what it will take to pay for the training.

The college has done everything it can to interest you in the training, and you have thoroughly reviewed the college and program of interest.

### **So now what?**

Now it is time to make another important decision: the decision to sign an enrollment agreement and enroll in the training program. You have finished the research part of planning for your future, and you know the factors you should consider in selecting a private career college.

### **Now is the time for action!**

You may talk to your parents, your friends, and your spouse. You may talk to a counsellor. ***But now comes the hardest part -- taking a deep breath and saying yes.*** When you do, you will be agreeing to take the time to change your life, to make a difference in where you will be in five years.

### **THE BUSINESS AT HAND**

***If you answered yes, then it's back to business for a moment, and the enrollment agreement is definitely business.*** The agreement is a legal contract. You must be of legal age to sign it or have your parents or guardians sign it with you. You will be legally responsible for the financial arrangements agreed to in the contract.

Reading the contract carefully is a way to run a final check on the college. ***First of all, be sure you read every line of the contract.*** Each college's contract will be different, but every good college will have the terms of the agreement clearly spelled out.

The college official knows how hard it is to understand all the legal terms that must be in a contract, and he or she should explain any part you don't understand. The last thing the college wants is for you to feel nervous about signing the contract. It is not unusual for the college official to give you his or her phone number and tell you to call if you have any doubts or concerns. Although this is a serious matter because you are financially responsible to the college under the terms of the contract, it should also be a happy day. The contract is a symbol of the commitment you have made to change the way you work and live. You will no longer just wonder what will happen in the future. You will have a course of action that can put you in control of your own tomorrow.

### **YOU WILL NOT BE ALONE**

***The goal of this guide has been accomplished if you have read through it, followed its suggestions, and started on the path to reaching your personal career goals.*** But this guide would not be complete if it didn't include the greatest reason for choosing a private career college. Quite simply, this reason is that private career colleges are made of people *who care about you.*

The people at career colleges know that many individuals spent their years in public school just going along, not seeing the school as a place to succeed.

The career college staff knows that some people are in jobs that are going nowhere, aren't interesting, and don't make them feel good about themselves. **Staff members understand that having a good job is important to many people, but that people often need to become more marketable before they can get a good job.** The staff believes that education and training are the keys to getting careers that enable people to use their abilities to the fullest and to respect what they do to make a living.

In addition, the staff understands that sometimes life gets in the way -- problems arise that need to be solved while students are in training.

***Even before you enroll, you will see the private career college philosophy at work.***

- The college looks more like a place of business than a high school or college campus.
- You're treated like a client or the buyer of an important service.
- You have several options for classes -- schedules for days, afternoons, and evenings.
- You are tested for basic skills and know about the programs to improve your abilities.
- You aren't just given financial aid forms, you get help to complete them.
- You get assistance locating part-time jobs and may even get help finding a place to live while attending the college.
- There are bulletin boards with pictures of recent graduates, displays of student projects, and awards for students' achievements.
- The college accommodates all age groups -- young and old -- and people with different educational backgrounds.

Once you are in college, you will see further signs of these beliefs put into practice.

- Classes are small, allowing for more student-instructor time together.
- If you need more time on a subject, you can take it again.
- If you are absent from class for a day, someone will call to find out whether there is a problem.
- Staff members work with you on any problem that could keep you out of training.

- The college is involved in improving your marketability, which means working on your job-getting skills and on your personal appearance as well as on your career skills.
- A strong job search office works with you to help get you on the job.
- And finally you can call back and get advice and help once you are on the job.

You are the most important concern of the private career college.

#### **SUMMING IT UP**

You are the most important concern of a Private Career College.

**This is one of the few times in your life  
when there will be a whole group of people  
as involved in your success as you are.**

This guide was written to help you take the steps to change your life. You now know how to go about making a sound decision to get the skills you need to achieve your goal or, rather, your *next* goal. In the future, you may want to strive to reach other goals, and now you know how to deal with any career possibility.

**Good Luck!**