

# **A Letter to a Freshman Girl**

*By Rachael Finney*

Freshman year is the foundation of the rest of your life. Many may say the mistakes you make your freshman year can be overlooked and fixed. That is true, but if you go into college with some wisdom in the back of your mind, you won't be as likely to make those common mistakes.

College is not easy. In a matter of three months you go from walking across the stage as a graduating senior being able to look back at an entire milestone of your life to being, a freshman again. Don't let it sound too discouraging, after all you have made it this far what is stopping you from succeeding again? I will tell you what! Peer pressure, deadlines, freedom, acceptance, fitting in, visitation and confidence. OH! And how could

I forget the cafeteria food?!

College is meant for you to grow and evolve into a new person. College is put in place to make you ready for the real world mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually. You will encounter situations during your matriculation through college and question your purpose in life.

You will endure obstacles that only you are responsible for handling. For the first time in life, your parents or guardians are not there to shelter your every action. You will make mistakes and learn from them. You will fail tests. You may even lose a few friends.

But every situation calls for a learning lesson. If you fail that test, you will work harder, study harder, pay closer attention in

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class and ask for help before its too late. If you lose a friend, understand that everyone is not growing at the same pace as you, and those slacking behind do not deserve to consume your positive energy. I have a few tips that will help guide you through your freshman year:

### **You only get ONE reputation, GUARD IT WITH YOUR LIFE.**

*Situations you find yourself in freshman year can haunt you through the rest of your years in college.*

### **Begin analyzing your class. See who has the same major, mindset, and mentality as you. 3 M's**

*Birds of a feather flock together.  
The company you keep says a lot about you as a person.*

### **Make great first impressions with every student body and faculty member you encounter.**

*You never know who knows who.  
College is a time to network and make connections.*

### **Build your confidence.**

*It is not uncommon for freshman to come into college undecided with their career path and major. Stay focus on what is currently in front of you and let your future determine itself.*

### **Come up with strategies to stay organized.**

*This is a skill that helps many students stay on top of their workload. Never cram five class assignments into one*

*night. It blocks your brain from flowing thoughts properly and hinders your capabilities in one particular course by cramming the thoughts and ideas of 5 different courses into one night.*

### **Always take AT LEAST 5 classes.**

*It is a challenge for some but, if you start out as a freshman staying on top of your credit hours, as a senior you should be prepared to graduate on time.*

### **Make sure the leadership in your department can recognize you by name.**

*Deans, department Heads, and even some notable teachers have opportunities for scholarships or leadership workshops that can personally benefit you.*

### **Re-Read this letter whenever you are feeling overwhelmed or lose sight of the end goal. Stay strong, you will survive.**

#### **Maya Angelou once said:**

*" Making a 'living' is not the same as making a 'life'. As you matriculate through school always keep in mind money is not always the top priority when envisioning your life goal. Life is about making a life for yourself that will lead to infinite happiness."*

*Photo courtesy of Microsoft Office Publisher 2007*

# Pathways After a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering

Educational Attainment, Common Occupations, and Synthetic Work-Life Earnings Estimates



All holders of engineering degrees  
(aged 25-64 and working full-time, year-round)

**\$3,623,000**  
2.8 million people

Finished college.

Continued on to advanced degree in any field.

## Bachelor's Degree

Work-Life Earnings  
**\$3,349,000**



## Master's Degree

Work-Life Earnings  
**\$3,918,000**



## Professional Degree

Work-Life Earnings  
**\$4,120,000**



## Doctorate Degree

Work-Life Earnings  
**\$4,176,000**



## How much can you earn?

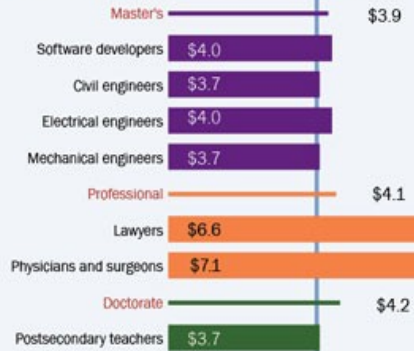
(In millions of dollars)

All holders of engineering degrees — \$3.6

### Finished college.



### Continued on to advanced degree in any field.



1 icon = 25,000 people

Note: Synthetic work-life earnings are created by adding annual earnings between age 25 and 64. For more information on these numbers please see [www.census.gov/hhes/socdemo/education/data/acs/infographics/faqs.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/socdemo/education/data/acs/infographics/faqs.html).

Source: 2010 American Community Survey.



# Pathways After a Bachelor's Degree in Literature

Educational Attainment, Common Occupations, and Synthetic Work-Life Earnings Estimates

All holders of literature degrees (aged 25-64 and working full-time, year-round) **\$2,388,000**  
1.1 million people

Finished college. **Continued on to advanced degree in any field.**

## Bachelor's Degree

Work-Life Earnings  
**\$2,083,000**



**600 K**  
people

## Master's Degree

Work-Life Earnings  
**\$2,444,000**



**350 K**  
people

## Professional Degree

Work-Life Earnings  
**\$3,874,000**



**115 K**  
people

## Doctorate Degree

Work-Life Earnings  
**\$2,755,000**



**70 K**  
people

### How much can you earn?

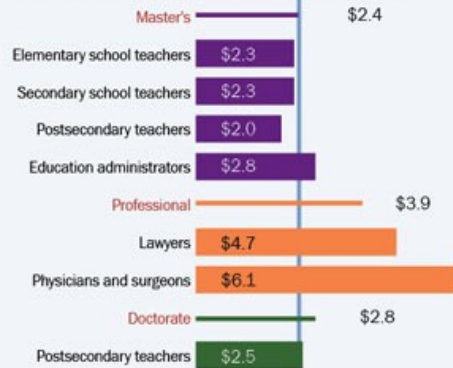
(In millions of dollars)

All holders of literature degrees — \$2.4

#### Finished college.



#### Continued on to advanced degree in any field.



1 icon = 25,000 people

Note: Synthetic work-life earnings are created by adding annual earnings between age 25 and 64. For more information on these numbers please see [www.census.gov/hhes/socdemo/education/data/acs/infographics/faqs.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/socdemo/education/data/acs/infographics/faqs.html).

Source: 2010 American Community Survey.