



College Contract

By Jane Shine

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Between student and parents (add your own names)

Introduction

Obtaining a college education is one of the most important and valuable steps you will take in order to become an independent and successful adult. The benefits of a college education are numerous and, when exercised in constructive ways, will last your entire life. Quite often, these benefits will be capitalized by you, and for the benefit of others, in ways you cannot predict today. Regardless, college is a step-changing experience that will have a dramatic impact on the rest of your life.

Given the importance of the journey you are about to embark, we want to ensure that it is placed within a proper context and with a clear understanding. A college education is a privilege. It is not an entitlement. Secondly, while a college education is one of the wisest investments a person can make, it is also very expensive. As your parents, we are very happy and pleased to help you obtain your college education. However, we want to make sure you understand that this privilege comes with responsibilities from you.

We want you to enjoy the experience of college, as it is a “once in a lifetime” opportunity. You will make many new friends, some of whom will become important to you well into your adult life. There are also wonderful opportunities for exploring new ventures, new ideas, new passions, and fun as a college student. We want you to enjoy the next few years as much as possible, because once spent, they cannot be recaptured.

One of the biggest challenges for college freshmen is balancing the responsibilities of studying with the frequent opportunities for fun, relaxation, “being your own person on your own terms.” It is easy to become distracted and neglect your responsibilities. You will do well to live by the rule; “Work first, play later.” You will never go wrong following this simple principle.

In addition, we would encourage you to actually schedule 1 – 2 hours studying outside of class for every hour you spend in class. In college, much more of your work will be done outside of class and on your own than you experienced in high school. In fact, you will spend less than half of your time in class compared to the amount of time you spent in class in high school. This means that you will be responsible for doing most of the reading and studying on your own outside of class. Schedule time for this and stick to the schedule. If you do, you will have little problem balancing work, then play.

We want to make sure you understand that you are attending college on a scholarship. We are the benefactors of that scholarship. Every scholarship is accompanied with both accountability and responsibilities. Scholarship rules are straightforward. If you fail to fulfill them, you lose the scholarship. For example, if a student goes to college on a football scholarship and decides he doesn’t want to play football, the scholarship is

cancelled. In order to keep your “parental scholarship,” the following is what you are accountable for and the responsibilities you must understand.

Grades

Because of your demonstrated, personal effort in your senior year of high school, we are willing to pay for the tuition, books and fees that would normally have been covered by the Hope Scholarship your freshman year.

For your freshman year, you will need to achieve a minimum 3.0 GPA, in your core classes, in order to qualify for the Hope Scholarship. For your sophomore, and subsequent years, you will need to maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA, in your core classes, in order to continue to qualify for the Hope. If you do not have a 3.0, and hence do not qualify for the Hope, you will be responsible for obtaining a student loan and making the payments yourself. You will either graduate from college debt free, or with debt...your choice.

In addition, at the end of your freshman year, if you do not qualify for the Hope, you will be responsible for reimbursing us for any class that has a grade below a C. If you fail a class, you must reimburse us the total cost of the course, before you return. If you make a D, you reimburse us half the cost of the course, before you return.

Meals and Spending Money

You are enrolled in the unlimited meal plan for your freshman year. We will then discuss this before enrolling you in subsequent years. We will also give you a small allowance. This will be used for gas to come home, sundries (laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, etc). If you choose to go on road trips, the gas is your expense. Plan ahead so that you have enough gas/money for your trips home. This is not to be used for meals or drinks.

Part-time job

While we are not requiring you to work, we support your desire to pick up shifts at _____ whenever you can. Additionally, you may have opportunities for paid work at BBCC, other churches, and other employer establishments, including where you attend college. We also recommend that you put aside a portion (1/2) of this money to be used as your ‘start of life’ fund.

Alcohol

While it is illegal to drink prior to age 21, we are aware that it is easy for college students to obtain alcohol. We will not be in the role of “policing” you regarding this. However, you should understand that if you are charged with underage drinking, a DUI, or any other legal charges involving alcohol or any drugs, you are responsible for the costs and consequences of these charges.

Visits Home

We want and welcome you to come home as often as you like. However, there will be some “house rules” when you do come home.

When you are home, as a courtesy (not an effort to control), we ask that you let us know where you are going and when you will be home. You are to keep us informed of basic plans and time schedules. We reserve the right to limit activities, including driving, based on our decisions and your behavior.

This is your home. We are not expecting you to act as a guest or a boarder. This means that you will have responsibilities around the house that are expected as a continued member of our family. These include, but are not limited to;

- Your room is your personal space; however, the cleanliness of your room impacts the whole household. You are expected to keep your room clean and fresh. Before returning to school your room is to be left as you found it – bed made, floor clean, lights off, towels hung up, etc.
- Your bathroom is shared with your sister. You are both responsible for keeping it tidy. Towels are to be hung up and no dirty clothes left on the floor.
- Any food in the house is yours to eat. Please be respectful and write an item on the grocery list if you use the last one or something gets low.
- Friends are welcome at any time. Meals for a crowd are a specialty. Advance notice is always helpful.
- Please resume all regular household responsibilities as prior to college. Trash and recycling are taken out on Wednesday nights, lawn mowed, bird feeders filled, animals fed. Dog walked.

These responsibilities are your part of the contract. Our hope is for you to get the absolute most out of your college experience and to enjoy it. Please remember to be safe and to always think about all decisions you make with an eye on the consequences.

Remember, as you are now 18, you will be treated as an adult by law enforcement personnel.

_____, God will take care of your career path and your future. In truth, it is already known, but only to Him. He asks that you take care of your character. Remember, ‘True character, as defined by God, is doing the right thing, regardless of personal cost.’ In

short, you are responsible for the inputs, so do them excellently. God will then take care of the outputs.

Lastly, and above all else, “Love the Lord your God, with all of your heart, all of your soul, all of your mind, and all of your strength. Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Do this and you will never steer wrong. Let God direct your steps. Listen to Him.

_____, you are our only son. We love you more than life itself. We will always love you. We are extremely proud of you. You are our joy. And, we are thrilled and excited to see the man you are becoming. Each day ask the Lord to help you to be the man/woman He made you to be.

Student's name

Parent 1 name

Parent 2 name