



IS THE LOWER COST WORTH THE HIGH PRICE?

*Should You Attend
an AG College
or University?*

Compiled and edited by
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*Director of Christian Higher Education
General Council of the Assemblies of God*



ASSEMBLIES
OF GOD
HIGHER
EDUCATION

Is the Lower Cost Worth the High Price?

Does it Really Make a Difference Which College You Attend?

What Will Happen to AG College-age Young People in the Next Nine Years?

Why Should You Attend an Assemblies of God College?

Does it matter which college you attend? Why not attend the college with the lowest cost? You go to a college to get an education, right? So, what else matters about college besides cost and getting a degree? Read on.

This report is an edited compilation of three articles written by individuals concerned about what happens to Christian students while attending a secular college or university.

Dr. Steve Henderson, president of Christian Consulting, wrote his doctoral dissertation on what happens to Christian students that attend secular universities, and has continued his research since then. His shocking findings in Part One indicate that between 52 percent and 67 percent of Christian students lose their faith after attending a secular school for at least three or four years.

In Part Two, Dr. George Wood took the statistics found by Dr. Henderson and applied them to Assemblies of God students graduating from college in the next nine years. His findings indicate that as many as 189,000 young people in the Assemblies of God could be lost to the church during that time.

Dr. Dayton Kingsriter studied the differences between secular schools and Assemblies of God colleges. His findings in Part Three show there are clear, important, and significant differences between secular schools and AG schools. He gives specific reasons why attending a secular college may be dangerous to your spiritual health.

Each part of this three-part report is edited from a longer article. I encourage you to read this edited report first. Then if you have further questions or want more information go to our Web site. The full reports are available at colleges.ag.org. Click on Articles and Research Papers under the Faculty and Administration section of the home page.

Should you attend an AG college or university? This report will give you important, rational reasons why an AG college deserves your serious consideration before deciding which college you will attend. God bless you as you make this decision or assist others in making a decision that could change a lifetime.

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Is the Lower Cost Worth the High Price?

Part I

Why Choose a Christian College?

Dr. Steven J. Henderson

President, Christian Consulting for Colleges and Ministries, Inc.

Choices ... Life Choices ... We all have to make them. Today's generation of college age students are on the verge of making some of the most important choices of their lives. These choices include choosing Jesus Christ as personal Savior, a college to attend, a career, and a life-partner. Most of us are simply naïve about how important the choice of a college is as it relates to these other life choices. It is clear from the literature, research, and experience that the choice of a college has much to do with all of these.

My motivation for writing comes from the personal pain of watching my only daughter, a powerful Christian young lady, move into the dorm of a fine public institution and then self-destruct. Drugs and alcohol led her to make a decade of choices that put her in personal danger and gave much grief to our family. These painful experiences led me to research the impact of college choice on religious commitment.

My investigation showed that enrollment at secular colleges and universities resulted in *significant decreases* in church attendance, praying, reading the Bible and discussing religion. On the other hand, enrollment in church-related colleges of all types tends to support and *strengthen* a student's existing religious values and behaviors.

There are exceptions to anything but for a Christian to attend a secular college the percentages are not in your favor if you want to keep your faith. Utilizing data from a study conducted by Dr. Gary Railsback, I determined that over 52 percent of all incoming freshmen students who attend a secular college or university and identify themselves as born-again Christians will no longer identify themselves as born-again four years later. Or, they will not have attended any religious services in over a year, a clear rejection of their religious values and experience. A recent follow-up study by Dr. Railsback shows the same pattern of college students rejecting their faith, *except* for students attending a purposefully Christian college. *Let me repeat*, at least half and up to two-thirds of our kids will step away from their faith while attending non-Christian colleges and universities.

My own study and Railsback's conclude that there are significant observable differences in overall religious commitment measures depending on the type or affiliation of the college attended. I reviewed the synopses of nearly 1,000 articles, books, and research; I thoroughly studied over 300 of these and referenced nearly 90 in my doctoral research. I also looked at the responses of nearly 16,000 students attending 133 different institutions. All students were measured as freshmen and then again at least three years later using a comparable survey instrument in cooperation with the Higher Education Research Institute of the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).

The following is a brief summary of the major findings of my study:

1. ***Attendance at a public or private non-religious college lowers religious commitment.*** Fifty-two percent (52 percent) no longer claim to be born-again, or quit attending church after three or four years at a secular college or university.
2. ***Attendance at a religious college maintains or raises religious commitment.*** Only seven percent (7 percent) no longer claim to be born-again with a very small drop in overall church attendance after three or four years at a religious college.

3. ***Students who attend institutions that are members of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) showed significant gains in religious commitment.*** The differences in choosing a CCCU type school versus a non-CCCU school are dramatic: students at CCCU schools experience only one-fourth the drop in church attendance, and one-seventh the drop in prayer and meditation, but nearly five times the *increase* in overall religious commitment. (Editor's Note: Seven of the eleven four-year degree granting undergraduate resident institutions of the AG are members of the CCCU. All of our schools exceed CCCU spiritual standards for students and faculty.)

4. While attending private or public secular colleges, ***students coming from more conservative religious backgrounds lose their faith at a higher rate (up to 67 percent loss)*** than students from less-conservative denominations. (Editor's Note: Typically, AG students would fall into the category of being from more conservative backgrounds, which gives them an even bigger challenge to maintain their faith while they are attending a secular school.)

5. ***The biggest degree of change is in the first year away from home.*** Statistics show that students become significantly less religiously active during the first year of college. One of the greatest benefits of attending a Christian college is to be in an environment where both peers and faculty will encourage you to make Biblical decisions. Conversely, being in an environment where both peers and faculty are critical and even hostile to Christian faith and values make the first year of college a much more difficult one for a Christian.

Based on my research, I make the following suggestions for students, parents, and religious leaders.

Suggestions for Students:

1. ***Start out right!*** Attend a faith-based institution for at least the first year of college. The research discussed here shows that the first year is the most critical for setting the course of one's religious commitment. Getting a chance to develop a Christian worldview in that first year for whatever career you choose is priceless.

2. ***Don't be blinded by dollar signs!*** Of course, be sure to compare the bottom-line. However, low cost should not be the only issue for a Christian. Don't choose lower tuition and then pay the high price of losing your faith. Your spiritual life has an eternal value that a college education must not undermine. Many Christian colleges go to great lengths to offer substantial scholarships. Compare the bottom-line financial package *and* spiritual benefits carefully before choosing a college.

3. ***Don't be deterred by limited majors!*** Too many students view Christian colleges and Bible colleges as having limited majors. Approximately 75 percent of all students change their major the first year including 50 percent of those who were absolutely sure. Choosing any college because it has a desired major may not be a good reason for such an important choice.

4. ***Don't get complacent with your devotional life and church involvement!*** Don't abandon your church. Going to college should drive a person toward God, not away from Him. Putting your faith and values aside to be "cool" or "in" is to sell your soul for less than nothing. No matter which college you attend, commit to an ongoing devotional life and regular attendance at a local church. Find campus ministries that involve you in service to others and provide a place to be with Christian peers. And, even before college, get your spiritual "tap root" down deep so you won't dry up once you get there.

Suggestions for Parents:

1. ***Weigh the potential risks to your child's faith as well as the financial costs*** when considering a college. There is too much at stake in your student's spiritual life to settle for less than the best place for your student to grow spirituality as well as academically.

2. ***Support and encourage church attendance and campus ministry involvement.*** My research showed that a student's religious commitment is the single most important sign of spiritual growth. Find a way to encourage consistent church attendance and involvement.

3. ***Stay involved with your college kids.*** Visit your child's college prior to their enrollment and during their college years. Meet your child's friends and invite them to your home on breaks and vacations. Your child should know you have parental accountability standards. Let them know what those standards are and that you expect their adherence to them. Be informed, involved, and connected.

4. ***Don't relax – no matter where they attend.*** No place is perfect. No parent can really relax – ever. By keeping involved and connected, you can do much to help your student get the most out of their college years. But most importantly, you have a tremendous role in helping your child become the adult God has designed them to be.

Suggestions for Pastors and Religious Leaders:

1. ***Be aware that faith decline in college students who attend secular schools is not just "research fluff,"*** It is a real issue to be really concerned about.

2. ***Focus clearly on preparing students for college life and the issues they might face.*** Get prepared for very candid conversations and questions from your youth.

3. ***Provide continual follow-up and support to students while they are in college.***

4. ***Intentionally work to attract local college students to your church.***

5. ***Pray diligently for discernment before encouraging any student to attend a public institution even as "salt and light."*** Becoming salt that loses its Savior (or savor) would be tragic for your young people (remember the statistics).

Clearly, I support and believe in the Scripture "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6, KJV). Two quick observations are appropriate. First, notice that it is "should," not "would" or "could." The natural self-will of a child is often contrary to the will of the parent. On matters of life-long importance, the parent needs to make sure that right choices are made. Do not abdicate this training/leadership role to a willful child. Second, perhaps we have put an unintended time-limit on the word "train." Have we come to the erroneous conclusion that our parental training responsibility concludes with high school graduation? Most of us would agree that the vast majority of seventeen year olds are not quite ready to start their own lives without some parental input and control. The lifetime impact of training needs to be understood in light of research. Not only do students normally reflect the values of their college professors, but they also tend to reflect those same values 25 years later.

So, you may ask, how big is the problem? Is this just a few kids that we would have lost anyway? Friend, the problem is astronomic in proportion. Think of it this way – of the approximately 400,000 high school seniors each year that would meet the admissions criteria for a CCCU college, only 15 percent are attending any type of Christian college (approximately 60,000). If we lose at only the 52 percent public university drop rate (remember that others have a higher rate) for all students that go to non-Christian colleges, that is a staggering loss of nearly 177,000 kids to the Kingdom. Strengthening the faith of the 60,000 in Christian colleges is commendable but losing over three times that many is horrendous.

*My recommendation? **Choose a Christian College!***

Edited with permission from the author. A longer version of this article was printed in Christianity Today (March, 2006, p. 80f). The original article is available on the web at colleges.ag.org. Click on Articles and Research Papers under the Faculty and Administration section of the home page. For further information about Dr. Henderson's research see www.christianconsulting.net. Contact Dr. Henderson at steve@christianconsulting.net.

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Part II

Passion for The Future

Dr. George O. Wood

General Secretary

General Council of the Assemblies of God

Our Annual Church Ministries Report for 2005 shows that we have 315,000 young people between the ages of 13 and 17 in our 12,301 American Assemblies of God churches. We know the future of our Movement lies with these young people.

How many of them will be serving the Lord nine years from now? While we can never know the future, we can look at past history to give us an idea of what tomorrow will look like.

In the March 2006 issue of *Christianity Today*, (p.80f), Dr. Steve Henderson, president of Christian Consulting for Colleges and Ministries, Inc., reports on his research and that of other scholars regarding evangelical students who enter non-evangelical public and private colleges and universities. The studies have found that at least half and possibly over two-thirds of our young people will step away from the Christian faith while attending a non-Christian college or university.

However, the falling-away percentage of students attending an evangelical school stands at about 7 percent, a vast difference from the faith-rejection rate of those attending public and private non-Christian colleges and universities.

Let's apply this data to the Assemblies of God. Where will our 315,000 Assemblies of God young people be nine years from now?

- 315,000 Assemblies of God young people from ages 13 to 17 will graduate from high school within the next five years.
- According to national statistics, 105,000 (one-third) will not go to any college or university.
- 210,000 (two-thirds) will enter one of the 4000 colleges or universities in America.
- 31,500 (15 percent) will enter one of the 102 schools belonging to the Coalition of Christian Colleges and Universities (an evangelical association for higher education – to which many of our Assemblies of God colleges and universities hold membership).
- 178,500 will enter a public or private non-Christian university.
- About 10,500 (5 percent of the 210,000 college bound) of our Assemblies of God youth will enter an Assemblies of God college or university.
- Between 89,250 (50 percent) and 119,000 (66.7 percent) Assemblies of God young people who attend a non-Christian public or private university will have left the faith four years after entering college.
- If the same percentages hold true for the 105,000 AG kids not going to college, then we are set to lose another 52,500 to 70,000 of our youth. All told, nine years from now, as many as 189,000 of our 315,000 youth could be drop-outs from the faith
- Only 7 percent of our Assemblies of God young people who enter an Assemblies of God college or university will have left the faith by the end of their college experience.

These statistics raise some deeply troubling questions – one of which is this: “Would we rather lose 7 percent or between one-half to two-thirds of the college bound young people that are presently in our youth groups?”

These statistics make the strongest case possible for encouraging our young people to attend one of the 19 endorsed post-secondary institutes, colleges, and universities of the

Assemblies of God; and marshaling our pastors and churches to stand behind our schools with significant levels of support and prayer.

Let me be as blunt as possible. We are doing a great job evangelizing junior high and senior high young people – but, once past high school, these kids are not only leaving our churches – but also the faith – in droves.

One of our prominent laymen made this statement back in the 1950s before we brought focus to higher education for those not entering the ministry: *I have supported my church for a long time and very generously; but the thing I would rather give to the church [my own children] more than anything else was lost to the church because of their experience in higher education.*

A common misconception among us is that Chi Alpha is adequately reaching our Assemblies of God kids that go to non-Christian colleges and universities. Make no mistake – Chi Alpha is doing a fantastic job in both evangelism and discipleship – but there are only 214 Chi Alpha chapters on the 4,000 college and university campuses of America! That means 3,886 (95 percent) college and university campuses do not have a Chi Alpha group. And, only about 30 percent of Chi Alpha students come from Assemblies of God churches. Many from the other 70 percent are won through the outreaches led by Chi Alpha.

It is critical to our future that we apply the same kind of forethought to the home front that we have applied in world missions. Right from the get-go we understood that if there were to be indigenous churches, then schools needed to be established for the training of ministers and laity. A substantial number of our missionaries, supported by our churches, have labored valiantly within the educational context overseas – and it has paid off. Today, we have 2,000 Bible schools and extension programs outside the United States – with 93,297 students. These young leaders hold the future for the Assemblies of God in 212 countries.

However, in the United States, a quiet disaster is about to take place over the next nine years – the prospect of losing to the faith and to our churches as high as 189,000 of the 315,000 young people presently aged 13 through 17. These are our children – they have been taught and nurtured in our Sunday schools and children’s churches, knelt at our altars, worked to give for BGMC and Speed the Light, participated in our youth camps and conventions – but they are falling away from the faith once they leave home and enter a hostile-to-the faith college and university atmosphere. This looming disaster calls for action.

One of the most alarming results of Dr. Henderson’s study is that the more conservative the student’s denominational background, the greater the change in those students attitudes and behaviors. That finding bears directly on our Assemblies of God young people – it says that up to two-thirds of them may change values and morals during their years in a non-Christian college or university.

What can be done? Certainly in this short space, I do not have all the answers. And, as we collectively make this a matter of prayer in each local church, the Holy Spirit can give you the answers. My task in this brief article is to simply raise the alarm and awareness. Here are some starting points, though, for consideration.

1. We must do a better job with apologetics for our junior and senior high youth. In addition to high-energy programs and emotion-focused responses, our kids need thorough grounding in what we believe, and the underlying reason for why we behave as Christians.

2. We must maintain personal contact with students that leave our churches for college. It would be well to assign prayer partners in each congregation who will pray daily for each student individually and maintain regular contact with him or her.

3. We must encourage our college-bound high school students and their parents to go to an endorsed Assemblies of God school. These students need to be in an environment where both peers and faculty are not hostile to Christian and Pentecostal faith and values – but deeply supportive of such. Our parents, who struggle with the costs of our schools, should take to heart this statement from the March issue of *Christianity Today*, “*A Christian [and, I add – an Assemblies of God!] education comes with a price. But research suggests that every penny of*

that price may be worth avoiding the cost of the alternatives.” It really is a matter of worth versus costs. How much do we really save if we send our children to a secular school where they lose their faith? Is the lower cost of tuition really worth the high price of a lost faith?

4. Our churches must ramp up their prayer and financial support of our endorsed schools. My own practice as a pastor was to give about 15 percent of our world and U.S. missions dollars to Assemblies of God higher education. We did this while adding both world and home missionaries. In 2005, our Assemblies of God churches and people gave over \$386 million in total AG giving. Fifteen percent of \$386 million would have produced almost \$58 million for our schools, and thereby driven down the tuition costs and made possible thousands more Assemblies of God kids to attend our schools. Instead only \$7.3 million was given for higher education. I am not suggesting we lop off 15 percent from our missions giving and redesignate it for higher education, but that churches begin to significantly increase their giving for Assemblies of God higher education while also advancing support of world and U.S. missions. I have found that our people respond to challenges – and when they see the need for support for our schools they respond – just as they do for the needs of world and U.S. missions and disaster relief. But, it takes pastoral leadership if that is to happen.

5. Our churches must ramp up their support for Chi Alpha and help this vital campus ministry expand until all of the 4,000 college and university campuses of America have a vibrant Pentecostal Chi Alpha chapter. Chi Alpha missionaries must be viewed as apostles to the secular marketplaces of today, and we need to accelerate our financial and prayer support for these workers in the secular campus missions fields of America.

6. There must be a renewed focus within our pastoral leadership, church boards, and congregations to conserve the harvest of our present junior and senior high young people. Too often our church board meetings take up the mundane matters of budget, buildings, operations, and staff. What would happen across this Movement if pastors, pastoral staffs, and church boards spent a day or two together each year in a prayer and strategy retreat simply dealing with the issue: “What would the Holy Spirit have us do so that nine years from now our present junior and senior high young people will be serving the Lord?”

7. Finally, our Assemblies of God churches in the vicinity of colleges and universities must penetrate into this great mission field. Many of our churches are doing this – but far more remains to be done.

The founders of the Assemblies of God recognized the importance of higher education from the beginning. That’s why one of the five reasons given for the convening of the first General Council in 1914 had to do with youth and education: “We may have a proposition to lay before the body for a general Bible Training School with a literary department for our people.”

From the beginning, our Movement recognized the need to prepare the next generation, should Jesus tarry, for Christian service. The late Ralph Riggs, former general superintendent, made this poignant comment back in the mid-1940s regarding the college-age young people of the Assemblies of God, “If they are lost, we are to blame.”

My plea is for a *new passion for the future* -- that the prayer of Jesus for His own will be our prayer for the junior and senior high young people in our churches today: **“I have not lost one of those you gave me.”** (John 18:9, NIV)

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Is the Lower Cost Worth the High Price?

Part III

The Case for Assemblies of God Higher Education

Dr. Dayton A. Kingsriter

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General Council of the Assemblies of God

“Why should I choose an Assemblies of God college or university?” We hear this question frequently from young people trying to decide which college to attend. The purpose of this article is to ask a series of questions, the answers to which may help you make this very important decision. Low cost is not the only important consideration. You may find that the high price you pay for losing your faith may not be worth the low cost of tuition at a secular college or university.

By now I am assuming you have read Part I of this article by Dr. Steve Henderson where he gave the rather shocking statistic that 52 percent of young people who are Christians when they go to a secular university have lost their faith or quit going to church four years later. I’m assuming also you have read the Part II of this article where Dr. George Wood applies the statistics from Dr. Henderson’s research to Assemblies of God young people. In his article Dr. Wood notes that of the approximately 210,000 AG young people who will graduate from high school and go to college in the next five years, between 89,250 and 119,000 of them could be lost to the Assemblies of God by the end of their college experience. Why does this happen? How does this happen? What can be done to avoid this happening? Is the low tuition cost at a secular university really worth the high price of losing your faith?

As you go through the process of selecting a college that is right for you, answers to the following questions will help you as you make that important decision:

1. What is the Academic Quality on the campus you want to attend? 2. What are the Social Conditions on the campus you want to attend? 3. What is the Spiritual Climate on the campus you want to attend? As you answer these questions you will find uniquenesses in AG colleges that are not found on secular campuses that will strengthen your faith.

1. What is the Academic Quality on the campus you want to attend?

a. I suggest you check to see how many full professors at the college you want to attend actually teach freshman and sophomore students. On many college and university campuses, graduate teaching assistants (TAs) teach the lower division courses. These TA’s are students themselves (M.A. or Ph.D. students), mostly inexperienced, and many times English is not their first language. Compare this to an AG campus where full professors with many years of experience (many of them with earned Ph.D.’s) teach freshman courses. Who do you think you will learn the most from? An experienced teacher with an advanced degree, or a TA who may have little, if any, teaching experience? Don’t be misled by the names of famous professors on a campus. Find out if they actually teach freshman or sophomore undergraduate students. Most likely you will find they teach only graduate courses or maybe an occasional upper division course, or they may not teach at all and only conduct research.

b. Check to see what the class size is for the freshman classes in the school you want to attend. On many college and university campuses these entry level classes meet in large lecture halls with several hundred students. To make matters worse, they are taught by inexperienced TA’s (see above). Where are you going to learn the most? From an inexperienced TA teaching several hundred students in a large lecture hall, or in a classroom with 30-40 students taught by an experienced professor with a Ph. D.?

c. Is radical feminism or pressure from homosexual groups changing how the curriculum is developed and taught on the campus you want to attend? Many radical feminists

are out to transform the traditional curriculum and rewrite history. Pressure from gay and lesbian groups is being brought to bear on colleges who are then being forced to hire homosexual staff and faculty, and admit gay and lesbian students. Is this the kind of atmosphere you want to be educated in? Or are you interested in being taught by Christian professors who believe in, and model, a Biblical lifestyle and are not out to rewrite history to suit their own beliefs?

d. Many universities are de-emphasizing undergraduate education by taking money away from undergraduate education in order to fund research and graduate education. Christian colleges are undergraduate education specialists. For most of them that is their main emphasis. Where is a student most likely to get the best undergraduate education? At a college that *de-emphasizes* undergraduate studies, or a college that *specializes* in undergraduate education?

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2. What are the Social Conditions on the Campus you want to attend?

a. I once talked to a parent who told me they took their son to a state university near home, primarily as a cost saving measure. At the parent orientation they were told there were opportunities for homosexuals on campus. In addition they were told that if their child was not sexually active, they would be in three to four months. At Assemblies of God campuses our faculty and administrators take a Biblical stand against homosexuality and sex outside of marriage.

b. Columbia University and Harvard University have published several reports in the past few years that have indicated that binge drinking on college campuses across the country continues to be a problem. While the numbers vary slightly, there is basic agreement that over 40 percent of all college students have engaged in binge drinking in the last two weeks. Over 90 percent of the reported cases of violent crime and rape on campus are alcohol related. In stark contrast, alcoholic beverages are not permitted on AG college campuses.

c. Research indicates that the single most influential factor in an undergraduate student's life is his peers, with the second most influential factor being the faculty. Do you want to attend a college where a large plurality of your peers are involved in binge drinking and promiscuous sex, and homosexuality is tolerated, if not encouraged? Or do you want to be influenced by peers and faculty members who believe in Biblical principles of sexuality and morality?

d. What may be one of the most important social reasons to attend a Christian college has nothing to do with education per se. Many young people find a Christian mate at a Christian college. They often say this is one of the best things that happened to them during their college years. Obviously, it is possible to find a Christian husband or wife at a secular college as well. However, what is most likely to happen, given the numbers of Christians in each environment?

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3. What is the Spiritual Climate on the campus you want to attend?

a. You may say that's not a fair question because the mission of secular colleges does not include having a spiritual climate. That may be true, but what about moral and ethical values as a part of spirituality? It is now clear that within the claims of diversity, all lifestyles and beliefs on secular college campuses are accepted *except* that of Christianity. Are you ready to live, study, and thrive in that kind of atmosphere? Are you strong enough to withstand the pressures from peers and faculty who may ridicule your Christian beliefs? (Remember Dr. Henderson's research.) Or do you feel you would develop a deeper Christian walk in an atmosphere where your spiritual development is encouraged rather than ridiculed and built up

rather than torn down? Do you want to attend a college that has essentially no spiritual climate or a negative spiritual climate, or a college that is encouraging, nurturing, and “cheering you on” to a vibrant, Christian experience?

b. You will grow spiritually through the inspiring chapel speakers, Bible classes, and Christian service opportunities at Assemblies of God colleges. Christian service gives you the opportunity to apply the theory you’ve learned in class to a real life setting. You will not find these kinds of important opportunities for spiritual growth on a secular college campus.

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Is it possible to lose out with God at an Assemblies of God college or university? Yes, just as it is possible to lose out with God at a secular college, or even in the midst of a revival. I think the better way to phrase the question is, given the description of the two campus environments, where are you most likely to lose out with God? *In an environment that nurtures your faith, or one that attacks and ridicules your faith?* Bill Bright once said because of the current anti-Christian propaganda that dominates secular college classrooms, many of America's choice young people who were raised in Christian homes graduate from college as atheists or agnostics.

In this article I have discussed many important uniquenesses that Assemblies of God colleges have that secular colleges do not have and never will have. It is these uniquenesses that I believe Christian students and parents should seriously consider when choosing a college. I have shown that AG colleges are significantly different from secular colleges in ways that are vital to Pentecostal Christians. Our colleges have uniquenesses that are in addition to, and set them apart from, their similarities with secular colleges. AG colleges offer a Christian-value-added education that is worth much more than any cost differential that might exist. In addition to excellent academics, Assemblies of God colleges offer preparation for life in critical academic, social, and spiritual ways that will never be found in secular colleges.

Who should attend a Christian college? That decision has to be made on an individual basis. However, one of my concerns is that many Christian students (or their parents) are not giving God the opportunity to guide them to an Assemblies of God college because they never even consider attending an AG college in the first place. We strongly encourage you to give serious consideration to attending one of the 19 endorsed Assemblies of God colleges!

Is the Lower Cost Worth the High Price? ***Your answer may affect your spiritual health!***

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